

Water Commission

REGULAR MEETING **Excerpt from DRAFT unapproved minutes**

Thursday, July 17, 2025 – 5:30 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:31 PM

2. ROLL CALL

- a. Commissioners Present (In Person): Chairperson Laura Chartrand, Vice Chair James Bishop, and Commissioners James Bishop, Richard Kahn, Nick Martin
- b. Commissioners Present (via Teams): Commissioners Paul Herman, Nicole Ng, Greg Steed
- c. Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Jordan Radin
- d. Staff Members Present (In Person): Jill Oropeza, Katherine Martinez, Joe Wimmer, Katie Collins, Erik Monahan, Cindy Farnes, Kathryne Marko, Kelly Wasserbach, Mandy Rasmussen, Christina Schroeder, Andrew Gingerich, Alice Conovitz, Gregg Stonecipher, Matt Fater, and Jeremy Woolf
- e. Guests: None

7. REGULAR (ACTION) ITEMS

c. Water Efficiency Plan (WEP) Request for Recommendation

Water Conservation Specialist Alice Conovitz summarized comments on the draft plan from the June 5 meeting, and reported that the plan is being finalized and will be presented to City Council on Sept. 2. Acting Water Conservation Manager Katie Collins was present as staff support.

Discussion Highlights

Commissioners commented on and inquired about various related topics including whether any Water Commission feedback was tricky to incorporate (Ms. Conovitz responded that the Water Commission had asked whether the plan was doing enough; as a result, staff increased the goal from 3% to 4% by the year 2040 for reduction in water consumption); number of public comments totaled eight, and staff outreach efforts were extensive via website, social media, Utilities bill insert; engagement efforts occurred over many months and feedback was incorporated into the draft plan; whether the eight commenters included any major water users (staff didn't ask for commenters' identity in the form, but reached out individually to large customers and received thanks for sharing the information; whether there's any economic cost change to City by increasing the water consumption reduction goal from 3% to 4% (staff's response: impact to revenue due to decreased consumption over years has resulted in big swings that are weather-driven [increased precipitation] from year to year that tend to be more than 4%, such as in 2023 a very wet year, which resulted in a 13% decrease in demand relative to historical data, and staff is expecting less of an impact on revenue with the 4%

goal); community outreach during plan development was partially grant-funded, and staff invested heavily in outreach toward community members who historically don't participate; question of whether scaling back on money spent on outreach efforts could go toward other projects or programs (Ms. Conovitz responded that outreach related to the public comment draft (such as social media, Utility bill inserts, translation, etc.) was low cost, about a few hundred dollars); comment that very few members of the public have attended Water Commission meetings over the past few years, leading to speculation that people simply aren't interested; Staff Liaison to the Water Commission Jill Oropeza (Senior Director of Integrated Sciences and Planning) mentioned clear direction from City Council on community outreach required, and that the plan included heavy public engagement during early stages of the plan development.

Vice Chair Bishop moved to recommend City Council adopt the updated Water Efficiency Plan.

Commissioner Kahn seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: **it passed unanimously, 8-0**

These draft minutes are scheduled to be approved by the Chair and a vote of the Water Commission on 09/18/25.