

Fort Collins Water Board Annual Report

The following is a summary of the 2002 activities of the Fort Collins Water Board. The report focuses on topics from the Board's 2002 Work Plan plus additional topics the Board addressed during the year.

Water Board Members

Tom Sanders, chairperson

John Morris, vice chairperson

John Bartholow

Joe Bergquist

Ted Borstad

Tom Brown

Paul Clopper

Jim Finley

Bill Fischer

Dave Frick

David Lauer

Rami Naddy

Robert Ward

Douglas Yadon

Water Supply Committee

- **Water Supply Policy Update**

The current Water Supply Policy has guided the acquisition, development and management of the City's water supplies during the last fourteen years. With the focus that the current policy gave to acquiring water rights for a 1-in 50 drought situation, the Utilities has been able to obtain a diverse array of water rights for the City that have met the needs of its customers to date. Staff reviewed the City's water supply system and updated the policy to meet future conditions. The Board supported the policy update and recommended adoption to Council.

Water Conservation and Public Education

- **Water Conservation Options**

The Board recommended that Council approve restricting lawn watering to two days per week with no watering between 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Restrictions were needed to reduce water consumption, and increase next year's carryover.

- **Drought Response Plan**

The City of Fort Collins Drought Response Plan was developed to help identify different levels of drought severity and provide potential responses that the City could implement to reduce the impact of the drought on the City's customers. The primary objective of using the plan is to balance the City's water demand with its available water supply during times of projected supply shortages.

- **Halligan Reservoir Enlargement Project**

The Board supported a one-year extension from North Poudre Irrigation Company (NPIC) to keep the option to enlarge Halligan Reservoir. The City of Fort Collins and the NPIC entered into the Halligan Reservoir Agreement in November 1993. The purpose of the agreement is to give the City the option of pursuing the enlargement of Halligan Reservoir, which is currently owned by NPIC. To maintain the option, the City has been making the annual payments that automatically extend the option period one year at a time. During the past year, engineering and environmental

consultants were hired to update the feasibility study that was done in 1989. The results of the study were presented to the Water Board. The primary focus of the study was to update cost estimates for various project alternatives and evaluate environmental and permitting issues. Studies continue regarding the enlargement.

Legislative and Finance

- **Proposed Water Rental Rates**
The Board recommended approval of the proposed rental rates to City Council. The rental prices for Colorado Big Thompson, North Poudre Irrigation Company and Water Supply and Storage Company shares are based on market rental rates. Typically, 90 percent of the water rented by the City is from these sources. With the limited rental markets for other sources, the rental prices are based on assessment rates.

Engineering

- **Jacoby Farm Sale**
The Board recommended approving the sale of 160 acres of land known as the Jacoby Farm to Larimer County to become part of the County Open Lands Program. The site is located east of Ptarmigan Country Club in Windsor. The sale price is based on the appraised value of the property less the value of retained water rights. This will also authorize the extension of the current agricultural lease for one year.

Stormwater

- **Floatable Materials Floodplain Regulation for the Poudre River**
In March, the Board considered changing the City Code to remove the requirement that all existing floatable materials be removed prior to July 1, 2002. Staff identified 28 properties that have a significant amount of floatable materials, and between 15-16 properties are located in the product corridor. The Board's motion was to establish a three-year moratorium on the requirement with a strong campaign to inform property owners.
- **Floodplain Variance Hearing for Odell Brewery**
In May Odell Brewery, 800 East Lincoln Avenue, requested a variance to allow brewery vehicles to remain parked on the site overnight in designated areas without being anchored or enclosed. A second request was to waive the requirement for dryland access to the building. The Board approved the request because they felt the trucks did not pose a significant risk due to shallow flooding potential in the area.
- **Ranch-Way Feeds Variance**
The Board approved the variance for Ranch-Way Feeds, 101 East Lincoln Avenue to vary the code related to the floatable materials. The variance permitted parking eight tandem trucks on the site overnight in a designated area in the Poudre River floodplain from September 1 to March 31, 2003.