

Fort Collins Water Board Annual Report December 31, 2001

The following is a summary of the 2001 activities of the Fort Collins Water Board. The Board will provide Council with additional details on any of the subjects upon request. The report focuses on topics from the Board's 2001 Work Plan, plus additional topics the board addressed during the year.

The Board consisted of Tom Sanders as Chairperson, John Morris as Vice Chairperson and members Joe Bergquist, Ted Borstad, Tom Brown, Paul Clopper, Bill Fischer, Dave Frick, David Lauer, Rami Naddy and Robert Ward.

Water Supply Committee

Intergovernmental Agreement with Fort Collins-Loveland District

The agreement was the outcome of a joint request for assistance from the District and various builder/developers. The agreement applies to specific subdivisions in the southeast part of the City. Under the agreement, the City will collect and retain the fees when the developers/builders request water taps. For each tap sold, the City will sell the District a corresponding amount of treated water. The builder/developer will receive the same service from the District but not experience the high development fees.

The Board approved adoption of the agreement for five years.

Modifications to Local Wastewater Discharge Limitations

The Utilities Industrial Pretreatment program is required by the Environmental Protection Agency to control the discharge of pollutants from industrial and commercial sources in order to prevent pollutants from interfering with the Water Reclamation Facility operations. Federal pretreatment regulations require the City to develop technically based pollutant limitations. The limits are periodically reviewed and evaluated using the current EPA Region Strategy.

The Board recommended modifications to local wastewater discharge limitations.

Halligan Reservoir Enlargement Project

The Board would like to proceed with the plans to expand Halligan Reservoir, which is currently owned by North Poudre Irrigation Company. In November 2002, the staff will begin consulting with individuals, organizations, and industries that may be interested in the City's plan to expand Halligan.

Adjustment to the Raw Water Requirement – Cash In-Lieu-of Rate

Developers have the option of paying cash instead of turning over water rights to satisfy the City's raw water requirements. The cash rate, in-lieu-of water rights, is periodically adjusted to reflect the market price of water in this area.

The Board recommended the cash rate be raised from \$4,500 to \$6,500 and the raw water surcharge be increased from \$2.12 to \$3.06 per thousand gallons.

Larimer County's Proposed Point System for Renting City Surplus Water

The City received a request from the County Commissioners to look at the County's proposed point system for surplus water. The Water Supply Committee and staff was sympathetic to the County's goal for preserving agricultural land as open space, but believed the proposed point system may not achieve the desired goal. Such a program would restrict the City's flexibility in managing its surplus water and would be difficult to administer in a fair manner.

The Board recommended that the City not adopt the point system as proposed by Larimer County and instead continue to use the current system of allocating the City's surplus water.

Water Conservation and Public Education

Cross-Connection Control Ordinance

The Board recommended adoption of changes to the Cross-Connection Control Regulations. The City will continue testing commercial and industrial back flow prevention devices on an annual basis and change the testing for single family residential irrigation systems from once every year to once every three years.

Bottled Water

The committee is interested in looking at the feasibility of bottling water as a public relations and educational outreach. The next step is to meet with the City Attorney.

Legislative and Finance

Amending City Code to Include Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Development Review Charges

Council asked the Utilities to look at charging for the development review process, currently paid for by existing fees. The Board recommended a 100% recovery of development fees, using staff estimates of actual costs on average for each of the services.

Stormwater Financing Alternatives

The Board recommended that Council adopt a 25-year pay-as-you-go stormwater financing plan. Stormwater fees pay for the operation and maintenance of the storm drainage system, as well as capital improvements.

2002-2003 Budget Review

The Board recommended approval of the 2002-2003 budget and the proposed rate increases; 6% per year for water, 2% per year for wastewater and 45% per year for stormwater.

Engineering

Fluoridation of Public Drinking Water

The Board recommended that Council consider discontinuing the practice of fluoridating the water supply, and evaluate whether the City water system should be used for medicinal purposes.

Stormwater

Floodplain Variance Hearing

A hearing was held for 304 East Lincoln Avenue in May. The Board granted the variance request, thereby allowing the proposed addition in the Poudre River Floodplain. The addition to the residential structure will be elevated two feet above the 100-year flood elevation, improving the safety of the sleeping quarters.

Variance Hearing #2

In September, a variance hearing was held for a property located at 219 South Loomis Street. The owner proposed adding a 510-square foot addition consisting of a kitchen, living room and a bedroom to the existing structure. The applicant was asking for a variance for the bedroom, as elevating the room would result in a step going into the room. The Board felt this was a safety issue and they approved the owner keeping the bedroom at the existing level.

Other Items

Proposed Surplus Water Rental Rates

The Board recommended approval of the proposed rental rates to City Council. The proposed rental rates for 2001 are based on several factors, including past rental rates in the area, current assessments and anticipated supply and demand conditions.

Odor Issues at Drake Water Reclamation Facility (DWRf)

Utility staff worked with City Planning and the City Attorney's office to draft a land use code change to establish a 1,000-foot buffer around all wastewater treatment plants. The Board recommended adopting the 1,000-foot corridor.