

WATER BOARD MINUTES

May 20, 2019

**Service Center Conference Room
1100 S. Sherman Street
Longmont, CO 80501**

REGULAR MEETING

The May 20, 2019 meeting of the Longmont Water Board was called to order by Vice Chair Renee Davis at 3:00 pm at the Service Center Water Conference Room.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Renee Davis, Kathy Peterson, John Caldwell, and Roger Lange

Board Members Excused: Todd Williams

Council Liaison Present: Marcia Martin arrived at 3:14 pm

City Staff Members Present: Ken Huson, Wes Lowrie, Kevin Boden, Francie Jaffe, Maureen Wallace, Jamie Freel, Danielle Levine, and Heather McIntyre

Public in Attendance: Phil Willis

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

A motion was made by Board member Caldwell to approve Water Board's April 15, 2019 minutes; the motion was seconded by Board member Lange. The motion passed 4-0.

3. WATER STATUS REPORT

Staff member Wes Lowrie gave the current water status report on behalf of District 5 Water Commissioner Shera Sumerford. The flow of the St. Vrain at the Lyons gage at 8:00 am today was 143 cfs with an historical average of 325 cfs for this date.

Ralph Price Reservoir at Button Rock Preserve is at 6,372 feet, equaling 10,704 acre feet, down approximately 5,500 acre feet. Currently there is 100 cfs being released from Ralph Price Reservoir.

Union Reservoir is at 11,975 acre feet, down approx. 800 acre feet.

The call on the St. Vrain Creek is Highland Ditch, Admin Number 8004.00000, with a priority date of 11/30/1871. The call on the Main Stem of the South Platte River is North Sterling Canal, Admin Number 26302.23953, with a priority date of 01/05/1922.

Local storage at the end of March was approximately 69%. Typically, storage is around 68% at this time.

Snowpack for the Upper Colorado is at 171%, the South Platte is at 139%, and St. Vrain Creek is at 121%.

4. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

5. AGENDA REVISIONS AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

- A. Button Rock Preserve Management Plan Interim Update and 5-minute video commemorating Button Rock Dam's 50th Anniversary
- B. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Latest Drought Monitor

6. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Water Board approved and recommended that Lot 11, Pratt & Brown's Gardens Replat A is currently in compliance with the City's Raw Water Requirement Policy. In addition, Water Board approved and recommended that Marsha's Subdivision will be in compliance with the City's Raw Water Requirement Policy upon satisfaction of the 3.378 acre foot raw water deficit at time of final plat approval.

The motion was made by Board member Peterson to approve and was seconded by Board member Caldwell. The motion passed 4-0.

Council member Martin arrived at 3:14 pm.

Staff member Lowrie informed Water Board that Main Street Subdivision Replat G is currently in compliance with the City's Raw Water Requirement Policy and no action was needed by the Board.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

None.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. Button Rock Preserve Management Plan Update

Staff member Ken Huson shared with the Board a 5-minute video commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Button Rock Dam. Afterwards, Staff member Danielle Levine provided an update for the Board on the Button Rock Preserve Management Plan, which kicked off at the end of February. Colorado National Heritage Program began collecting data in March; the *Engage Longmont* website went live on April 1; and the newly implemented “dogs on leash, one dog per person” rule directed by City Council went into effect on May 1. She reiterated that the purpose of the Management Plan is to establish baseline inventories of what we currently have at Button Rock and what we can do to care for and protect our Preserve.

Watershed Ranger Jamie Freel stated that he has seen a decrease in the number of dogs at Button Rock, though overall human visitation has not decreased. He and his staff are currently talking with visitors about the new rule in an “educational” capacity only, with transition to stricter enforcement within the next month. Ranger Freel said that most people are not surprised by the new rule because most other places in the area have already changed to a “no unleashed dogs” policy.

Staff member Huson shared historical information that originally guided the City’s decision to allow passive recreation at Button Rock. These include a commitment made to the community when the City sold bonds to build Button Rock Dam; and a commitment made to the US Forest Service during the permitting process to open the reservoir to passive recreation after its completion since part of the land belonged to the Forest Service during that time.

B. Final Legislative Report

Staff member Huson reviewed with the Board the final legislative report that was included in the packet. Six of the seven bills supported by Water Board and the City of Longmont passed. The other bill (HB19-1271) was postponed indefinitely.

Staff member Francie Jaffe reported that one of the bills that passed was a new appliance energy and water efficiency standards bill (HB19-1231), which sets new specified standards for the next three years concerning energy and water efficiency for new appliances. Currently based on national standards that have been set, this bill also makes provision for the state to set its own standards if it finds the national standards are insufficient.

C. Saint Vrain Creek Stream Management Plan Update

Staff member Kevin Boden updated the Board on the progress Left Hand Water Conservancy District is making on the Saint Vrain Creek Stream Management Plan, which Longmont agreed to help fund. A consultant has been hired and is currently assessing the river’s health. Staff anticipates additional information on their findings will be available in the next couple of months.

At Board member Caldwell's prior request, Staff member Boden shared examples of a wide variety of structures being used to build fish passages along various reaches of the river. Boulder County Parks & Open Space is working to include one on the Niwot Ditch and there are two fish passage projects currently on the St. Vrain Creek.

D. Water Demand Evaluation Update

Staff member Huson shared with the Board NOAA's latest drought monitor, which shows drought coverage for the continental US. In 2012, during the peak of the drought, 55% of the continental US was facing major drought conditions. The latest monitor shows significant decrease with only 5% facing major drought conditions, the lowest in 20 years.

Staff member Huson presented the Board with the updated Water Demand Evaluation built on baseline data from the original evaluation project completed in 2012. Staff utilized current GIS technology and the past seventeen years of data in their work to give them a comprehensive look at the overall water use for the City. This update also incorporated recent changes made to the City's water use and comprehensive planning, including the adoption of Envision Longmont, the conversion of some previously planned areas from future development status to open space status, and recent water conservation efforts and citizens' practices. These changes have contributed to a slight decrease in projections for future water demands (32,500 acre-feet) from those made in 2012 (32,730 acre-feet).

9. ITEMS FROM BOARD

A. Review of Major Project Listing

The Board reviewed the most recent Water Board project status report.

10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND WATER BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Informational items and correspondence were included in the packet.

11. ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

The next cash-in-lieu review is scheduled for June's meeting.

12. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before Water Board, Vice Chairperson Davis adjourned the meeting at 4:41 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Longmont Water Board will be held on June 17, 2019, at 3:00 pm at the Service Center, 1100 South Sherman Street, Longmont, CO 80501.

Renee Davis, Water Board Vice Chair

Date

Heather McIntyre, Recording Secretary

Date