

# **WATER BOARD MINUTES**

**October 21, 2019**

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

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## **REGULAR MEETING**

The October 21, 2019 meeting of the Longmont Water Board was called to order by Chair Todd Williams at 3:00 pm at the Service Center Water Conference Room.

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: Todd Williams, Renee Davis, John Caldwell, and Roger Lange

Board Members Excused: Kathy Peterson

City Staff Members Present: Ken Huson, Wes Lowrie, Nelson Tipton, Kevin Boden, Francie Jaffe, Jason Elkins, David Bell, Kenny Small, and Heather McIntyre

Council Liaison Present: Marcia Martin arrived at 3:07 pm

### **2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

There was a quorum present with four board members in attendance.

### **3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Board member Lange to approve Water Board's September 16, 2019 minutes; the motion was seconded by Board member Davis. The motion passed 4-0.**

### **4. WATER STATUS REPORT**

Staff member Tipton gave the current water status report. The flow of the St. Vrain at the Lyons gage at 8 am today was 27 cfs, with an historical average of 36 cfs for this date.

Ralph Price Reservoir at Button Rock Preserve is spilling at an elevation of 6,399.1 feet, equaling 16,100 acre-feet, down approximately 100 acre-feet from full. Currently there is 25 cfs being released from Ralph Price Reservoir.

Union Reservoir is at an elevation of 24.2 feet, equaling 10,100 acre-feet, down approx. 2,600 acre-feet.

The call on the St. Vrain Creek is Denio & Taylor Ditch, Admin #5675, with a priority date of 7/15/1865. The call on the Main Stem of the South Platte River affecting District 5 was Bijou Canal, Admin #56,589, with a priority date of 12/7/2004.

At the end of last month, District 5 reservoirs were at approximately 75% full. November 1 is typically when storage begins on the St. Vrain Basin.

**5. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

There was no public in attendance.

**6. AGENDA REVISIONS AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS**

Staff member Jaffe stated that she would give an update during the Items from Staff regarding the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) project and the grant application that was discussed at last month's meeting.

**7. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY**

There was no development activity.

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**A. 2020 Legislative Guiding Water Principles**

Staff member Tipton informed the Board of the new legislative session beginning January 8, 2020, and reviewed the guiding water principles approved by the Board in recent years. Staff member Huson highlighted the principle having to do with requiring proper water supply planning in conjunction with land use planning. He stated that Public Works & Natural Resources launched concerted efforts in 2019 to work with other departments and divisions, particularly Planning and Development, to look at water use needs earlier in the process of land development, thus enabling better initial water efficiency. This decreases the need for focusing as much effort on water conservation after development. As state regulation is heading that direction in the future, he wanted to point out that the City is actively adhering to this principle in the work Staff member Jaffe is doing with other departments.

**A motion was made by Board member Davis to recommend the 2020 Legislative Guiding Water Principles be used by City Council for the upcoming legislative session. Board member Caldwell seconded the motion; the motion passed 4-0.**

## 9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

### A. Windy Gap Firming Project Update

Staff member Huson referenced an email sent to the Board that was attached to this month's packet stating that the Schmuck Family Trust property had closed. The trust has withdrawn its statement of opposition in the water rights case. This was the last of the outstanding objectors, hopefully allowing this case to wrap up and move forward with a motion to the referee to forward the final decree to the case judge. It was also the last major hurdle for building the connectivity channel around the reservoir, thus allowing that project to move forward. The sub-district has hired AECOM as the design engineer for the embankment for the dam, the river channel, and the diversion facilities. There are tight deadlines associated with this project due to federal funding dedicated to it.

Bids for project construction were opened last week, with a construction start date for summer 2020 as the basis. Bids received are slightly higher than initial bids received. The finance committee will reconvene based on the new bids to discuss how to pursue bond funding. Since our participation is slightly different from other municipalities, it has not yet been determined whether Longmont will be in the bond pool with other participants or do our own bond.

Chair Williams asked if contingency funds already paid by participants would cover new bids that are coming in at higher rates. Staff member Huson stated that they would cover most of the cost. He clarified that there were two contingencies paid by participants, one a construction contingency and the other an owners cost. He indicated that the construction contingency will likely stay where it is, but that the owners cost could decrease a little bit, though it would need to be discussed at the next participants meeting. Board member Caldwell asked if the cost could really decrease or if the numbers would just shift from the contingency to the actual project cost once construction begins. Staff member Huson agreed that it would really be more of the cost shift.

Chair Williams wanted to know whether the new rates currently before Council would be affected by this new information. Staff member Huson stated that the new rates being considered by Council would not be changed by this information. In response to a question from Board member Lange about a timeline for the contingencies coming to a close Staff member Huson stated that would likely happen over the next six months. Further discussion ensued.

### B. Update on Bureau of Reclamation Grant Application

Staff member Jaffe reported that the City submitted the grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation as was discussed in last month's meeting, with a letter of support from the Board. She stated that staff decided to apply for \$800,000 matching funds, which will cover the last phase of the Automated Meter Readers (AMR) Project. The last step of the application process is to include a resolution from City Council to apply for the grant, which is on Council's agenda for the October 22, 2019 meeting.

Councilmember Martin asked why AMR installations are currently happening if we are just now applying for grant funding. Staff member Jaffe explained the project started several years ago and has been a part of annual budgets and capital improvement projects (CIPs) since its inception. The grant that the City is applying for will help offset the costs of the last phase of the project, which is expected to finish by 2024. She reiterated that whether or not the City is awarded grant funding, the project would continue with funds projected in the CIPs.

### **C. Button Rock Preserve Management Plan Update**

Staff member Huson reminded the Board of the Button Rock Preserve Management Plan Update that began early in 2019. He stated that staff is compiling data of natural resources, wildlife species, and critical plant species that was collected by the consultants. A public survey was implemented over the summer and was available at the Button Rock Preserve trailhead and online through the Engage Longmont website. The second public meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2019, 6-8 pm, at the Parks, Open Space, and Trails building located at 7 S. Sunset Street, Longmont. This will be an informational meeting where the City will present our findings from the data collection process.

Staff member Huson updated the Board on the “dogs on leash, one dog per person” rule that was implemented in late May 2019. Since introducing the rule, the Preserve continues to experience a decrease in dog visitation and dog waste litter needing to be removed. Board members asked about people’s compliance with the rule. Staff member David Bell replied that people have responded well, which he attributed to the educational and informational warning period that staff initiated when the rule went into effect.

The Board was interested to know what kind of species were found during the data collection phase and whether any findings surprised the staff. Staff member Bell said that staff is currently looking at all the data, which would be made available at the public meeting on November 6. He added that a few unique plant communities were unexpected, though he didn’t remember at that time which they were.

Staff member Lowrie said that Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District’s (NCWCD) Fall Water Users Meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2019, at the Embassy Suites in Loveland. Chair Williams added that Northern Water has changed the format of this meeting to a symposium, differentiating it from the Spring Water Users Meeting. Staff member Lowrie said interested participants could register on Northern Water’s website ([www.northernwater.org](http://www.northernwater.org)) or by contacting Heather McIntyre at the City (303-651-8817 or [heather.mcintyre@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:heather.mcintyre@longmontcolorado.gov)).

Staff member Lowrie also informed the Board that the Longmont Observer would begin video recording City Advisory Board & Commissions meetings in January 2020. They have requested a couple of volunteer Boards to participate in November and December 2019 as trial runs before recording all applicable boards in 2020. Board members agreed to allow the Longmont Observer to record the November and December Water Board meetings.

Staff member Jaffe stated that she is working with the City's Parks division to apply for NCWCD's Water Efficient Landscape Matching Grant to transition two of the City's parks from Kentucky bluegrass to a native, cool-season turf grass. The application for that grant is due on November 15, 2019. Further discussion about water efficient landscaping within the City parks system ensued.

**10. ITEMS FROM BOARD**

**A. Times-Call Article on Button Rock Preserve**

Board member Caldwell read an article in the Times-Call about tree thinning work that has been going on over the last several years. He felt the article reported incomplete information, not acknowledging the years of work done to decrease fire danger at the Preserve and implying that fire danger at Button Rock is a major concern for water quality issues. Staff member Bell mentioned that he and Staff member Huson reached out to the Times-Call, Boulder County staff, and Boulder County Commissioner Deb Gardner to inform them that Longmont felt the article information was incomplete. He added the City now has been included as a member of a task force sub-committee specifically focused on Button Rock, which will hopefully allow the City to get the message out about the mitigation work that has been done at Button Rock.

**B. Raw Water Demand Evaluation Discussion Update**

Chair Williams stated that he and Board member Davis met with Staff member Huson and Deputy City Manager Dale Rademacher about if Water Board needed to make a recommendation to City Council about Longmont's rate participation in the Windy Gap Firing Project. He reported that the first reading of the new water rates was scheduled to go to Council on October 22, with the second reading in early December. After Board discussion, there was consensus to wait and see what happens over the next few weeks to decide when to send a memo to Council. With the timeline as it is now, there was no urgency to send something to Council immediately.

John Caldwell excused himself from the meeting at 4:05 pm.

**C. Review of Major Project Listing**

A review of major project listing was provided in the agenda packet.

**11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND WATER BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Informational items were included in the packet distributed for this meeting.

**12. ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

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

**13. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before Water Board, Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 4:08 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Longmont Water Board will be held on November 18, 2019, at 3:00 pm at the Service Center, 1100 South Sherman Street, Longmont, CO 80501.

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**Todd Williams, Water Board Chair**

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**Date**

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**Heather McIntyre, Recording Secretary**

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**Date**