

**MINUTES**  
**Colorado Springs Utilities Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024**

**Utilities Board members present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:**

Chair Dave Donelson, Vice Chair Yolanda Avila, Nancy Henjum, Lynette Crow-Iverson, Brian Risley, Mike O'Malley, Michelle Talarico and David Leinweber

**Utilities Board Members Excused:** Randy Helms

**Staff members present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:**

Travas Deal, Renee Adams, Somer Mese, Mike Francolino, Tristan Gearhart, Lisa Barbato, Jessica Davis, Todd Sturtevant, Bethany Schoemer, Nicole Means, Marcela Espinoza, Natalie Watts, Mike Myers, Jared Miller, Andy Colosimo and Jessica Thiel

**City of Colorado Springs staff members present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:**

Renee Congdon and Ryan Trujillo

**Citizens present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Donelson called the Utilities Board meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., and Ms. Nicole Means, Utilities Board Administrator, called the roll.

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Mike Myer, Safety and Health Manger, delivered the invocation, and Vice Chair Avila led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Consent Calendar**

**3a. Approval of Utilities Board Meeting Minutes: Jan. 16, 2024 Joint Utilities Board and Utilities Policy Advisory Committee Meeting**

**3b. Approval of Utilities Board Meeting Minutes: Jan. 17, 2024 Utilities Board Meeting**

Board Member Talarico moved approval of the Consent Calendar and Board Member Leinweber seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

**4. Customer Comments**

Mr. Mark Gebhart, ratepayer, gave a presentation on the dewatering of the Pueblo Reservoir in March 2023 and the impact on the river. Colorado Springs Utilities staff passed Mr. Gebhart's presentation out to the board members. Board Member Leinweber asked a question about what makes Pueblo significant for fly fishing.

Mr. Patrick Schrod, ratepayer, discussed net metering. He expressed frustration with having an electric bill after paying \$15,000 to install solar to power his home. Mr. Schrod explained his generation powers his house and his neighbor's house. He expressed frustrated for only receiving a \$46 rebate at the end of the year.

Vice Chair Avila asked a clarifying question, and Board Member O'Malley commented on his desire to allow excess generation to be donated to Project COPE. Mr. Travas Deal, Chief Executive Officer, explained the costs to the distribution system and the requirement for Springs Utilities to reserve power for customers that utilize solar. Additionally, he discussed the equity issue of people who can afford solar and those who cannot.

## **5. Compliance Reports**

- I-4 Risk Management
- I-5 Economic Development
- I-13 Community Investment
- E-2 CEO Responsibilities
  - Water Outlook
  - ECA/GCA monitoring

Chair Donelson explained that compliance reports are on the agenda by exception and asked if there were any questions. The compliance reports were unanimously approved.

## **6. Items Called Off Consent Calendar**

There were none.

## **7. A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Land Exchange of an Easement Located near the intersection of Delta Drive and Hancock Expressway and a Property located at the intersection of Marksheffel Road and Barnes Road to be used for the Kelker to South Plant Transmission Project**

Ms. Jessica Davis, Land Resource Manager, reviewed the land exchange for the Kelker-South Plant Transmission Project. The project exists to ensure reliability of the system and support additional power generation to the downtown network. Ms. Davis reviewed the requirements for land exchanges as outlined in the City Real Estate Manual. She explained the location of the land exchange, the costs of both pieces of land and the property information.

Board Member O'Malley made a motion to move the item to City Council and Board Member Crow-Iverson seconded the motion. The Utilities Board unanimously approved the item to go to City Council on March 12, 2024 on consent.

#### **8. Outside City Wastewater Service Agreement – Falcon Area Water and Wastewater Authority**

Mr. Todd Sturtevant, System Extensions Manager, explained the wastewater service agreement. The Falcon Area Water and Wastewater Authority (FAWWA) has requested continued wastewater service for Sterling Ranch. Mr. Sturtevant explained the water is provided by Denver Basin groundwater. He reviewed a map of Sterling Ranch, including well and septic systems, Springs Utilities eligible land and forced main sewer property. Mr. Sturtevant gave an overview of the history of the request for wastewater service from Sept. 2018 to the present. He reviewed the agreement terms and conditions, including the timeframe, allowable flows, cost recoveries, fees and eligible reasons to terminate the agreement. Lastly, Mr. Sturtevant explained the rate and revenue of the agreement.

Board Member Risley asked what happens at the conclusion of the 25-year agreement and asked if the developer is responsible to construct and pay for the infrastructure. Board Member O'Malley asked to see the map of the location of the service request. Board Member Henjum asked Mr. Sturtevant to explain the impacts the agreement will have on extending wastewater service in the eastern part of the city.

Board Member O'Malley made a motion to move the agreement to City Council and Vice Chair Avila seconded the motion. The Utilities Board unanimously approved the item to go to City Council on March 26, 2024 on consent.

#### **9. Excellence in Governance Policy Manual Revisions**

Ms. Bethany Schoemer, Strategic Planning and Governance Specialist, discussed the changes to the Excellence in Governance Policy Manual, and explained the changes are mostly clean-up, rather than substantive changes to policy. She gave a brief overview of the Governance Manual timeline, including the 2015 governance study and implementation of the Excellence in Governance Manual in 2018.

Ms. Schoemer gave a summary of the revisions to the governance manual and explained the item went through the January Strategic Planning Committee. Ms. Schoemer explained the change to the C-2 evaluation removes the requirement for an annual evaluation and allows it to be more informal.

Board Member O'Malley made a motion to approve the revisions, and Board Member Crow-Iverson seconded the motion. The Utilities Board unanimously approved the changes to the Excellence in Governance Policy Manual.

#### **10. Board Member Updates**

Board Member Avila explained that Personnel Committee was cancelled due to committee member scheduling conflicts. The agenda items from February were moved to March Personnel Committee. She reminded Board Members of the upcoming CEO evaluation.

Board Member Talarico shared about the Monument Creek Stabilization Project tour and summarized the topics shared at the February Program Management Review Committee. The next tour will be at the Drake Power Plant.

Chair Donelson shared remarks about Keith King in remembrance of his service to Colorado Springs Utilities.

Mr. Deal expressed thankfulness for the commitment of Mr. King serving on the Utilities Board and the instrumental work he did on the governance structure of the organization. Mr. Deal announced the departure of Ms. Means and her movement to the Government Affairs department.

#### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.