



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

**Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**  
**1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Blue River Board Room**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Dave Donelson called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Ms. Anna Bingman, Utilities Board Administrator, called roll.

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

Excused – Board Member David Leinweber

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Eric Carpenter, Lead Pastor at Springs Community Church, offered the invocation, and Chair Donelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Consent Agenda**

- **Approval of the January 21, 2026, Utilities Board Meeting Minutes**
- **I-2, Financial Conditions and Activities Governance Manual Revisions**
- **1-4, Risk Management Governance Manual Revisions**

Board Member Gold made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Board Member Bailey seconded the motion. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

**4. Customer Comments**

Mr. James Lockhart, Conservation Chair for the Pikes Peak Sierra Club, shared his concerns over Senate Bill 26-022 which would keep the Ray Nixon Power Plant operational while Colorado Springs Utilities find affordable and reliable replacement power supplies. Mr. Lockhart stated that more than 50 other utilities throughout the state are committed to meeting the Clean Energy Plan goals and is concerned that Colorado Springs Utilities appears to not be. He said the Sierra Club was presented an analysis on this plan, adding that coal is the more expensive alternative to clean energy.

## 5. Recognition

- **2026 Military Friendly Employer**

Ms. Renee Adams, Chief Human Resources Officer, informed the Board that Colorado Springs Utilities had recently received a gold level designation for 2026 Military Friendly Employer and 2026 Military Spouse Friendly Employer. Ms. Adams expressed the great pride that Springs Utilities takes in the veterans and active-duty service members who are a part of the workforce. Ms. Adams introduced Mr. Jonathan Leipe, Human Resources Supervisor, and Mr. Jason Green, Project Manager II, to tell the Board more about this designation.

Chair Donelson thanked the team for their efforts in achieving this award, and said it meant a lot that Colorado Springs Utilities hires from the wonderful and diverse pool of veterans and service members in the community.

## 6. Compliance Reports:

- **I-4 Risk Management**
- **I-6 Infrastructure**
- **E-2 CEO/Board Partnership Responsibilities**
  - Water Outlook
  - Electric Cost Adjustment / Gas Cost Adjustment Update

There was no presentation for these items.

## 7. Items Called Off Consent Agenda

No items were called off consent.

## 8. Update on Arkansas Water Sharing Program Activities

Mr. Scott Lorenz, Resource Planning Supervisor, introduced Mr. Caleb Wertz and Ms. Zaiden Wertz, two farmers from the Lower Arkansas Basin, who provided an overview on their low-water farming techniques and updates on a project that is testing the viability of growing cotton as a low-water use crop. This project overlaps with the Center Pivot Project, as Mr. Wertz was the first to partner with Springs Utilities in that program. Ms. Wertz shared additional information about how they advertise this information and educate other farmers in the surrounding area on low water crop growing.

The Utilities Board expressed their sincere appreciation for Mr. and Ms. Wertz's commitment to water conservation and approach to learning new farming techniques.

Board Member Henjum asked what Mr. and Ms. Wertz would like Colorado Springs Utilities customers to know about their operations. Mr. Wertz responded that he hoped people would understand the importance of the project and honor the sacrifices that go into a project like this, especially since it is very different from traditional farming techniques and values.

Chair Donelson commented that Mr. and Ms. Wertz are wonderful spokespeople for this type of partnership and a great representation of farming in the Lower Arkansas Valley.

**9. Electric Large Load Rate Schedule**

Mr. Scott Shirola, Pricing and Rates Manager, presented the Electric Large Load Rate Schedule. Mr. Shirola noted that while there is no change to the rates in this resolution, a clarifying sentence has been added that gives Spring Utilities the ability to execute economic development special contracts to customers receiving service under this rate schedule. This change supports the I-5 Economic Development instruction and rate competitiveness. This has always been allowed through Utilities Rules and Regulations (URRs), but is spelled out more clearly in this additional sentence. Mr. Shirola also clarified why there are five tariff sheets affected by this change, stating that the additional sentence on the first page bumped language on to the subsequent four sheets. There were also a few other small administrative changes made to clean up the language.

Board Member Risley stated that he was very vocal about this change, and clarified he wanted the change made to both the tariff and the URRs so this would not be an impediment to potential prospects who look more closely at the tariff itself and not just the rules and regulations.

Chair Donelson asked for a thumbs up from Board Members to put this item on the consent agenda at the February 24, 2026, regular City Council Meeting. All Board Members provided a thumbs up.

**10. Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP) Acceleration Plan and Natural Gas Rate Filing**

Mr. Shirola presented the Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP) Acceleration Plan and Natural Gas Rate Filing. Mr. Shirola reminded the Board of the federal requirements for the DIMP acceleration plan and provided an explanation of the natural gas line item that customers and businesses will see on future bills.

Mr. Shirola reiterated that this was not included in the five-year rate case that was approved in November 2024, and the first federal order from Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) for this program was delivered in October 2024. This temporary bill rider will allow Springs Utilities to accelerate the DIMP program and complete work in a 10-year timeframe rather than the previously anticipated 80-year timeline.

Mr. Shirola also provided information on the various resources that customers can use if they need assistance with their utility bill. The resolution would request a hearing date at the March 10, 2026, regular City Council meeting, with a vote at the April 28, 2026, regular City Council meeting. The effective date for the bill rider would be July 1, 2026. Mr. Tristan Gearhart, Chief Planning and Finance Officer, commented that quarterly filings for the Electric Cost Adjustment and Gas Cost Adjustment will be taking place around the same time, and the Board discussed keeping a potential gas cost adjustment on the same timeline

as the DIMP item. This would make the ECA/GCA changes take effective May 1, 2026, instead of April 1, 2026, however they could be approved at the same City Council meeting.

Board Member Henjum asked Mr. Shirola to provide additional background information on the initial work plan prior to the order from the federal government. Ms. Jennifer Alecci, Operations Technical Services General Manager, answered that Springs Utilities began working on the DIMP plan in 2011 when the regulation came out, and then has worked ever since to inventory the natural gas system and develop the program. Following inspections with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, indicators of areas in need of replacement were received.

In 2023, Springs Utilities significantly increased the program budget from \$3 million to \$15 million annually. However, around this time, it became clear that the rate of change needed to be increased to work in conjunction with regulators. Staff then went to PHMSA to renegotiate the consent agreement and update the timeline. Board Member Henjum thanked Ms. Alecci for her explanation and stated that it is important for customers to be aware that this has been an ongoing process since before 2024.

Chair Donelson asked if it was fair to assume there had been a program in place to inspect and replace these lines, however an agreement with the regulatory agency is what required the significant speed up. Ms. Alecci agreed with this statement, and that staff agrees with PHMSA. The factor of safety will be elevated sooner than later, which is a positive outcome of this change.

Mr. Gearhart reiterated that the five-year rate case supports a lot of capital improvement and it was discussed in 2024 what would happen if other critical needs came up, such as this one. He stated that this agreement was not finalized at the time of the rate case, so this is just the best way to move forward from now until 2029 to get critical work done and can be re-evaluated in the future on whether it will remain a rider or be factored into base rates. Mr. Travas Deal, Chief Executive Officer, explained that of all the commodities, gas has the least amount of bandwidth in transmission, so there is no way to budget to cut or prioritize work, hence the large increase in budget for the project.

Vice Chair Williams agreed with Mr. Gearhart that it would be better to implement savings earlier for customers. Mr. Gearhart said there is always an ECA/GCA update at the Working Committee meeting and could bring the filing information forth next month.

Chair Donelson asked for a thumbs up from Board Members to put this item on the Consent Agenda at the March 10, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. All Board Members provided a thumbs up. The item going to the March 10 City Council meeting is a request to set a hearing date, not the actual hearing itself.

**11. Northern Monument Creek Interceptor Project Intergovernmental Agreement Addendum and Triview and Forest Lakes Regional Service Agreements**

Mr. Andy Muser, Infrastructure Project Manager, and Mr. Bryan English, Project Development Manager, presented the Board with the Northern Monument Creek Interceptor (NCMI) Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Addendum and the Triview and Forest Lakes Regional Service Agreements. Mr. Muser provided an overview of the NMCI, and the partnerships between all parties involved, to include the Triview and Forest lakes Metropolitan Districts. The addendum establishes agreement that the cost proposals received have been reasonable and that all partners want to move ahead on the project. Additionally, the addendum establishes an equitable interest in the capacity of the interceptor. Mr. English then explained the two wastewater service agreements, the locations of the metropolitan districts, and the customers served, both business and residential.

Board Member Henjum asked for a definition of normal domestic strength wastewater. Mr. English responded that this is the typical residential or business flows. These contracts cover any special industrial wastewater discharges that would be of concern to Springs Utilities or disrupt the treatment process at the plant.

Board Member Bailey made the motion to move the NMCI IGA addendum forward to the February 24, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. Board Member Henjum seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board agreed to put this item on the Consent Agenda.

Board Member Bailey made the motion to move the Triview Regional Service Agreement forward to the March 24, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. Board Member Gold seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board agreed to put this item on the Consent Agenda.

Board Member Gold made the motion to move the Forest Lakes Regional Service Agreement forward to the March 24, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. Board Member Henjum seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board agreed to put this item on the Consent Agenda.

**12. Intergovernmental Agreement Between Colorado Springs Utilities (“Springs Utilities”) and the City of Aurora, acting through its Utilities Enterprise, Aurora Water**

Ms. Kim Gortz, Water Supply Resources Manager, provided the Board with the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Colorado Springs Utilities and the City of Aurora, acting through its Utilities Enterprise, Aurora Water. Ms. Gortz explained that this IGA is a cost share agreement for the Wild Horse Second Valve as part of the Homestake project. The IGA details the ownership, operations, maintenance, repair and cost of the second valve that will create a connection to the Otero Pipeline for Wild horse Reservoir deliveries.

Board Member Henjum made the motion to move the IGA forward to the February 24, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. Board Member Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board agreed to put this item on the Consent Agenda.

**13. Sterling Ranch Area – Proposed Natural Gas Service Boundary Adjustment**

Mr. Todd Sturtevant, Customer Utilities Connection Manager, presented the Board with a proposed natural gas service boundary adjustment in the Sterling Ranch area. Mr. Sturtevant explained the controlling law, provided a map of the boundary adjustment, and next steps. The affected territory is outside of City limits, so this does not impact Black Hills Colorado Gas. The gas territory boundary is proposed to align with the east side of Briargate Boulevard, west of Vollmer Road. The current service boundary does not follow the current and soon-to-be platted parcel borders, and this adjustment would follow that alignment.

Chair Donelson asked for a thumbs up from Board Members to put this item on the Consent Agenda at the March 10, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. All Board Members provided a thumbs up.

**14. Sun Hills Subdivision – Proposed Natural Gas Service Boundary Adjustment**

Mr. Todd Sturtevant presented the Board with a proposed natural gas service boundary adjustment in the Sun Hills subdivision. Mr. Sturtevant provided the controlling law, and displayed a map of the proposed boundary adjustment, which will impact Black Hills Colorado Gas.

Chair Donelson asked for a thumbs up from Board Members to put this item on the Consent Agenda at the March 10, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. All Board Members provided a thumbs up.

**15. Changes to City Code § 12.1.108 and the Rules and Procedures of City Council Regarding the Rate Changes Process**

Ms. Renee Congdon, Utilities Division Chief, Office of the City Attorney, presented the Board with the proposed changes to City Code § 12.1.108 and the Rules and Procedures of City Council Regarding the Rate Changes Process.

Ms. Congdon explained that following the rate case last fall, it was pointed out that there were some ambiguities in the current process that needed to be cleaned up. The changes proposed to the City Code and Rules and Procedures of City Council will define the timeline of rate changes, setting the hearing, and when items need to be finalized, as well as the disclosure of ex-parte communication. The changes to the Rules and Procedures of City Council will be presented at Council lunch on February 23, 2026, at the Work Session on March 9, 2026, and at the Regular City Council Meeting on March 24, 2026.

Board Member Crow-Iverson commented that the lunch presentation to Council on February 23 was not on their agenda. Ms. Congdon responded that Mr. Michael

Montgomery, Deputy City Council Administrator, would be providing the presentation. Board Member Crow-Iverson said she would verify this with City Council staff.

Vice Chair Williams made the motion to move the Changes to City Code § 12.1.108 and the Rules and Procedures of City Council Regarding the Rate Changes Process forward to the February 24, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. Board Member Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board agreed to put this item on the Consent Agenda.

#### **16. Board Member Updates**

Vice Chair Williams thanked Ms. Congdon for all of the work to clear up communication around rate changes.

Board Chair Donelson thanked Ms. Bingman for her work facilitating this meeting as it was her first Utilities Board Meeting as the Utilities Board Administrator.

#### **17. Summary of Board Actions**

Ms. Bingman provided a summary of Board Actions:

- Approved the January 21, 2026, Utilities Board Minutes
- Approved the I-2, Financial Conditions and Activities Governance Manual Revisions
- Approved the I-4, Risk Management Governance Manual Revisions
- Recommended the Electric Large Load Rate Schedule be placed on the February 24, 2026, regular City Council meeting on Consent.
- Recommended the Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP) Update to the Rate Case be placed on the March 10, 2026, regular City Council meeting agenda as Utilities Business.
- Recommended the Northern Monument Creek Interceptor IGA addendum be placed on the Feb. 24, 2026, regular City Council meeting on Consent.
- Recommended the Triview Service Agreement be placed on the March 24, 2026, regular City Council meeting on consent.
- Recommended the Forest Lakes Regional Service Agreement be placed on the March 24, 2026, regular City Council meeting on consent.
- Recommended the Intergovernmental Agreement between Colorado Springs Utilities and the City of Aurora be placed on the Feb. 24, 2026, regular City Council meeting on consent.
- Recommended the Sterling Ranch Area – Proposed Natural Gas Service Boundary Adjustment be placed on the March 10, 2026, regular City Council meeting agenda on consent.
- Recommended the Sun Hills Subdivision – Proposed Natural Gas Services Boundary Adjustment be placed on the March 10, 2026, regular City Council meeting agenda on consent.
- Recommended the City Code section 12.1.108 be placed on the February 24, 2026, regular City Council meeting agenda on consent.

**18. Executive Session**

Ms. Renee Congdon read the meeting into Closed Executive Session.

Board Members unanimously approved the motion to go into Closed Executive Session.

Board Members took a five-minute break at 3:13 p.m. to prepare the room.

The Regular Utilities Board Meeting came back into session at 4:27 p.m.

**19. Adjournment**

Chair Donelson adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.