

2013 Fort Collins Water Board Annual Report

January 2014

2013 Board Members

Steve Malers, Chair	Duncan Eccleston	Eric Garner	
Brett Bovee, Vice Chair	Liesel Hans	Andrew McKinley	
Brian Brown	Becky Hill	Phil Phelan*	
Lori Brunswig	Heidi Huber-Stearns		*retiring member

This annual report summarizes the activities of the Water Board during 2013. The formatting of this Annual Report is consistent with the Annual Work Plan. Water Board activities listed below are organized by the major responsibilities of Fort Collins Utilities related to water (“Water”, “Wastewater”, and “Stormwater”). The “General” category includes general topics. 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. Monthly Water Board meetings consist of regular meetings and work sessions. With respect to this annual report, work sessions are indicated to help understand chronology of discussion. A summary of work session discussion typically can be found in the minutes of the regular meeting following the work session; however, no actions are voted on at work session meetings and minutes are only recorded for regular meetings. Meeting minutes for regular meetings are available on the Fort Collins website.

General

- Annual review of Board charter and conduct/review for easement and variance process (Jan)
- Approved 2012 annual report (discussed at Jan work session and approved at Jan regular meeting)
- Water Board officer elections (Feb)
- Staff presentation on Water Board educational materials and discussion of regulations update process (Apr work session)
- Approved 2014 annual work plan (Oct)
- Provided input to City’s strategic planning (Dec)

Water

- Input on planning and policies related to raw and treated water supply:
 - Recommended general support for updated building code changes that encourages and endorses water reuse, water efficiency, and water quality measures that are incorporated into the building code such as broader sprinkler coverage of residential units, but support does not address costs and other impacts of implementing these measures (Aug)
 - Staff report on Water Supply Management (Restrictions) Action Plan (Nov)
 - Recommended that City Council adopt City Code changes to discontinue the practice of water banking (Nov)
 - Agreed with staff recommendation to update the Water Conservation/Efficiency Plan on seven year cycle (Dec)
- Input on annual business:

- Recommended acceptance of surplus water rental procedures, rates, and delivery charges proposed by staff (Feb)
- Recommended adoption of increasing water rates consistent with the City's Water Supply Shortage Response Plan (Feb)
- Staff presentation on drinking water quality and annual customer confidence reports (Jun)
- Staff presentation on Water Conservation Annual Report (Aug work session)
- Recommended adoption of a Water Right Utilization Fee (discussed in Aug, approved recommendation in Sep)
- Recommended adoption of proposed rate adjustments resulting in an overall 4 percent increase for the Water Fund for the Wastewater Fund as stated in the 2013-2014 biennial budget. Rate adjustments would be distributed by customer class to more closely align rates with actual cost of service per the 2013 study (discussed in Aug, approval of recommendation in Sep)
- Educational topics:
 - Staff report on likely water restrictions and Water Supply Shortage Response Plan (Jan). Additional updates on restrictions occurred in staff reports each month through June (restrictions were lifted June 1).
 - Staff presentation on Rigden gravel pit update (Feb and Oct work sessions)
 - Staff presentation on water treatment regionalization (Feb)
 - Staff presentation on stream restoration for Fossil Creek (Feb work session)
 - Staff presentation on water restriction outreach (Apr work session)
 - Field trip with staff to Pleasant Valley Pre-sedimentation Basin (May work session)
 - Staff presentation on the Asset Management System (Jun)
 - Staff presentation on impacts of flooding (Sep)
 - Staff presentation on Lower Poudre Water Quality Monitoring Program (Sep)
 - Staff presentation on Halligan-Seaman status (Oct work session)
 - Staff presentation on Watershed Health (Oct work session)
 - Board Member Huber-Stearns presentation on Colorado Conservation Exchange Program (Oct work session)
 - Staff report on Michigan Ditch maintenance (Oct)
- Other specific topics:
 - Recommended that City Council consider approval of an ordinance authorizing the supplemental contract to the Pleasant Valley Pipeline Enterprise Allotment Contract, to include the new pre-sedimentation basin (Jun)
 - Recommended that City Council consider approval of an ordinance authorizing the joint funding of a Regional Water Treatment Solutions Study (Jun)
 - Recommended that City Council approve the Water Enterprise Fund amending the existing Intergovernmental Agreement for the Delivery of Potable Water with Fort Collins Loveland Water District and entering into a new Intergovernmental Agreement for the Sale of Potable Water with Fort Collins Loveland Water District (Jun)

Wastewater

- Input on planning and policies related to wastewater:
 - None

- Input on annual business:
 - Recommended adoption of proposed rate adjustments resulting in an overall 3 percent increase for the Wastewater Fund as stated in the 2013-2014 biennial budget. Rate adjustments would be distributed by customer class to more closely align rates with actual cost of service per the 2013 study (discussed in Aug, approval of recommendation in Sep)
- Educational topics:
 - Several topics relevant to wastewater are included in Water section (e.g., rate presentations)
 - Staff presentation on brew waste carbon study (Aug and Dec work sessions)
- Other specific topics:
 - None

Stormwater

- Input on planning and policies related to stormwater:
 - Recommended revision of Poudre River floodplain regulations to include site-specific Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan (Feb)
 - 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)
 - Recommended that City Council adopt proposed Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Floodplain Regulations and the additional proposed policy and procedural changes and clarifications (discussed at Jun work session with recommendation approved in Aug regular meeting)
 - Recommended approval of updates to stormwater permit fees and charges (discussed at Jun work session)
- Input on annual business:
 - No stormwater rate changes were recommended in 2013
 - Staff presentation on annual Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater Permit Annual Update (Oct)
- Educational topics:
 - Staff presentation on capital improvement projects (Mar)
 - Staff presentation on urban stormwater quality monitoring winter runoff study (Sep)
 - Staff presentation on Poudre River corridor contaminated sites (Sep)
 - Staff presentation on Poudre River projects (Nov)
- Other specific topics:
 - Recommended approval of a floodplain variance for Woodward facility at 777 E. Lincoln Avenue (Jan)
 - Recommended approval of drainage easements associated with temporary construction easements for river restoration work adjacent to the Poudre River (Jan)
 - Recommended approval of a floodplain variance for 215 Whedbee (Mar)

Regional Issues

- Input on planning and policies related to regional issues:

- None
- Participate in regional dialogue:
 - Members of the Board and staff attended the annual Tri-City meeting in Loveland (May)
- Educational topics:
 - The Water Board held a joint meeting with the Natural Resources Advisory Board to focus on Poudre River topics with specific items listed under the Stormwater section (Sep)
 - Staff report on MAX Bus Rapid Transit project (Oct work session)
 - Staff presentation on oil and gas regulations, and gray water regulations (Dec work session)
- Other specific topics:
 - Supported Colorado House Bill 12-1044 concerning authorization of the use of gray water (Feb)

Report prepared by Steve Malers, Water Board Chair