

CAC MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING OF January 16, 2014

CAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bruce Hutchins, Phil Lidov, Jim Ives, Barry Hudson, Peter Mueller, Karl Hanlon, Kevin Puccio, Jeff Erb, Bethany Gravell

CAC Members Absent: Don Schlup

Guests: Tim Flynn, Becky Mitchell,

Denver Water Staff: Melissa Elliott, Heather Stauffer, Sally Covington, Marc Waage

OPENING REMARKS, PUBLIC COMMENTS, AGENDA AND MINUTES

The minutes and agenda were approved with corrections.

There were no comments from the public.

CAC Business

The CAC re-elected Phil Lidov as Chair of the CAC and Jim Ives as Vice Chair of the CAC.

DENVER WATER UPDATE- (Melissa Elliott)

Melissa's update summarized the top five challenges and successes Denver Water had in 2013.

- 1) Unpredictable Weather, including drought, forest fires and floods highlights the dramatic swings in weather patterns that Denver Water must manage moving forward. Denver Water is now actively working on future planning based on a changing climate.
- 2) Helping out neighbors and doing the right thing: Denver Water crews were able to help residents impacted by flooding living near Gross Dam. Crews helped restore private roads and driveways, helping residents reach their homes.
- 3) Improve Customer Service: In 2013, Denver Water surveyed our customers to find ways to better meet their needs. Using the results, Denver Water will roll out a major Lean customer experience initiative in 2014 designed to improve customer service.
- 4) CRCA executed: Denver Water completed the final steps of the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement. The overall goal of the agreement is to collaboratively protect the Colorado River Basin.
- 5) Colorado River: The entire Colorado River Basin is experiencing a decade-long drought, threatening future water supplies and hydropower. Denver Water is working to develop contingency plans to prevent future shortages.

Melissa also identified Denver Water's top 5 opportunities for 2014 as:

- 1) Employer of the Future Program: Areas of focus in 2014 include developing a new total rewards system for employees, proactive leadership development, utilization of alumni, continuing pay for performance and improving new employee orientation processes.

- 2) New Campus Plan: The new plan calls for renovation of buildings, better use of existing space for more efficient work flow and a new administrative building.
- 3) Safety culture: Through the Lean process Denver Water will continue to develop their safety protocols.
- 4) Securing future water supply: in 2014, Denver Water will continue efforts to expand Gross Reservoir in Boulder County. The Army Corps of Engineers should deliver its Final Environmental Impact Study on the project in early 2014. Denver Water is expecting a final Record of Decision in 2015.
- 5) Denver Parks and Recreation partnership: Denver Water is working on and should soon complete an agreement with Denver Parks and Recreation to increase collaboration between and provide benefit to both agencies.

Melissa also briefly described Denver Water's phase-in of high efficiency fixture legislation and will provide the CAC with a summary and list of supporters.

State Water Plan Development (Becky Mitchell)

Becky Mitchell gave the CAC an overview of the Colorado State Water Plan. In May of 2013 Governor Hickenlooper gave an executive order for the Colorado Water Conservation board to develop a water plan for Colorado that reflects Colorado's values, utilizes the work of the IBCC and Basin Roundtables, Aligns projects, studies and funding and allows for quicker project permitting. The intent of the water plan is to create vibrant and sustainable cities, maintain healthy watersheds and environment, allow for robust recreation and tourism and sustain viable and productive agriculture in Colorado. The Colorado Water Plan will be designed to address Colorado's growing water supply gap while also formulating alternatives to buy-and-dry. The plan also looks to incentivize a "quicker" regulatory process.

The Colorado Water Plan relies heavily upon the IBCC roundtable's input. The CWCB told the IBCC basin roundtables to look at the future of their water basin and tell the CWCB what they want it to look like. They asked the IBCC roundtables to come up with goals and measureable outcomes they would want for their basin and develop a plan to make that happen. Those goals and plans will come to CWCB in July and they will be compiled.

Denver Water's Involvement in the State Water Plan (Mark Waage)

Marc Waage updated the CAC on Denver Water's involvement in the State Water Plan. Denver Water is participating in the IBCC roundtable talks on the Eastern Slope.

The draft recommendations for the Colorado Water Plan include:

Municipal Conservation: Utilities encourage conservation through water rate designs, education, watering schedules, and rebate programs, as well as water waste rules.

Municipal Reuse: water gets used approximately seven times in the South Platte and Arkansas basins as it migrates from the basin headwaters to the state's borders.

Planned Supply Projects: Achievement of all the planned supply projects is important to meeting that near term gap, this includes IPPs from the SWSI data for meeting the nearer term supply gaps as well as other supply projects that water providers are expecting to build in the medium range timeframe.

Water Sharing with Agriculture: Additional study of water sharing practices that allow for continued agricultural production, while at the same time permitting municipal uses, is encouraged, these sharing practices are often called alternative transfer methods.

New Colorado River Supply: Plan to build a state water project in order to save east slope agriculture.

New East Slope Storage: Additional east slope water storage is needed to make full use of local supplies including conservation, reuse, and agricultural water sharing.

Marc mentioned that Denver Water has helped a lot on the scenario planning. Denver Water CEO Jim Lochhead is also an expert on Colorado River issues and has helped with that a lot. Denver Water helped lead on paper in terms of conservation.

CAC Business

The CAC discussed what the agenda topic for the rest of the year should look like. Ideas on agenda topics included the following: New Campus Master Plan, Customer Service Value Stream, Climate Change Project, Branding Initiative, and the rate structure study, a legislative update at the beginning and end of the session, Colorado River Planning/ Gap, update on the basin implementation plan that goes out this summer, Gross EIS, update on aquifer storage project, Denver Parks agreement, Details of the rate structure, initial scoping phase of the 2 year rate structure study. Melissa also suggested that the CAC attend the Youth Water Festival as well as many other water trailer events that Denver Water participates in during the spring and summer.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:01pm