

CAC MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING OF April 16, 2015

CAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Karl Hanlon, Josh Baile, Kristin Maharg, Loretta Pineda, Bruce Hutchins, Bethany Gravell, Don Schlup, Peter Mueller (phone), Dulce Saenz (phone)

CAC Members Absent: Kevin Puccio

Guests: Tim Flynn

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

OPENING REMARKS, PUBLIC COMMENTS, AGENDA AND MINUTES

Minutes and agenda were approved

There were no comments from the public.

CAC Update

Melissa Elliott of Denver Water reviewed the CAC Update (attached) with the CAC.

Snowpack Update

Bob Steger gave the CAC a brief snowpack update.

Denver Water & Social Media

Travis began by giving an overview of the State of traditional media. Newsroom cutbacks have limited TV content to primarily feature sports, weather and traffic stories in a shorter format than it used to be. Audiences for local TV are significantly down while One-third of adults stop turning to news outlets for news. According to a 2012 estimate there has been a 30% decrease of newsroom staff since 2000. Travis explained that social media is an ever evolving world that isn't "just for the kids" anymore. Denver Water's social media approach involves being integrated, and finding a balance between traditional and social media. Engaging in relationship building in a timely, accurate and consistent way. Current platforms include twitter with 3,800 followers and 3,500 tweets. Instagram which allows Denver Water to further our message in a visual way. YouTube where Denver Water hosts their own channel and a blog which currently has 130 posts with 63,700 views. In addition Denver Water has a presence on LinkedIn, Nextdoor, Vine, Facebook, and flickr. Denver Water has just began work on a content journalism program. Content journalism is essentially storytelling with a purpose which can be shared across multiple internal and external platforms. Even though Denver Water just started work on the content journalism project they have seen increased views on nearly every social media site.

Update on Climate Change

Laurna presented on Denver Water's efforts to plan for future climate change. Laurna explained that Denver Water was one of the first utilities to actively plan for climate change scenarios and has been a leader in climate change planning for water. Climate change is important because it fundamentally changes how water utilities plan for the future.

There is a new balance in the amount of energy reaching the Earth. This warms the planet which changes the water cycle. That amplifies the climate changes mainly because of increased water vapor. Laurna pointed out that because Denver Water's watersheds are at a higher elevation than most others up to a point that snowpack is going to be protected in a way that others aren't. Projected changes for North Central Colorado Water Sheds show that it is going to get warmer, with precipitation either getting wetter or drier. The take home message is that due to climate change the temperature in Colorado could increase about 5 degrees. If that occurs Laurna estimates Denver Water's yield could decrease around 20%, nearly 1/5 of Denver Water's supply, while demand increases nearly 7%. Currently Laurna and Denver Water are using those statistics for their planning.

The four adaptation steps Denver Water is following include:

- 1) Understand- climate science and model projections- capabilities and limitations.
- 2) Assess- water system vulnerabilities to potential change
- 3) Plan- incorporate climate change uncertainty into water utility planning
- 4) Implement- adaptation and mitigation strategies in the face of climate uncertainties.

Rate Structure Study Progress Update

Rate Structure study members have participated in an extensive process that has included reviewing customer class statistics, studies and surveys, ranking rate structure objectives and evaluating alternatives. After much review and discussion the group is almost ready to make a recommendation to the Board of Water Commissioners. The objectives they ranked as "most important" included: financial sufficiency, revenue stability, intra-class equity, conservation and essential water use affordability. The objectives that were required were: defensibility and interclass equity. Single family rate structure alternatives include: individualized (AWC) where thresholds are based on each customer's winter consumption. Fixed block same for each service area where thresholds are based on total class average indoor and outdoor use. Fixed block that varies by service area where thresholds are based on total class average indoor and outdoor use. Block 0 where thresholds are based on total class average indoor and outdoor use. AWC+ Fixed where the blocks threshold is the individual customer's AWC. At the next meeting the committee will review and discuss rate structure alternatives for multifamily, nonresidential and irrigation rates and will begin the development of their recommendation to the Board.

CAC Business

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm