



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, March 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 Lynette Crow-Iverson, Board Member Kimberly Gold, Board Member Nancy Henjum (online), Board Member Brian Risley, Board Member Roland Rainey and Vice Chair Brandy Williams.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Crystal Martinez, Customer Quality Specialist Senior, offered the invocation, and Chair Donelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Consent Agenda

- **Approval of the February 18, 2026, Utilities Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Member Leinweber made a motion to approve the item on the Consent Agenda. Board Member Risley seconded the motion. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

4. Customer Comments

Mr. Tom Carter, an alternate member of the Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC), provided a brief presentation about the nuclear energy landscape in the United States. This presentation included facilities, number of jobs created, and timelines. Additionally, the presentation included updates on the Department of Energy initiatives.

Mr. Brian Safyan, a Colorado Springs Utilities customer, stated that he had listened to the net metering presentation during the Working Committee meeting the day prior. Mr. Safyan encouraged the Board to look at net metering with a systems thinking approach. He encouraged the Board to take a holistic approach and consider how the whole system interacts, rather than focusing on the apparent cost shift. He also asked the Board to continue conversations about net metering with both solar and non-solar customers.

Mr. Harold Franson, a Colorado Springs Utilities customer, expressed frustration about driveway damage that occurred during fiber installation. Chair Donelson asked Mr. Franson to provide his information to Ms. Bingman for a follow-up conversation about this issue.

Ms. Susan Luenser, a Colorado Springs Utilities customer, spoke in support of Senate Bill 26-022. She urged the Board and Colorado Springs Utilities to continue their efforts to maintain reliability and affordability for customers among the changing State laws around carbon-based fuels.

Mr. Gary Burghart, a member of UPAC, asked the Board to reactivate UPAC and provide an assignment. He listed off a number of the assignments that UPAC examined in the past and informed the Board of how those assignments influenced decision-making later.

5. Recognition

• Resolution of Appreciation for Former Utilities Board Member Tom Bailey

Mr. Travas Deal, Chief Executive Officer, thanked Mr. Tom Bailey, former Utilities Board Member, for his service during his time as a Board Member. He noted Mr. Bailey's diligence in understanding and advocating for both his constituents and staff. Next, Mr. Deal read a resolution of appreciation for Mr. Bailey.

Board Member Gold expressed her appreciation for serving with Mr. Bailey, and thanked him for both his kindness and his consistency.

Vice Chair Williams echoed her previous comments about serving with Mr. Bailey on City Council, but wanted to thank him for always providing a thorough view on issues in front of the Board in this setting. She said his positive attitude would certainly be missed.

Board Member Leinweber thanked Mr. Bailey for his service, and expressed his disappointment in his feeling that policy had dictated how Mr. Bailey was able to serve the City. He stated that Mr. Bailey is a man of integrity, and thanked him for his dedication.

Board Member Lynette Crow-Iverson echoed the comments of her fellow Board Members, and told Mr. Bailey she looks forward to working with him in the future, and wished him well on his next endeavors.

Mr. Bailey thanked the Board for their comments, and expressed his appreciation for serving with them. He also thanked the staff for their leadership, stating that learning the culture of Colorado Springs Utilities and the service they provide to the citizens should be valued. He said he felt tremendous joy in serving as a Utilities Board Member.

Board Member Lynette Crow-Iverson made a motion to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for former Board Member Tom Bailey. Board Member Risley seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Compliance Reports:

- **ER: 1-3 Utilities Board Expected Results Year End Performance – Scorecard**

Ms. Natalie Watts, Manager of Strategic Planning and Governance, presented the ER: 1-3 Utilities Board Expected Results Year End Performance – Scorecard. This presentation included the four-year performance highlights, including the final score of 3.86, which exceeds expectations. Ms. Watts detailed the different number of expectation levels that were met: 5 measures that far exceeded expectations, 9 measures that exceeded expectations, 4 measures meeting expectations. 3 measures partially meeting expectations, and 1 measure that did not meet expectations. At the end of her presentation, Ms. Watts provided next steps. The Board will review the 2026 midyear scorecard at their August meeting, however, Ms. Watts informed the Board that the CEO Leadership Team receives a quarterly update to temperature check and course correct if needed.

- **I-4 Risk Management – Office of the City Auditor’s Report**
- **I-5 Economic Development**
- **I-8 Asset Protection**
- **I-13 Community Development**

There were no presentations on these items.

- **E-2 CEO/Board Partnership Responsibilities – Water Outlook**

Mr. Nick Harris, Water Resource Planner and Engineer, and Abby Ortega, Manager of Infrastructure and Resource Planning, presented the Board with the Water Outlook for March 2026. Mr. Harris noted that February was much warmer than average, and provided information on the drought conditions and outlook. Mr. Harris stated provided visuals pertaining to the basin and reservoir levels, both current and historic. Reservoir runoff is expected to be significantly below average this year, too. Finally, Mr. Harris informed the Board that an agreement on operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead had not been reached by the seven Basin States by the required deadline. Now the Bureau of Reclamation will evaluate five alternatives and consider next steps. Mr. Harris stated that Colorado Springs Utilities will continue to provide input on those alternatives through the Front Range Water Council.

Board Member Rainey asked if Mr. Harris had been observing similar patterns from previous drought years. Mr. Harris said yes, however, the data is not completely comparable as water conservation efforts have become more comprehensive in recent years.

Board Member Leinweber highlighted one slide about monthly water use, and commented that the community does a wonderful job in conserving water, which is the opposite of what some community members may believe.

Board Member Crow-Iverson asked if water is still being released to the lower basin states, even with less water coming in. Ms. Ortega responded yes, and described current inflow and outflow of reservoirs to support operations at Lake Powell.

7. Items Called Off Consent Agenda

No items were called off consent.

8. Drought Response Resolution

Ms. Ortega presented the Drought Response Resolution, which would formally initiate a Water Shortage Preparation Stage. She alluded to Mr. Harris' presentation on the Water Outlook, stating that though most of Colorado is facing drought and water restrictions, Colorado Springs Utilities' system storage is in a very good place. This resolution simply recognizes that a drought could happen, and to prepare customers should there be restrictions. Additionally, this resolution provides staff the grounds to use operational tools and infrastructure to maximize water availability and system reliability while encouraging long-term planning.

Chair Donelson recognized that the citizens have been vital in making the water conservation program successful through their personal efforts.

Board Member Leinweber made a motion to approve the Drought Response Resolution. Board Member Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Electric Cost Adjustment/Gas Cost Adjustment

Mr. Scott Shirola, Pricing and Rates Manager, reported on the Electric Cost Adjustment (ECA) and Gas Cost Adjustment (GCA) Filing. Mr. Shirola explained that due to low projected costs for the ECA and GCA, Colorado Springs Utilities is recommending a rate decrease for the ECA, GCA and Green Power Service. Mr. Shirola shared sample monthly bills and provided the average cost of savings for residential, commercial, and industrial customers. At the end of February, the ECA had a \$17,100,000 overcollection. Setting the ECA at the proposed rate would help to reduce this overcollection. Mr. Shirola provided information on methods to receive assistance in paying bills for those customers who may need it.

Chair Donelson asked for a thumbs up from Board Members to put this item on the March 24, 2026 Regular City Council meeting as Utilities Business. All Board Members provided a thumbs up.

10. Authorization of the Use of a Possession and Use Agreement and/or Eminent Domain to Acquire Permanent Easements on Properties Owned by the Lockwood Limited Liability Company Needed for the Kelker to South Plant Transmission Project

Ms. Jessica Davis, Land Resource Manager, presented the Authorization of the Use of a Possession and Use Agreement and/or Eminent Domain to Acquire Permanent Easements on Properties Owned by the Lockwood Limited Liability Company Needed for the Kelker to South Plant Transmission Project. This presentation included the vicinity map, property

information, and a summary of negotiations thus far. Ms. Davis explained the action needed to move forward.

Board Member Gold made the motion to move the Authorization of the Use of a Possession and Use Agreement and/or Eminent Domain to Acquire Permanent Easements on Properties Owned by the Lockwood Limited Liability Company Needed for the Kelker to South Plant Transmission Project forward to the April 14, 2026 Regular City Council meeting. Board Member Rainey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Donelson asked the Board members to put a thumbs up if they would like to put this on the Consent Agenda. Board Member Gold stated that members of her district are interested in this project and this property, so she would like to keep this item as Utilities Business to provide for public comment.

11. Board Member Updates

Board Member Rainey stated that he will be hosting a Town Hall meeting for District 6 on April 9, and there will be representatives from Colorado Springs Utilities present to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Colorado Springs Police Department's Stetson Hills Substation at 5:30 p.m.

Vice Chair Williams announced that she will also be hosting a Town Hall meeting for District 3 on April 9. The meeting will be held at The Sluice at 5:30 p.m.

12. Summary of Board Actions

Ms. Bingman provided a summary of Board Actions:

- Approved the February 18, 2026, Utilities Board Minutes
- Approved a Resolution of Appreciation for former Utilities Board Member Tom Bailey
- Approved a Resolution to formally initiate a Water Shortage Preparation Stage
- Recommended the Electric Large Cost Adjustment and Gas Cost Adjustment Filing be placed on the March 24, 2026 regular City Council meeting agenda as Utilities Business
- Approved a Resolution Authorizing the Use of a Possession and Use Agreement and/or Eminent Domain to Acquire an Easement from Lockwood Limited Liability Company for the Kelker to South Plant Transmission Project, Pursuant to Section 7.3(e) of the City's Real Estate Manual to placed on the April 14, 2026 Regular City Council meeting agenda as Utilities Business

13. 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 2:45 p.m. to prepare the room.

The Regular Utilities Board Meeting came back into session at 3:47 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Chair Donelson adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.