



Minutes
Program Management Review (PMR) Committee
Colorado Springs Utilities Board
Rosemont Conference Room/Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023

Committee members present via web conference or in the Rosemont Conference Room:
Committee Chair Michelle Talarico and David Leinweber

Board members present via web conference or in the Rosemont Conference Room:
Nancy Henjum

Staff members present via web conference or in the Rosemont Conference Room: Travas Deal, Renee Adams, Marcela Espinoza, Bethany Schoemer, Jason Rigler, Mike Francolino, Lisa Barbato, Dave Padgett, Mark Peters, Steve Duling, Susan Funchion, Kevin Binkley, Jessica Davis, Tristan Gearhart, Jay Anderson, Sarah LaBarre, Larry Dunn, Somer Mese and Jason Miller

City of Colorado Springs staff members present via web conference or in the Rosemont Conference Room: Renee Congdon

Citizens present: None

1. Call to Order and Review Minutes

The meeting convened at 2:32 p.m. and Chair Michelle Talarico read a statement regarding the Colorado Open Meetings Law and City Charter and stated that public comment would not be a part of the meeting.

The minutes from the Aug. 15, 2023 Program Management Review Committee meeting were accepted for posting.

2. Review of Programs/Projects on the 2023 Balanced Scorecard

Chair Talarico stated the meeting would be handled differently than prior meetings. All but two of the agenda items will be reviewed by exception.

a. Sustainable Energy Portfolio –

Ms. Sarah LaBarre, Interim General Manager of Planning and Engineering, gave an overview of the Sustainable Energy Portfolio (SEP) and indicated that the key elements of the Integrated Resource Plans (IRP) included the decommissioning of Drake no later than 2023 and Nixon 1 no later than 2030, achieving 80% carbon reduction by 2030 while maintaining reliability and cost effectiveness for gas and electric service.

She reviewed the portfolio schedule from 2022-2027 and answered questions about the Battery Energy Source System (BESS 100MW) project. Ms. Lisa Barbato, Chief System Planning and Project Officer, informed committee members of an open house for the BESS 100MW project happening Nov. 9, 2023, from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. It

will take place at Inspiration View Elementary, and the contractor of the project will be present to answer questions about the project.

Ms. LaBarre shared status updates for quarter three project milestones. Committee Member Leinweber asked about the status of Concrete Coyote.

Ms. LaBarre stated the 2023 budget is lower than expected for quarter three. She explained areas of concern for quarter three, including easement acquisition. Chair Talarico asked staff to provide a brief explanation on the easement acquisition process and Ms. Jessica Davis, Land Resource Manager, reviewed the easement acquisition process with the committee.

Ms. LaBarre informed committee members of one safety incident that occurred in quarter three. She discussed next steps for projects in the process of completion and future upcoming projects.

b. Gas Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP) and Compliance Projects Implementation –

Mr. Mark Peters, DIMP Program Manager, provided a brief overview of the DIMP program and federal regulatory requirements. He gave an update on the schedule and budget progress for the third quarter. Mr. Peters discussed the areas of concern include regulatory clarity, customer contact for inside meter moves, and locates for private utilities. He informed committee members there were no safety incidents in the third quarter and only one safety incident total in 2023.

c. Utilities Infrastructure Coordination with the City (2C) –

This item was on the agenda by exception. Ms. Henjum asked if there could be better coordination with Springs Utilities and the City. Mr. Kevin Binkley, Project Manager Supervisor, confirmed Springs Utilities staff meets with City staff every two weeks to coordinate on current and future projects.

d. Fiber Network Expansion Program –

This Item was on the agenda by exception. Mr. Thane LaBarre, Fiber Optics and Telecommunications Manager, provided a brief update on the program at the request of Chair Talarico. He advised Springs Utilities is working on the north end of the City by Interquest and Voyager Parkway and headed south as the buildout heads for completion.

3. 2023 Program/Project Dashboard Review

This item was on the agenda by exception. Ms. Henjum requested updates on the Northern Monument Creek Inceptor, CSRRRF Biogas Utilization Project and Financial System Upgrade (Infor V11-3Q22) projects.

Ms. Barbato explained Springs Utilities is in the process of negotiating cost for biogas utilization, however, Springs Utilities is trying to find alternatives. She advised Springs

Utilities is working on completing a 30% design for the Northern Monument Creek Inceptor to evaluate costs.

Mr. Mike Francolino, Chief Customer and Enterprise Services Officer, provided an update on the Financial System Upgrade, explaining a reset of the schedule is underway to bring in additional resources, focus project team availability on critical tasks and mitigate risks.

4. Technology Roadmap Update

This item was on the agenda by exception. Mr. Francolino discussed a dip in the system availability was caused by an outage and the system having to be reset.

Ms. Henjum asked on status of leadership in IT. Mr. Travas Deal, Chief Executive Officer, advised leadership is in the recruitment process and it is his top priority to hire.

5. 2023 accomplishments

Mr. Francolino reported out the 2023 focus areas and the 2024 proposed workplan. Ms. Bethany Schoemer, Strategic Planning and Governance Specialist, advised the workplans will go to the Utilities Board for approval in November.

6. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

There were no closing remarks. The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m. The next meeting is Feb. 15, 2024.