

WATER BOARD MINUTES

December 16, 2019

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

REGULAR MEETING

The December 16, 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.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Todd Williams, Kathy Peterson, John Caldwell, and Roger Lange

Board Members Excused: Renee Davis

City Staff Members Present: Ken Huson, Wes Lowrie, Nelson Tipton, Kevin Boden, Jason Elkins, Francie Jaffe, John Gage, and Heather McIntyre

Staff member David Bell arrived at 4:24 pm.

Council Liaison Present: Marcia Martin

1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

Chair Williams asked if there were any questions or comments on the November 18, 2019 meeting minutes. Board member Caldwell noted that Council Liaison Marcia Martin's name was missing from the Roll Call and requested that the minutes be amended to reflect her excused absence. **A motion was made by Board member Caldwell to approve Water Board's November 18, 2019 minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Board member Lange. The motion passed 4-0.**

3. 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 16.9 cfs, with an historical average of 18 cfs for this date.

Ralph Price Reservoir at Button Rock Preserve is currently at an elevation of 6,395.4 feet, equaling 15,196 acre-feet, down approximately 1,000 acre-feet from full. Currently there are 20 cfs being released from Ralph Price Reservoir.

Union Reservoir is at an elevation of 21.52 feet, equaling 8,400 acre-feet, down approximately 4,300 acre-feet. Currently, there are 10 cfs being released from Union Reservoir.

The call on the Main Stem is a free river below the Littleton Boat Chute #9, within District 8. The call on the St. Vrain Creek is McIntosh Reservoir, Admin #19271, with a priority date of 10/8/1902.

Though still early in the season, Staff member Tipton provided current snowpack information from the end of November. The Upper Colorado River snowpack is at 129% of average; the South Platte River Basin snowpack is at 143% of average; and statewide, the snowpack is at 131% of average.

4. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Staff member Ken Huson introduced Staff member John Gage, a Civil Engineer in the City's Water Quality Division. He is currently managing the Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Facility construction project, where off-gases from the wastewater treatment plant will be converted to fuel for the City's sanitation trucks. Since he also works on process engineering for the water treatment plant, John was invited to the meeting to answer any questions related to the water treatment process.

Councilmember Martin asked Staff member Gage about the amount of biogas the new facility would be able to produce. He stated that energy content of the biogas would equal approximately 100,000 to 150,000 gallons per year, which would cover the fuel needs for the City's sanitation fleet.

5. AGENDA REVISIONS AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

None

6. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

There was no development activity.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Cash-in-Lieu Review

Staff member Lowrie reminded the Board of City Council's approved Resolution R-2019-78 establishing the fee for cash-in-lieu of water right received at the current rate of \$16,840.00 per acre-foot.

The Board reviewed and discussed the current cash-in-lieu rate. The cost per acre-foot for the Windy Gap Firming Project, Union Enlargement & Pump Back Pipeline, and

Button Rock Enlargement have all been adjusted for the Bureau of Reclamation's construction cost index. The current confirmed transactions are consistently increasing.

After further discussion, Board member Caldwell moved to recommend that City Council set the cash-in-lieu rate at \$17,683 per acre-foot, the cost of the Windy Gap Firing Project. Board member Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

B. Proposed Change to the Raw Water Requirement Policy

Staff member Huson reviewed a table from the 2019 Water Demand Evaluation, focusing on the demand variability assumptions for high water industrial users. A demand calculation of 1,200 acre-feet of water was set aside in both the 2012 and 2019 Evaluations, though the 2019 Evaluation adopted by City Council now allows for a mixed use of the 1,200 acre-feet (400 AF for affordability and 800 AF for economic development). Language in the municipal code needs to be updated to reflect these changes. Further discussion followed.

A motion was made by Board member Caldwell to recommend that City Council approve revisions to Chapter 14.09 of the Longmont Municipal Code on the Raw Water Requirement Policy.

Board member Lange asked for clarification on the recommendation that would go to Council. Chair Williams clarified the recommendation to Council and further discussion ensued.

Board Member Lange seconded the motion; the motion passed 4-0.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. Water Resources Engineering Projects Report

Staff member Jason Elkins shared an update with the Board on repair work that has been done on the North and South Saint Vrain Raw Water Supply Pipelines. Repairs on Tunnels #1 & #2 of the north pipeline are now complete. Contractors filled and re-sealed the concrete around the pipes and cleaned inside the pipes as well.

Because the South Pipeline was damaged during the 2013 Flood, it has been out of commission since that time. The City is working with the contractors to evaluate that pipeline; once assessed the contractors will make repair the damage. The City intends to line the entire South Pipeline as part of that project and hopes to bring it back online in summer 2020. It is an important part of the raw water system supply, particularly in the winter months. The City has some FEMA dollars left over from the hazard mitigation from the 2013 Flood, and is looking to use those funds to cover as much of the cost of this project as possible.

Discussion among the Board and Staff ensued.

9. ITEMS FROM BOARD

A. Review of Major Project Listing

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

10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND WATER BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

A. Update on Water Board’s Memo to Council

Chair Williams reported that the Water Board’s memo to Council was included as an informational item in the December 3, 2019, Council packet. Chair Williams attended that Council meeting, spoke to them during the Public Invited to Be Heard portion, and answered a few questions from Council members. The 2nd Reading of the water rates item passed as presented.

Staff member Huson reviewed his Windy Gap Firing Project presentation to Council for the December 17, 2019, meeting. The presentation included information on two separate agreements for Council’s consideration at that meeting.

Staff member David Bell arrived at 4:24 pm.

11. ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

The next cash-in-lieu review is scheduled for the March 2020 meeting.

12. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before Water Board, Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 4:27 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Longmont Water Board will be held on January 27, 2020, at 3:00 pm at the Service Center, 1100 South Sherman Street, Longmont, CO 80501.

Todd Williams, Water Board Chair

Date

Heather McIntyre, Recording Secretary

Date