

WATER BOARD MINUTES

January 27, 2020

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

REGULAR MEETING

The January 27, 2020 meeting of the Longmont Water Board was called to order by Chair Todd Williams at 3:01 pm at the Service Center Water Conference Room.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Todd Williams, John Caldwell, Kathy Peterson, and Renee Davis. Roger Lange arrived at 3:05 pm.

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

Staff member Ken Huson arrived at 3:06 pm.

Council Liaison Present: Marcia Martin

Public in Attendance: Macie Mae

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 December 16, 2019 meeting minutes. **A motion was made by Board member Peterson to approve Water Board's December 16, 2019 minutes, seconded by Board member Caldwell. 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 7 am today was 19 cfs, with an historical average of 15 cfs for this date.

Ralph Price Reservoir at Button Rock Preserve is currently at an elevation of 6,390.4 feet, equaling 14,152 acre-feet in storage, down approximately 2,045 acre-feet from full. Currently there are 20 cfs being released from Ralph Price Reservoir.

Union Reservoir is at an elevation of 22.73 feet, equaling 9,150 acre-feet in storage, down approximately 3,650 acre-feet from full. Currently there are 5-6 cfs being released from Union Reservoir. Since last month's Water Board meeting, the reservoir has physically increased 700 acre-feet, going in the right direction.

The call on the St. Vrain Creek is Union Reservoir, with a priority date of 10/6/1902, and the call on the Main Stem of the South Platte River is Prospect Reservoir, with a priority date of 11/21/1910, which impacts Districts #2, 8, 9, 23, & 80. There are currently no calls below the Burlington Head Gate.

Board member Roger Lange arrived at 3:05 pm.

4. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Macie May, Chief Operating Officer of Longmont Public Media (LPM), informed the Board that LPM would begin video recording the Water Board meetings in February 2020 as part of a contract award they received from the City in 2019. Part of the awarded contract stipulates that LPM record video record all meetings of Longmont's Advisory Boards and Commissions. She explained the recording process and stated that those meetings will be published on Comcast Channels 8 and 880 (operated by LPM), as well as LongmontPublicMedia.org. After her overview, Ms. May answered questions from the Board.

5. AGENDA REVISIONS AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

Staff member Francie Jaffe requested to give the Board an update on the Climate Action Task Force. Chair Williams added this update as Item 8C under Items from Staff.

6. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

A. Prairie Village Filing 8 Final Subdivision Plat

Prairie Village Filing 8 Final Subdivision Plat is a 7.01 acre parcel south of Highway 66 and west of Alpine Street. All historic water rights were transferred to the City at the time of annexation, with a deficit of 6.112 acre-feet. Water Board approved a recommendation that Prairie Village Filing 8 Final Subdivision Plat will comply with the City's Raw Water Requirement Policy upon satisfaction of the 6.112 acre-feet raw water deficit at time of final plat approval.

The motion was made by Board member Caldwell to approve and was seconded by Board member Davis. The motion passed 5-0.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Designation of Posting Place

A motion was made by Board member Peterson to retain the same designated bulletin board located in the Service Center reception area and the Longmont Water Board's webpage of the City's website as the official Water Board agenda posting places for public meeting notification. The motion was seconded by Board member Lange. Motion passed 5-0.

B. Monthly Legislative Report

Staff member Huson highlighted a bill that has been introduced in the State Legislature, House Bill (HB 20-1097), which would give municipalities the ability to use water that has been previously quantified in water rights and adjudicated for municipal use to be used within interconnected systems.

Staff member Huson stated that the City has three interconnected systems, including one with the Town of Lyons, which allows Longmont to treat and return Lyons' water to their system. The other two interconnections the City has are with the Left Hand Water Conservancy District and Longs Peak, both emergency interconnections, which enable the City to provide treated water to those districts in emergencies.

Currently, there is no provision in the bill as written for return flow requirements; however, the Colorado Water Congress Legislative Affairs Committee was scheduled to review this bill today. Staff member Huson stated that he expects markups and revisions to the bill after the committee's review. Discussion ensued with the Board about the advantages and disadvantages of passing such a bill and decided to neither support nor oppose at this time, but to monitor its progress.

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

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. Windy Gap Firming Project Update

Staff member Huson reported that he attended a meeting this afternoon where an operations committee began working on an agreement for how to operate the project once it is built. He anticipates bringing an agreement to Water Board in a few months for review. Concurrently, a separate committee is working on an allotment contract and financing agreement.

Concerning the federal lawsuit, the case has been re-referred to another justice for the Colorado District for review.

B. Monthly Water Supply Update

Staff member Wes Lowrie provided snowpack information as of January 1, 2020, to the Board. Currently we are trending in an above average direction overall. Snowpack in the mountains the last couple of months has been better than it was down on the plains.

The Upper South Platte snowpack was reported at 141% (above average), the Cache la Poudre at 101% (average), and that of Boulder Creek/St. Vrain Basin at 136% (above average). Reservoir storage at the beginning of January 2020 shows better than average. With better than average storage and average snowpack, the overall water supply report is currently above average. Projections for the season are trending toward an average/above average snowpack year.

Board member Caldwell asked about how the snowpack is measured. Staff member Huson explained that most of it now is measured by “snow pillows” that measure the weight of the snow. This is a more accurate measurement than previous means used.

C. Climate Action Task Force Update

Staff member Francie Jaffe gave an overview to the Board on the creation of the Climate Action Task Force (CATF) last fall by the City Council when it passed a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency. The CATF was tasked with developing recommendations for immediate action to bring back to the Council within 120 days of their first meeting, which was held on December 18, 2019. Their report is due to Council on April 8, 2020. At their first meeting, the CATF developed seven topic areas of focus. The first focus area is Longmont’s greatest greenhouse gas emitters of transportation, building energy use, and renewables for electricity supply. Another focus for later in the process is adaptation and resilience, which will include looking at how water relates to these items. Further discussion by the Board ensued.

9. ITEMS FROM BOARD

A. Review of Water Board By-Laws and Guiding Water Principles

The Board reviewed the Water Board By-Laws and Longmont’s Guiding Water Principles, with no changes made.

B. Review of Major Project Listing

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

10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND WATER BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Staff member Huson informed the Board of a vacancy on the St. Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District. Any Longmont citizens interested in water are encouraged to apply by the deadline at the end of February.

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 4:00 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Longmont Water Board will be held on February 24 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