

Water Commission REGULAR MEETING

May 15, 2025 – 5:30 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:32 PM

2. ROLL CALL

- a. **Board Members Present (in person):** Commissioners Paul Herman, Nick Martin, Nicole Ng and Greg Steed
- b. **Board Members Present (online):** Commissioner Carson Madryga
- c. **Board Members Absent:** Chairperson Jordan Radin; Commissioners James Bishop, Laura Chartrand and Rick Kahn
- d. **Staff Members Present:** Jill Oropeza, Katherine Martinez, Davina Lau, Julia Feder, Leslie Hill, Gregg Stonecipher, Nicole Poncelet-Johnson
- e. **Guests:** None

3. AGENDA REVIEW

4. COMMUNITY MEMBER PARTICIPATION

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 17

Commissioner Steed moved to approve the minutes as presented

Commissioner Martin seconded the motion

Vote on the motion: **it passed unanimously, 5-0**

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Staff Reports

a. Boards and Commissions Update

Public Engagement Specialist and Boards & Commissions Coordinator Davina Lau summarized the vital role of the Water Commission, which is the bridge connecting City Council and the community on water-related issues, and thanked commissioners for applying for and serving as volunteers on the Water Commission.

Updates included last month's onboarding for new board members and commissioners that included the Code of Conduct and Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination Policy; next month's training for staff liaisons and staff support; upcoming Super Issues Meetings, which were created by Council in 2015 as an opportunity for staff to present to all boards and commissions at once; an event just for

Boards and Commissions to express appreciation and give members an opportunity to discuss the work they're doing; the next Super Issues Meeting is Aug. 11 and will focus on Ranked Voting due to Fort Collins' first ranked voting election this November (with a mayoral race that features more than two candidates); other Super Issues meetings are planned for September and November, with info on topics coming soon.

b. Regular Items

a. Water Commission Recommendation for City Council to Adopt Natural Areas Strategic Framework

Conservation and Stewardship Planning Manager Julia Feder followed up her Feb. 20 presentation by providing an overview of community engagement and feedback received on the draft Natural Areas Strategic Framework and changes made to the final draft plan. She requested Water Commission's support in the form of a recommendation that Council adopt the plan on July 1.

About 1,200 people visited the website (<https://ourcity.fcgov.com/natural-areas-strategic-framework>); there were 500 views of the plan as well as 50 detailed comments.

Timeline consists of recommendations from boards and commissions in May; memo to be included in City Council meeting packet in June; and Council adoption on July 1.

Discussion Highlights:

Commissioners commented on or inquired about various related topics including recreation as a concept and tension surrounding it (Ms. Feder replied that department's mission is conservation first with a focus on access); the former Hughes Stadium site and public discussion about establishing it as a City of Fort Collins natural area (Ms. Feder indicated that once a final use plan is established by the City, Natural Areas Department will onboard the portion of the property that is designated as a natural area and then manage it through the Foothills Management Zone Updates) metrics for "Goal 1: Conserve and Protect Land & Water" (Ms. Feder replied that metrics include cumulative acres preserved, per capita acres, water-based metric based on conserved and protected flows [in-stream flows] in partnership with Utilities regarding legally-protected flows).

Commissioner Ng moved for the Water Commission to recommend City Council adopt the 2025 Natural Areas Strategic Framework. The Water Commission has been engaged multiples times throughout the Strategic Framework planning process and believes this plan will be a sound guide to support Natural Areas and citywide planning for the decade to come.

Commissioner Steed seconded the motion

Vote on the motion: **it passed unanimously, 5-0**