

## 2012 Fort Collins Water Board Annual Report

January 2013

### 2012 Board Members

Steve Balderson, Chair*	Lori Brunswig	Liesel Hans	
Steve Malers, Vice Chair	Duncan Eccleston	Eric Garner	
Phil Phelan	Becky Goldbach	Meagan Smith <sup>1</sup>	<sup>1</sup> through May
Brian Brown	Brett Bovee		*retiring members

This annual report summarizes the activities of the Water Board during 2012. The formatting of this 2012 Annual Report is consistent with the 2013 Annual Work Plan, which was restructured from previous years. Water Board activities listed below are organized by the major responsibilities of Fort Collins Utilities related to water (“Water”, “Wastewater”, and “Stormwater”). The “Regional Issues” category includes topics related to maintaining a dialogue on regional water issues. Within each heading are listed Water Board activities and the month of the meeting in which they occurred. Refer to the meeting minutes for the indicated month for additional information. Minutes are available on the Fort Collins website

In addition to changing the format of the Annual Work Plan and this Annual Report, the Water Board in September of 2012 began holding monthly work sessions on the first Thursday of each month as an alternative to committee meetings. Whereas committee meetings involved a subset of the Board, the work session format helps ensure that all Water Board members participate in all meetings, allows staff to engage the Board in preparatory discussions outside of normal meetings, and decreases demands for staff support. The Water Board and staff will continue to evaluate the work session format during 2013, monitor benefits and limitations of this approach, and make adjustments as appropriate. With respect to this annual report, work sessions (and committee meetings prior to September) are indicated to help understand chronology of discussion. A summary of work session discussion typically can be found in the minutes of the normal meeting following the work session; however, no actions are voted on at work session meetings and minutes are not published.

### **Water**

- Input on planning and policies related to raw and treated water supply:
  - Recommended approval of the updated Water Supply and Demand Management Policy (Aug)
- Input on annual business:
  - Recommended Maxwell Farm raw water purchase and transfer to Natural Areas for conservation easement (Jan)
  - Recommended acceptance of surplus water rental rates proposed by staff (Feb)
  - Presentation by staff on drinking water quality and annual customer confidence reports (Jun)
  - Recommended an increase of water rates by 4 percent in 2013, due to unexpected costs of the High Park Fire (Sep)

- Educational topics:
  - Presentation by staff on meeting conduct and Water Board role (Feb), with additional staff presentation on adopting council rules of procedure (May)
  - Presentation by staff on landscape preference survey as input to Water Supply and Demand Management Policy (Mar)
  - Presentation by staff on the Asset Management System, which is used to track Fort Collins infrastructure (May)
  - Presentation by staff on plans and opportunities to develop operational storage via gravel pits (Aug)
  - Presentation by staff on Fort Collins budget (Sep work session)
  - Presentation by staff and Aaron Lien of the University of Arizona on the Conserve to Enhance Program (Sep Conservation and Public Education Committee)
  - Presentation by staff on the Poudre watershed (Nov work session)
  - Presentation by staff on High Park Fire restoration (Dec work session)
- Other specific topics:
  - Recommended that City Council adopt the On-Bill Utility Financing Pilot Program to encourage water and energy efficiency improvements by customers (Mar)
  - Recommended that City Council approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Interim Water Services between Fort Collins Utilities and Fort Collins-Loveland Water District (Mar)
  - Recommended that City Council consider approval of an ordinance authorizing the conveyance of a permanent waterline easement and temporary construction easement on the City property to the North Weld County Water District and East Larimer County Water District (Jun)
  - Chair Balderson and Vice Chair Malers participated in periodic review of boards and commissions and provided information the Board (Apr, Jun)
  - Recommended addition of work session meeting on first Thursday of each month, subject to schedule changes (Aug)
  - Recommended that the City Manager's budget be adopted by City Council (Sep)
  - Recommended that the Water Board size remain at 11 members (Oct)

## **Wastewater**

- Input on planning and policies related to wastewater:
  - Recommended to City Council that City Code be changed to approve the water and sewer services for carriage houses to connect to the principal dwelling on the property (Feb)
- Input on annual business:
  - No wastewater rate changes were recommended in 2012
- Educational topics:
  - Topics relevant to wastewater are included above (e.g., budget presentation)
- Other specific topics:
  - Recommended that City Council consider approval of an ordinance authorizing conveyance of an easement for the Nunn Telephone Company on the Meadow Springs Ranch (Oct)

## Stormwater

- Input on planning and policies related to stormwater:
  - Stormwater Master Plan:
    - Provided input to staff on Stormwater master plan revisions (Jan)
    - Passed motion approving of staff efforts on master plan related to evaluating and prioritizing stream restoration projects and funding capital improvement projects for flood protection and mitigation, stream restoration and health, and unplanned opportunistic projects (Apr)
    - Recommended approval and adoption of the Stormwater Master Plan update (Sep)
  - Recommended approval by City Council of the Fort Collins Low Impact Development (LID) Policy and adopting LID criteria into the City Code and Stormwater Criteria Manual for new development and redevelopment (Nov)
  - Recommended approval by City Council of amendments to the Fort Collins Stormwater Criteria Manual relating to the exception for implementation of erosion control structures for emergency work (Nov)
- Input on annual business:
  - No stormwater rate changes were recommended in 2012
  - Presentation by staff on annual Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater Permit Annual Update (Oct)
- Educational topics:
  - Presentation by staff on Poudre River ecosystem modeling progress (Feb)
  - Presentation by staff on mosquito control policies (Dec work session)
- Other specific topics:
  - Recommended approval of a variance for expansion of basement in a floodplain for 912 West Magnolia (Apr)
  - Recommended authorization to convey a portion of a tract of stormwater utility property to Coby S. and Linda C. Hughey (Aug)
  - Recommended City Council approval of utility easement for Public Service Company of Colorado on stormwater property (Dec)

## Regional Issues

- Input on planning and policies related to regional issues:
  - Oil and gas regulations:
    - Board members Brown and Brunswig participated in a committee representing multiple boards and commissions to discuss oil and gas regulations (starting in Jun)
    - Recommended support for the standard and expedited review process presented by staff for permitting of new oil and gas development within the City (Oct)
    - Recommended support for the proposed requirements for water quality and water resources protection outlined in the draft land use code regulations for oil and gas development (Oct)

- Participate in regional dialogue:
  - Members of the Board and staff attended the annual Tri-City meeting in Greeley (May)
- Educational topics:
  - Presentation by George Wallace and Lew Grant from the Larimer County Agricultural Advisory Board related to water-sharing for agriculture (Jul Water Supply Subcommittee, Nov work session)
- Other specific topics:
  - Graywater bill discussion (Jan Legislative, Finance, and Liaison committee)

Report prepared by Steve Malers, Water Board Vice Chair