

Water & Sewer Agenda Summary

Date: March 15, 2023

Key Staff Contact: Sean Chambers, Director of Water & Sewer Utilities

Title:

Regional Water Initiatives Update

Summary:

Water & Sewer staff are engaged in several ongoing regional water related groups that help to advance our strategic and operational goals.

From our earliest days, Greeley leaders and pioneers have been involved with a variety of projects that helped to define Colorado's water law and brought people together with common goals around water supply resiliency, agricultural productivity and protecting economic growth.

- Based upon Greeley's Union Colony roots and long-standing relationship with agriculture, Greeley and our residents have long understood the value of water as a finite natural resource essential to a sustainable and resilient community in the West.
- The City's Water & Sewer Utilities staff continue to invest that Greeley legacy through partnerships with local agriculture, municipal utilities and leadership in organizations that are focused on water.
 - NoCO regional water infrastructure storage and resiliency projects
 - Colorado Water Congress - more info at: www.cowatercongress.org/
 - South Platte Basin Roundtable - more info at: www.southplattebasin.com
 - Interbasin Compact Committee of the Colorado Water Conservation Board
www.cwcb.colorado.gov/about-us/interbasin-compact-committee
 - Watershed Health and Fire Recovery Coalitions
 - The Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed; and
 - The Big Thompson Watershed Coalition
 - FFA and Weld Co 4-H education and collaboration
 - Upper Cache la Poudre Water Quality Collaborative
 - North Front Range 208 Water Quality Management Assoc.
 - NoCO Regional Water Resiliency Initiative (Formerly known as StratOp)

Collectively, these regional initiative serves to protect and advance Greeley's water system reliability and resiliency goals. Such work helps Greeley staff stay well informed on emerging issues and remain as a regional leader in the water resources, watershed health, water quality and municipal water spaces.

As City staff engage in ongoing discussions on regional water security, resiliency and opportunities, we have identified some guiding principles that conform to and support the Council's Vision and Strategic Work Plan. They are as follows:

1. Greeley supports regional water resiliency strategies that prepare the region for water supply uncertainty and emergency situations.
2. Greeley supports a vision for keeping Northern Colorado water supplies in the region.
 - a. Support strategies that promote current and future economic prosperity and a resilient Northern Colorado economy.
 - b. Greeley does not support any initiative that would potentially impair private property rights
 - c. Greeley does not support the creation of a regional mill levy.
3. Greeley continues to realize benefits from ongoing meetings among the leadership from Northern Colorado municipal water providers.

Staff will continue to engage with neighboring communities on existing regional work that is important to our community and that has potential to be scaled up or more efficient with more participants. Initiative such as sourcewater quality sampling, aerial snow observation, wildfire recovery, watershed health, water wise landscape resources and drought response messaging are all areas of opportunity.

Recommended Action:

Information only, no recommended actions

Attachments:

Presentation