



Minutes
Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC)
Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Blue River Boardroom, 5th floor, 121 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO
and Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Committee members present in the boardroom or via Microsoft Teams: Chair Gary Burghart, Vice Chair Larry Barrett, Rex Adams, Hilary Dussing, Chris Francis, Katherine Danner, Michael Borden, and Alternate Members Scott Callihan and Ruth Ann Schonbachler

Committee members excused: n/a

Staff members present in the boardroom or via Microsoft Teams: Cindy Newsome, Dave Grossman, Kerry Baugh, Al Wells, Kim Gortz, Pat Wells, Andie Buhl, Bethany Schoemer, and Joe Marcotte

City of Colorado Springs staff present in the boardroom or via Microsoft Teams: David Beckett

1. Call to Order

Chair Gary Burghart called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Approval of December 1, 2021 UPAC Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Hilary Dussing motioned, and Vice Chair Larry Barrett seconded the motion to approve the December 1, 2021 UPAC meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved with a voice vote.

3. Resolution of Appreciation for Strategic Planning & Governance Manager Dave Grossman

Chair Burghart read the resolution of appreciation for Strategic Planning & Governance Manager Dave Grossman. UPAC Members, Mr. David Beckett, City of Colorado Springs Attorney, and Colorado Springs Utilities staff thanked Mr. Grossman and expressed appreciation for his outstanding work with UPAC.

Chair Burghart called for a voice vote and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

4. Water Acquisition Funding Assignment

Mr. Pat Wells, Water Resources and Demand Management General Manager, and Ms. Kim Gortz, Water Resource Planning Supervisor, explained the scope of UPAC's new assignment, Water Acquisition Funding, and said the deliverable is to provide recommendation on financial strategies for funding water resource acquisitions.

a. Water in Colorado

Mr. Wells discussed Colorado's historic average annual water stream flows explaining where water originates, is stored and travels to throughout the state. He explained the statewide water supply gap, which exists across water use sectors and gave background information on Colorado Water Law.

Mr. Wells gave an overview of key takeaways for this assignment.

b. Water System Overview

Mr. Wells gave an overview of Springs Utilities' water delivery systems and explained how and when they were created.

UPAC took a break at 9:08 a.m. and reconvened at 9:15 a.m.

c. Water Planning Fundamentals

Mr. Wells explained the fundamentals of water planning, including water rights, infrastructure, and hydrology. He said the overall water resource goal is to optimize water system yield. He then listed the factors that affect the ability to develop yield:

- Cost
- Regulations and permitting
- Political landscape
- Availability of water rights
- Others

Mr. Wells further explained the scenario of water planning, stating that if hydrologic patterns show a shift to less precipitation overall, additional water rights and infrastructure would be needed.

d. Integrated Water Resource Plan (IWRP)

Mr. Wells explained the Integrated Water Resource Plan (IWRP) which is Springs Utilities' plan for meeting future water needs and managing risks for the community. Ms. Gortz emphasized how the community's economic vitality and quality of life is dependent upon responsible risk mitigation and proactive water resource development, and the IWRP helps with this process.

Mr. Wells said Springs Utilities is implementing scenario planning, which is a forward-focus approach to finding robust solutions to address the broadest range of potential futures and risks. By doing so, Springs Utilities can better balance risk with water resource goals. He said the key risks for building out Springs Utilities' portfolio selection are:

- Hydrology
- Climate
- Infrastructure risks
- Colorado River Basin shortages

Mr. Wells gave an overview of approved levels of service for water.

Ms. Gortz explained buildout and demand forecasting. She said buildout is the current service territory, per the 2006 City Annexation Plan, completely built out in a mix of commercial, residential, and industrial uses; and demand forecasts use three scenarios – low, moderate, and high demand levels to estimate the range of future demand.

Mr. Wells explained how the IWRP identified the amount of new water supplies that will be needed to serve the future population of Colorado Springs within the current 200 square mile boundary. It also identified different sources of new water supplies that will be developed to meet the anticipated 40,000-acre feet (AF) of additional supplies needed by 2070 for the existing service territory and the infill. He said the forecasted population at buildout was estimated to be approximately 720,000 people.

Mr. Wells concluded with key takeaways:

- Scenario planning helps Springs Utilities prepare and adapt to a wide range of possible futures
- Additional projects are needed to accommodate future growth and mitigate risks
- The IWRP Balanced Portfolio and Level of Service criteria balances costs and risks, according to our community values

e. Next Steps

Mr. Wells explained the timeline for this UPAC assignment and discussion topics for the February meeting.

5. Citizen Comment

Mr. Tad Foster thanked staff for their long-range water planning and expressed concerns about water reduction levels and Colorado Springs Utilities' timeframe to address the changes.

6. Committee Member General Discussion

There was no further business.

7. Adjournment

Chair Burghart adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.