

Water Commission REGULAR MEETING

Excerpt from DRAFT MINUTES

19, March 2026 – 5:30 PM

222 Laporte Ave., 1st Floor, Colorado River Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. 5:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

- a. Commissioners Present (In Person): Chairperson Laura Chartrand, Vice Chair James Bishop, Richard Kahn, Nick Martin, Nicole Ng
- b. Commissioners Present (online via Teams): Carson Madryga, Paul Herman,
- c. Commissioners Absent: Jordan Radin, Gregory Steed
- d. Staff Members Present (In Person): Nicole Poncelet-Johnson, Gina Shubin, Joe Wimmer, Christina Schroeder, Mandy Rasmussen
- e. Staff Members Present (online via Teams): None
- f. Guests: None

3. REGULAR (ACTION) ITEMS

- i. **Septage Receiving Fees**

Christina Schroeder and Joe Wimmer presented a proposed septage receiving fee adjustment and associated capital improvements at the Drake Water Reclamation Facility (DWRf). Staff outlined the need to replace the 25-year-old receiving station to address safety goals and a 2024 state finding related to tracking hauled waste flows. The proposed project includes a new facility with two receiving stations, with an estimated cost of \$3 million. The current fee of \$0.09 per gallon is below the cost of service (~\$0.11). Staff proposed increasing the rate to \$0.16 per gallon to achieve cost recovery, noting regional rates range from \$0.17–\$0.20. A phased implementation through January 1, 2028, was proposed. Staff noted the program serves regional haulers, represents a small portion of total flows, and supports compliance through permitting and random sampling.

Discussion Highlights

Commissioners commented on and inquired about several topics related to the proposed septage receiving fee adjustment and capital project. Discussion included considerations of serving haulers from outside the City of Fort Collins service area, including those within and outside of Larimer County. Commissioners discussed whether different rate structures should be considered based on geographic location. Questions were also raised regarding the acceptance of hauled waste from outside the region, including Wyoming. Staff noted

that without providing this service, there is an increased risk of illegal dumping, and that regional disposal options are limited, with facilities such as the City of Greeley currently not accepting additional capacity. Commissioners inquired about the feasibility of implementing a weigh station to measure hauled volumes.

Staff explained that site and operational constraints make a weigh station impractical at this location. Discussion also included the proposed rate structure and implementation approach, with some Commissioners questioning whether the rate increase should be implemented more quickly rather than phased. Staff noted the importance of meeting audit requirements and ensuring proper accounting of hauled waste flows. Feedback received from haulers and a grant application submitted to support the capital project were also discussed. Commissioners asked whether the rate could be set higher to generate profit. Staff clarified that the intent of the adjustment is to achieve a cost-recovery, self-sustaining model, and noted that anticipated operations and maintenance costs are expected to decrease with construction of the new septage receiving facility. Additional discussion included potential legal considerations associated with rate adjustments.

Staff also clarified that the proposed rate applies specifically to septage haulers and does not impact general utility ratepayers.

Commissioner Martin moved to recommend City Council approval of the Septage Receiving Fees proposed changes.

Commissioner Kahn seconded the motion

Vote on the motion: it passed unanimously, **7-0**

*Minutes **to be approved** by the Chair and a vote of the Water Commission on **04/16/2026**.*