



COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES BOARD
MS Teams and Blue River Board Room
Plaza of the Rockies
121 S. Tejon Street
South Tower, 5th Floor

Minutes
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Blue River Board Room

1. Call to Order

Chair Donelson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Ms. Natalie Watts, Strategic Planning and Governance Manager, called roll.

Present – Chair Dave Donelson, Board Member Lynette Crow-Iverson, Board Member Kimberly Gold, Board Member Nancy Henjum, Board Member David Leinweber, Board Member Brian Risley, Board Member Roland Rainey and Vice Chair Brandy Williams.

Excused – Board Member Tom Bailey

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Matt Bleckert, Technical Craft Training Supervisor, offered the invocation, and Chair Donelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Consent Agenda

- **Approval of the November 19, 2025, Utilities Board Meeting Minutes**
- **P-1.2 2026 Annual Planning Calendar**
- **G-4.3 2026 Board Enterprise Scorecard**
- **G-2.1 2026 CEO Performance Plan**
- **E-2.3 Organizational Oversight—Compliance Frequency and Method**
- **Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Board of the Public Authority for Colorado Energy (“PACE”)**

Board Member Crow-Iverson made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Board Member Rainey seconded the motion. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

4. Customer Comments

There were no customer comments.

5. Recognition

- **2025 Gallagher Best in Class Award Winner**

Ms. Renee Adams, Chief Human Resource Officer, introduced the 2025 Gallagher Best in Class award and the new Manager of Human Resources, Ms. Tara Russell. It was noted that Utilities has been recognized for the second consecutive year in a row. Ms. Russell introduced team members who contributed to the achievement.

Board Member Henjum and Chair Donelson thanked staff for their hard work in receiving the award.

6. Compliance Reports:

- **I-1 Pricing of Services G-5, G-6**
- **I-2 Financial Condition and Activities (to include Contracts Over \$500K) G-7**
- **E-2 CEO/Board Partnership Responsibilities**
 - Electric Cost Adjustment / Gas Cost Adjustment Update
 - Water Outlook

There was no presentation for these items.

7. Items Called Off Consent Agenda

No items were called off consent.

8. Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC) Recommendation on Geothermal Energy Assignment

Ms. Kate Danner, UPAC Chair, presented the results of UPAC's recommendation on the geothermal energy assignment. It was concluded that conventional geothermal is not a viable option due to the limited number of suitable geothermal sites in Colorado. Ms. Danner explained while advanced geothermal technologies are emerging and show long-term potential, they remain too early in development for practical utility scale deployment. UPAC recommended Utilities not pursue geothermal energy at this time but instead revisit the idea in three to five years.

The Utilities Board expressed their appreciation for UPAC's work on the assignment and their findings.

Board Member Gold made a motion to accept the recommendation on the geothermal energy assignment and Board Member Leinweber seconded the motion. The recommendation passed unanimously.

9. Resolution Approving 2026 Pikes Peak Geospatial Alliance (PPGA) Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Mike Herrmann, Asset Management Manager, and Mr. Tim Scheiderer, City Associate Attorney, presented the resolution for a regional partnership that collaborates on aerial imagery and mapping. Utilities has participated in this program since 2004 and it is renewed every two years. The project will acquire updated digital aerial photography across El Paso

and Teller Counties, including higher-resolution imagery over Colorado Springs Utilities' primary service area.

Board Member Leinweber asked how the information would be available. Staff explained how the imagery is shared internally and externally with partner agencies. Much of the data is viewable on Utilities' public geospatial webpage.

Board Member Crow-Iverson made a motion to move the 2026 Pikes Peak Geospatial Alliance (PPGA) Memorandum of Understanding on consent at City Council. Board Member Rainey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously approving the resolution to be put on the consent agenda at the Feb. 10, 2026 City Council meeting.

10. Authorizing Recreational Use of Rosemont Reservoir and Surrounding Watershed Property

Ms. Jessica Davis, Manager of Facilities and Land Resources, presented the resolution with the help of Ms. April Estep, Southeastern Deputy Regional Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Utilities has reviewed CPW's plan and determined it can be implemented while protecting water quality, infrastructure, and watershed conditions. Under city code, City Council must authorize recreational use on watershed property.

Vice Chair Williams asked if seasonal camping and campfires would be allowed. Ms. Estep advised that CPW expects camping to operate seasonally, roughly May through October, aligning with current fishing access. There will be designated campfire areas that will follow county and state burn restrictions.

Board Member Risley inquired on how the recreational use of the reservoir could impact adjoining private properties. Ms. Davis and Ms. Estep stated that CPW and Utilities will manage and enforce access. There will be additional staffing that will strengthen oversight and hunting will remain prohibited.

Board Member Leinweber asked whether anyone currently monitors Rosemont Reservoir. Ms. Davis explained that Utilities has a caretaker on site, and CPW also assigns a wildlife officer who regularly patrols the property.

Ms. Renee Congdon, City Attorney's Office Utilities Division, clarified Utilities already has a lease for the reservoir. This request would be to amend the current lease to incorporate the expanded uses and specific operational requirements.

Board Member Gold asked if dogs would be allowed in the reservoir and Ms. Davis said dogs will remain prohibited from entering the water.

Board Member Leinweber inquired if the water at the reservoir is used. Michael Myers, Manager of Operations, said that while some water currently supports Broadmoor operations, Rosemont water is part of Springs Utilities' raw-water system and can be treated for drinking.

There was public comment from Ms. Becky Leinweber, Executive Director of Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance, who spoke in favor of the proposal, noting its alignment with regional outdoor recreation planning and community priorities.

Board Member Gold made a motion to approve moving the resolution forward to the Feb. 10, 2026 City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Leinweber. The motion passed unanimously. It was requested that this item not be placed on consent at the Feb. 10 meeting.

11. Approval of the 2026 Strategic Plan

Ms. Bethany Schoemer, Strategic Planning and Governance Specialist Senior, gave a presentation on the 2026 Strategic Plan. Colorado Springs Utilities' 2025 strategic plan included 15–20 objectives and numerous enterprise initiatives, which created confusion and limited alignment. The updated framework consolidates the plan into five strategic objectives—Operational Excellence, Focus on the Customer, Financial Accountability, Support Our Community, and Enable Employee Empowerment—each supported by two high-level strategies. This structure allows divisions to build detailed, actionable plans while remaining aligned to enterprise goals.

Several of the officers shared perspectives on priorities most meaningful to their divisions, emphasizing themes such as data-driven decision-making, customer service improvements, asset management, and workforce development. Mr. Deal noted that keeping the strategic objectives broad allows divisions flexibility to shape the tactical work needed to support enterprise goals.

Board Member Henjum made a motion to accept the 2026 Strategic Plan. Board Member Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Board Member Updates

Board Member Leinweber reported that the Community Health Foundation's investment portfolio performed strongly, earning nearly a 15% return. The foundation will continue its practice of distributing 5% annually to community programs, with the remainder reinvested to grow the fund.

Board Member Gold welcomed Anna Bingman to the organization, noting her new role as the Utilities Board Administrator and expressing appreciation for her joining the team.

Chair Donelson thanked UPAC members again for their recent work and expressed appreciation to Utilities leadership and staff, noting that Springs Utilities continues to perform strongly compared to many utilities nationwide.

13. Summary of Board Actions

Ms. Watts provided a summary of the agenda items approved.

14. Adjournment

Chair Donelson adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.