

# WATER BOARD MINUTES

August 17, 2020

This Water Board Meeting was held remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## REGULAR MEETING

The August 17, 2020 meeting of the Longmont Water Board was called to order by Temporary Chair Wes Lowrie at 3:01 pm via remote Zoom meeting connection.

### 1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Todd Williams, Renee Davis, Kathy Peterson, Roger Lange, and Alyson Gould

City Staff Members Present: Ken Huson, Wes Lowrie, Nelson Tipton, Kevin Boden, Francie Jaffe, Jason Elkins, David Bell, Jennifer Loper, Larry Wyeno, Becky Doyle, Danielle Levine, Becky Schol, Cara Wilwerding, and Heather McIntyre

Council Liaison Present: Marcia Martin

### 2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

### 3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

#### A. Election of Chair

Temporary Chair Lowrie opened the floor for nominations for the Chair position for the 2020/2021 Water Board.

**Board member Kathy Peterson moved, seconded by Board member Renee Davis, to nominate Board member Todd Williams as Chair. The motion carried 5-0.**

#### B. Election of Vice Chair

The meeting was resumed by Chair Williams, who welcomed the Board's newest member, Alyson Gould. He then turned over the floor to Board member Davis, who informed the Board of her resignation due to moving from Longmont.

**Chair Williams moved, seconded by Board member Roger Lange, to nominate Board member Peterson as Vice Chair. The motion carried 5-0.**

Chair Williams asked Councilmember Martin if there was a possibility to fill Board member Davis' vacated position with one of the recent applicants reviewed by Council. He expressed concern for a vacant position for several months in light of important, upcoming items for the Board. Councilmember Martin stated that she would contact the City Clerk's Office immediately to find out if it was possible.

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

Chair Williams asked if there were any questions or comments on the July 20, 2020 meeting minutes. **Board member Lange moved, Board member Peterson seconded, to approve Water Board's July 20, 2020 minutes. The motion carried 5-0.**

#### **5. WATER STATUS REPORT**

Staff member Lowrie gave the current water status report. The flow of the St. Vrain at the Lyons gage at 8 am today was 55.6 cfs, with the 124-year historic average of 120.28 cfs for this date.

The call on the St. Vrain Creek is Longmont Supply, Admin #5600 with a priority date of 5/01/1865, and the call on the Main Stem of the South Platte River is Lower Latham, Admin #11670, with a priority date of 10/24/1881.

Ralph Price Reservoir at Button Rock Preserve is currently spilling, with 35 cfs being released. Union Reservoir is at 26.6 feet, down approximately 2.4 feet.

#### **6. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Longmont resident Gaythia Weis shared a report that was presented to the Colorado Water Conservation Board in July 2020, entitled "Colorado's Demand Management Feasibility Investigation Update." She explained that the report discussed temporary, voluntary, and compensated reduction in consumptive use of water in the Colorado Basin, with the purpose of increasing storage in Lake Powell. She expressed concern about potential consequences for the Upper Basin, including Colorado, especially in terms of water supply obligations, noting the impacts of climate change and increased aridity. Ms. Weis is concerned about what that would mean for the viability of our Windy Gap junior water rights. An opportunity for public comment with the Colorado Water Conservation Board is scheduled for August 26, 2020.

The full report can be found by following this link:

[https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/cwcb/0/edoc/212695/8\\_Demand%20Management%20Update.pdf?searchid=a1d2b86a-6aab-4b53-b5dc-e3dd570b71fb](https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/cwcb/0/edoc/212695/8_Demand%20Management%20Update.pdf?searchid=a1d2b86a-6aab-4b53-b5dc-e3dd570b71fb).

Staff member Ken Huson introduced Staff member Larry Wyeno, who shared a special presentation regarding the Water Bonds ballot issue that was approved by Council for the November 3, 2020 Special Election. Discussion with the Board ensued after the video and PowerPoint presentation. More information about the Water Bonds ballot issue is available at [www.longmontcolorado.gov/water-bonds](http://www.longmontcolorado.gov/water-bonds).

## 7. AGENDA REVISIONS AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

There were no submission of documents. However, Staff member Huson reported that Item 10B – Windy Gap Firing Project Final Allotment Contract Recommendation would only be an update for the Board as staff did not yet have the Windy Gap Allotment Contract in hand.

## 8. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

There was no development activity.

## 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

### **A. Climate Action Task Force Recommendation Comments for Council**

Chair Williams and Staff member Francie Jaffe reviewed a summary of the Board's comments from the July 17, 2020 Water Board meeting regarding the Climate Action Task Force Recommendations Report presented on that date. The Board had agreed that further analyses of the CATF recommendation for a 35-40% reduction in water consumption would be needed to determine environmental, economic, and social impacts, which was summarized and submitted to the Board for final approval as determined at the previous meeting.

Board member Peterson suggested clarification to the paragraph that addressed Water Board proposing that staff complete further analysis within 12-18 months of City Council's direction. The suggested modification included adding language stating, "*If City Council votes to pursue a more ambitious water conservation goal, Water Board proposes that staff complete an analysis within 12-18 months of City Council direction....*"

After further discussion, **Board member Peterson moved, Board member Davis seconded, to approve the amended comments on the Climate Action Task Force water conservation recommendation to provide to City Council. The motion carried 5-0.**

## 10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

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

Staff member Danielle Levine reminded the Board of the Button Rock Preserve Management Plan process that began in February 2019 with anticipated completion in December 2020. As part of the process, staff engaged with the public in two separate meetings held in June and November 2019. A third public meeting is being considered for October 2020, likely in a virtual setting. Staff has worked with the Water Board, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and the Sustainability Advisory Board at critical junctures in the process to keep the boards informed and to solicit their input. Additionally, three public surveys were conducted, the last of which was recently completed. Staff member Levine reviewed the results from the third survey with the Board and engaged in discussion with them. Additional information related to this

management plan is available on the Engage Longmont webpage entitled, “Caring for Button Rock Preserve” (<https://engage.longmontcolorado.gov/button-rock-preserve>).

### **B. Windy Gap FIRMING Project Update**

Staff member Huson stated that staff had hoped to bring the final allotment contract for the Windy Gap FIRMING Project (WGFP) to the Board soliciting a recommendation for approval to Council; however, that contract had not yet been finalized. Discussion among the pool financing entities in the Project were still in negotiation for the bond issuance terms. Because the City of Longmont is a cash-financing entity, Longmont is not a part of that discussion process. Once those terms are decided, a finalized contract will be presented to Water Board for review, likely in September, before the contract is presented to City Council.

Staff member Huson also reported that on August 16, 2020, the Division 5 Water Judge signed the State Change Case Decree for the Windy Gap FIRMING Project. He highlighted three areas of significance related to that decision: 1) the WGFP as contemplated was acceptable and within the confines of the original decrees of the Windy Gap parent project; 2) the storage of the water on the Eastern Slope in the Chimney Hollow Reservoir is acceptable under the decree; and 3) without requiring mitigation, a line can be built for a connectivity channel to divert Colorado River water around the Windy Gap Reservoir on the Western Slope. A final decision in the federal case is still outstanding.

He notified the Board that City Council voted to approve final participation in the WGFP at 7,500 acre-feet as proposed by staff and recommended by the Board. Staff member Huson has been contacted by other project participants who have expressed interest in potentially purchasing the City of Longmont’s additional 500 acre-feet that were not approved as part of our final participation level.

## **11. ITEMS FROM BOARD**

### **A. Review of Major Project Listing**

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

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

Staff member Huson noted that the 2020 Prescription Takeback Event is scheduled for October 24, 2020. This event is critical in decreasing the amount of pharmaceutical waste that ends up in the water treatment system. Residents are encouraged to participate in this year’s drive-through, drop-off at Longmont United Hospital.

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

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

Councilmember Martin reported that she heard back from the City Clerk’s Office that it was possible to request a Water Board appointment on a near-future City Council agenda with the Mayor’s approval. She stated that she would request that it be included on the next agenda.

Chair Williams expressed appreciation for Board member Davis’ contribution to the Water Board over the last several years, as well as best wishes for her as she moves on to her new home outside the City. He also extended a congratulations and further welcome to Board member Gould as she begins her service on the Water Board.

**13. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before Water Board, Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 4:54 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Longmont Water Board is scheduled for September 21, 2020, at 3:00 pm. The location will be determined by the pandemic guidelines at that time.

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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**