

2014 Fort Collins Water Board Annual Report

January 2015

2014 Board Members

Steve Malers, Chair	Michael Brown ¹	Alex Maas ¹ (July 15)	
Becky Hill, Vice Chair	Lori Brunswig	Andrew McKinley	
Brett Bovee ¹ (April 15)	Duncan Eccleston	Phyllis Ortman ¹	¹ new member
Brian Brown	Heidi Huber-Stearns		² retiring member

This annual report summarizes the activities of the Water Board during 2014. The formatting of this Annual Report is consistent with the Annual Work Plan. Alignment of Water Board activities with the City's Strategic Plan and Key Outcome Areas is achieved through 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 "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. Additionally, the "General" category includes general topics that span Utilities or the City. The "Public Comment" category summarizes public comments made at meetings during the year and efforts to respond to these comments. Regular Water Board meetings are held each month and work sessions are held in even months. 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 2013 Annual Report (Jan), and discussed 2014 Annual Report (Dec work session).
- Water Board officer elections (Feb).
- Staff overview of Utilities Executive Director hiring process (Feb work session).
- Water Board City Council liaison overview of Boards and Commissions Function & Structure Review (Feb work session).
- Provided input to City's Budgeting for Outcome process (Apr work session, Jun work session, Jul, Aug work session, Aug). A memorandum summarizing Water Board budget recommendations to City Council and City Management was approved at the August regular meeting.
- New Utilities Director Kevin Gertig provided overview of challenges facing the City (Jul).
- Moved to support the community solar project proposed on City property at 500 Riverside (the "old pickle plant site") and support the authorization of a 25-year operating lease to Clean Energy Collective LLC (Aug).
- Moved to support an ordinance appropriating funds for a new Utilities Building, but expressed concerns that the appropriation was not part of the Budgeting for Outcomes process (Aug).
 - Moved that the Vice Chair connect with the Council Liaison and communicate the Board's wishes regarding the motion (Sep).
- Staff presentation on public comment process, and motion process (Oct work session).

- Modified the format of the annual work plan to achieve alignment with the City’s strategic plan (Nov, Dec work session). Due to changes, the Water Board 2015 Annual Plan is expected to be approved at the January 2015 regular meeting.
- Discussion of changes to staff support for Water Board (Nov).

Public Comment

- A citizen expressed concern about the Boxelder Stormwater Authority’s plans to build a facility to hold stormwater in the event of a flood (Feb).
- A citizen expressed concerns about the effects of manganese and fluoride on neurodevelopment (Feb). Utilities staff at the meeting indicated that Fort Collins Utilities follow State of Colorado standards and are below these levels for manganese and fluoride.
- A citizen stated the desire of Clydesdale Park residents to recover the \$80,000 balance of a Public Improvement District fund (Sep). The Clydesdale Park neighborhood is being annexed by the City of Fort Collins. This request was initially denied (Sep) but the City was later able to determine how to refund some or all of the HOA money (Oct).
- A citizen complained about fees paid to the Boxelder Basin Regional Stormwater Authority (BBRSA) and legitimacy of the BBRSA (Sep).
- Several students from Colorado State University attended meetings throughout the year as part of course requirements.

Water

- Input on planning and policies related to raw and treated water supply:
 - Recommended revisions to Municipal Code, Chapter 26, Article II, Division 6 to make the “failure to repair” violation timeframe more practical for corrections of problems (Mar).
 - Recommended to City Council that revisions to the Water Supply Shortage Response Plan to remove permit requirement for essential power washing and allow unrestricted splash park use at all levels (Mar).
 - Recommended to City Council that Council direct staff to consider placing educational signage at splash parks under any level of water restrictions to provide information regarding water consumption of splash parks (Mar).
- Input on annual business:
 - No water rate changes were recommended in 2014.
 - Recommended acceptance of surplus water rental procedures, rates, and delivery charges proposed by staff (Feb).
 - Staff presentation on drinking water quality and annual customer confidence reports (Jun).
 - Staff presentation on Water Conservation Annual Report (Aug work session).
- Educational topics:
 - Staff presentation on Halligan-Seaman status (Apr work session, Jun work session).
 - Staff presentation on Advanced Meter Fort Collins (AMFC) Web Portal Demonstration (Apr work session).
 - Staff report on Utilities strategic planning (Jun work session).
 - Staff presentation on adjustments to commercial water allotments (Jun).
 - Staff presentation on the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) (Sep).
 - Staff presentation on Watershed Health (Oct work session).

- Staff presentation on Climate Action Plan (Dec work session).
- Other specific topics:
 - Recommended that City Council consider approval of an Ordinance authorizing conveyance of a permanent utility easement to Nunn Telephone Company on the City property Meadow Springs Ranch (Jun).
 - Recommended that City Council consider authorization of a License to Enter and Perform Work to the Colorado Department of Transportation, for the Mulberry bridge replacement (Jun).

Wastewater

- Input on planning and policies related to wastewater:
 - None.
- Input on annual business:
 - Recommended to City Council to adopt the proposed rate change of 3% for 2015 for the Wastewater Utility (Sep).
- Educational topics:
 - Several topics relevant to wastewater are included in Water section.
- Other specific topics:
 - Recommended adoption of ordinance for appropriation of unanticipated grant revenue into the wastewater fund for the Drake Water Reclamation Facility's Nutrient Grant Project for South Process Train Improvement (Feb). Funding was from a Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment grant.
 - Staff presentation on Meadow Springs Ranch Easement to allow private property owners to access adjoining private properties, which will allow the Platte River Power Authority to construct a solar farm on its property on an abandoned county road (Nov).

Stormwater

- Input on planning and policies related to stormwater:
 - Recommended that City Council approve the ordinance to provide an exception to the critical facilities definition found in Chapter 10 of City Code to allow for parallel-connected solar and wind power generation.
- Input on annual business:
 - No stormwater rate changes were recommended in 2014.
 - Staff presentation on annual Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater Permit Annual Update (Oct).
- Educational topics:
 - None.
- Other specific topics:
 - Regarding the Clydesdale Park neighborhood annexation, supported staff recommendation to deny the request for a "phased in" stormwater fee unless the Stormwater Fee is reimbursed (Sep).
 - Recommended that City Council consider other means to reimburse the homeowners of the Clydesdale Park HOA for the balance of the PID funds accepted by the City during annexation (Sep).

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 Fort Collins (May).
- Educational topics:
 - Staff presentation on legislative update (Feb work session).
 - Natural Areas staff report on Poudre River Downtown Project (Jun work session).
 - Natural Areas staff report on Natural Areas Master Plan (Jun work session).
 - Staff presentation gray water legislation update (Oct work session).
- Other specific topics:
 - Recommended that City Council evaluate the potential impacts of Public Trust Doctrine ballot initiatives on the City of Fort Collins and consider adoption of a resolution expressing the City Council's position regarding those effects (discussion at Mar meeting, motion at Jun meeting).
 - Recommended that Council adopt the Poudre River Downtown Master Plan (Sep).

Report prepared by Steve Malers, Water Board Chairperson