



**Minutes**  
**Strategic Planning Committee**  
**Friday, Sept. 16, 2022**

**Committee members present:** Chair Dave Donelson, Mike O'Malley, Wayne Williams, Bill Murray and Stephannie Fortune

**Staff members present:** Natalie Watts, Monica Indrebo, Abigail Ortega, Christian Nelson, Lisa Barbato, Kerry Baugh, Tristan Gearhart, Renee Adams, Danielle Nieves, Tara McGowan, Pat Wells and Pattie Bengner

**City of Colorado Springs staff members present:** David Beckett

Call to Order

Committee Chair Dave Donelson called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m. and read a statement regarding Colorado Open Meetings Law and the City Charter and confirmed that public comment would not be a part of the meeting.

Review Minutes

The minutes from the July 15, 2022, Strategic Planning Committee meeting were reviewed for posting and approved.

Compliance Reports

Mr. Tristan Gearhart, Chief Planning and Financial Officer, introduced the compliance reports I-7 Water Supply Management and I-9 Treatment of Customers and Customer Information. There were no changes to report and no questions from the committee on these compliance reports.

Strategic Initiative Report Out: Sustainable Water Resource Planning Report

Ms. Abigail Ortega, General Manager of Planning, introduced the Water Resource Planning Report. The report aims to address how to responsibly plan for the future of the community in light of emerging resource constraints. Resource availability is impacted by water resource planning, annexation and regional service policies, and economic development strategies. The Integrated Water Resource Plan (IWRP) will focus on rates, timing and sequence of implementation of the balanced portfolio given the rate of change associated to signposts analyzed in the annual IWRP true ups. Prioritizing resources for implementation of the IWRP portfolio will include funding, staffing and commitment to targets while also focusing on conservation, supply and storage.

The IWRP balanced portfolio goals include buildout population growth and buildout demands that will affect and be implemented into the Colorado River Projects, agricultural transfers, demand management, storage and reuse. Land use and water use nexus are also included.

#### Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC) Cost Recovery Mechanisms Assignment Scope

Mr. Gearhart introduced the new assignment scope for UPAC. Due to so much change in the industry and city growth, UPAC will be looking at cost recovery mechanisms that are not currently incorporated. Public feedback and researching what other companies are doing will be involved in this assignment. Additionally, as the systems are changing, there may be cost recovery mechanisms that more accurately align and are regulatory compliant. This assignment has never been given to UPAC before.

#### Strategic Initiative Report Out: Aug. 30 Strategic Planning Session

Ms. Natalie Watts, Manager of Strategic Planning and Governance, provided an update on the 2023 Strategic Plan. The mission, vision and values have not changed for Colorado Springs Utilities in over 20 years. Changes were discussed and made to these items during a meeting with the CEO Leadership Team and with Strategic Planning and Governance. Once finalized, the changes will be presented at the Utilities Board later this year.

Ms. Watts reviewed the employee survey results regarding the strategic plan. Every division was represented in the survey. It was completed by 360 employees and the questions asked in the survey were open ended. Future issues and greatest strengths were addressed in the survey and the results from the employees were consistent, allowing key themes to emerge in these areas.

The 2023 strategic map was introduced, and Ms. Watts summarized the changes that were made to the map in comparison to 2022.

The next steps for the 2023 Strategic Plan will be issuing communication throughout the enterprise and incorporating Board Member feedback. If approved at the December 2022 Utilities Board meeting, the 2023 Strategic Plan will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2023.

#### Plan for future meeting: Nov. 10, 2022

There is no Strategic Planning Committee meeting in October.

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.