

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

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SUBJECT

Resolution 2024-066 Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Various Entities Regarding the Poudre Water Supply Infrastructure Wildfire Ready Action Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to request approval for Fort Collins Utilities (“Utilities”) to enter into an agreement with the City of Greeley and Water Supply and Storage Company (collectively “Project Partners”) to jointly develop a Wildfire Ready Action Plan (“WRAP”). The Cache la Poudre (“Poudre”) River watershed is a shared resource for municipal, agricultural, and recreational water users, with critical and separately owned water supply infrastructure located near Cameron pass. Staff from Utilities’ Watershed Program and Project Partners aim to address the vulnerability of this infrastructure and water supplies to post-wildfire impacts by developing a collaborative WRAP. The proposed agreement regarding the Poudre Water Supply Infrastructure WRAP outlines the terms for this collaboration. The Water Commission has formally recommended that Council authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Bottom line: Resolution for WRAP Agreement

Utilities’ Watershed Program staff are seeking adoption of the Resolution to authorize the City entering into an intergovernmental agreement to develop a collaborative WRAP with other regional water providers. Utilities’ source water supplies provide high quality raw water for drinking water treatment and include the Poudre River and Horsetooth Reservoir. The WRAP aims to join regional water providers in protecting water supplies and water supply infrastructure in the upper Poudre River watershed and adjacent upper Michigan River watershed from the threat of wildfire.

Mission of Utilities’ Watershed Program

The mission of the Utilities’ Watershed Program is to monitor and protect Utilities’ source water supplies and the health of the Poudre River watershed. In 2016, Watershed Program staff developed a Source

Water Protection Plan for the City's two major drinking water supplies. This plan has directed the City's source water quality monitoring and protection priorities over the last eight years. Wildfire was identified as the highest-ranking threat to Utilities' water supplies. The WRAP will address this risk by outlining specific projects and actions to protect the City's water supplies and infrastructure from post-fire impacts both before and after a wildfire occurs.

Collaborative Development of the Poudre Water Supply Infrastructure WRAP

A network of critical water supply infrastructure is located near Cameron Pass that Utilities, the City of Greeley, and Water Supply and Storage Company (Project Partners) use to manage their water supplies. This shared water supply and separately owned infrastructure is used to support both municipal and agricultural water users and improve flows in the upper Poudre River. Protecting the physical infrastructure and the water stored and conveyed by these structures is a high priority for Project Partners. Therefore, the Project Partners are seeking to develop a collaborative WRAP to address the susceptibility of this water supply and infrastructure to the threat of wildfire. The project will include the following:

- the development of a shared vision and establishment of goals and objectives for the WRAP;
- a comprehensive analysis of post-wildfire hazards and an evaluation of the water supply and infrastructure's susceptibility to post-wildfire hazards;
- the creation of a WRAP that will outline wildfire mitigation actions that can be implemented before and after a wildfire occurs; and
- stakeholder collaboration, communication, outreach, and engagement throughout the project to establish support and partnerships for future implementation of the WRAP.

Funding and Project Implementation

The project budget has been set at \$200,000. The Project Partners were awarded \$171,875 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Wildfire Ready Watershed Grant Program. The remaining \$28,125 will come from the Project Partners as a cash match in the amount of \$9,063 from both Utilities and the City of Greeley and \$10,000 from Water Supply and Storage Company. Utilities intend to use existing Watershed Protection funding to support this project and will also provide in-kind match funding through staff time to manage the project. The project budget will be used to hire a consultant to conduct the analyses and susceptibility evaluation and facilitate the development of the WRAP. The project is expected to begin in Q1 of 2025.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

There are no cost impacts associated with the proposed Resolution.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Water Commission Regular Meeting, March 21, 2024

Commissioner Bruxvoort moved that the Water Commission recommend Council formally approve the Utilities' Watershed Program entering into the agreement regarding the Poudre Water Supply Infrastructure Wildfire Ready Action Plan.

The Commission proposed to amend the motion to include:

Additionally, the Commission acknowledges that the subject lands are owned by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and that the USFS is already engaged in wildfire planning and funding activities. It is the Commissions' opinion that the City should engage USFS as soon as practical.

Commissioner Tarry seconded the amended motion. The vote on the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Resolution