

Fort Collins Water Board Annual Report

The following is a summary of the 2003 activities of the Fort Collins Water Board. The report focuses on topics from the Board's 2003 Work Plan plus additional topics the Board addressed during the year.

Water Board Members

Tom Sanders, Chairperson	Jim Finley
John Morris, Vice Chairperson	Bill Fisher
John Bartholow	David Lauer
Ted Borstad	Rami Naddy
Tom Brown	Robert Ward
	Doug Yadon

Floodplain Variances

The Board heard and acted on four floodplain variances in 2003:

Wingshadow, 1225 Redwood Street

In January, the Board approved a request for a variance to change the use in an existing structure from an "assisted living" to "group home, school and daycare facility" for teenagers.

Ranch Way Feeds, 101 E. Lincoln

In February, the Board approved a variance of the floatable materials requirement to allow overnight parking of trucks in a designated area on the site.

Armstrong Hotel, 259 S. College Avenue

In March, the Board approved a request for variance of the freeboard requirement for the south east corner and front of the building to be changed from 1.5 feet to 0.2 feet. The remodel will entail a café, restrooms and storage area in the basement, retail stores and restaurants on the main level, and multi-family living units on the second and third floors.

Single family home, 128 First Street

In May, the Board approved a variance of the dry land access provision and Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation requirement for the heating duct and crawl space of a single family residence. This allowed the remodel and expansion of a residence while increasing the safety of residents in case of a fire.

Water Supply and Demand Policy

The Board helped develop the Water Supply and Demand Management Policy, which was adopted by City Council in September 2003. This new policy combined and updated the 1988 Water Supply and 1992 Water Demand Management Policies, and will help guide the Utilities into the future. Key provisions of the approved policy include a reduced water use goal, continuing to provide a water supply that meets the 1-in-50 drought criteria, acquiring additional storage capacity, maintaining a water supply shortage response plan, and fostering regional cooperation

.Fluoridation Issue

Following review and discussion of the Fluoride Technical Study Group's report and a session for public comment, the Water Board discussed the issues related to fluoridation and voted 9-2 to recommend discontinuation. In his letter to City Council, Water Board Chair Tom Sanders cited concern for sensitive populations and declining value of the fluoridation since the program was begun 30 years ago as well as the cost, risk and ethical concerns.

Drought Response Plan

The Conservation and Public Education Committee reviewed the Drought Response Plan and recommended that City Council adopt level two restrictions for the late spring and summer months. Level two included watering restrictions plus a new tiered water rate structure to encourage water conservation.

Halligan Reservoir

The Board reviewed the option to purchase Halligan Reservoir and the proposed expansion alternatives. They recommended that Council exercise the option agreement and that the City proceed with the Halligan enlargement project to the maximum practical size. They also recommended that the City seek appropriate partners for the project to minimize costs and maximize permitability.

Water Rate Options

In November, the Board reviewed several water rate options. They recommended that Council adopt a water budget rate with a single rate for indoor and outdoor water use. Each customer would have an indoor allotment based on their winter quarter average consumption and an outdoor allotment based on their lot size's evapotranspiration rate.

Presentations

The following presentations were discussed during the year:

Periodic updates from Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Surplus Water Rental Rates
Monthly Treated Water Production Report
Market Research Presentation
Revisions to City Code and Land Use Code
Drinking Water Quality Annual Report
Halligan Reservoir Updates
Proposed 2004-2005 Budget
Midpoint Storage Easement
10 Year Capital Projects Review
Floodplain Regulations & Stormwater Master Plans
Stormwater Discharge Permit Presentation
Update on Chronic Wasting Disease