

**MINUTES**  
**Colorado Springs Utilities Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 16, 2025**

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

Chair Dave Donelson, Tom Bailey, Lynette Crow-Iverson, Nancy Henjum, David Leinweber, Roland Rainey, Brian Risley and Vice Chair Brandy Williams

**Utilities Board members excused:**

Kimberly Gold

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

Travas Deal, Renee Adams, Lisa Barbato, Tristan Gearhart, Sara Akins, Jen Alecci, Peter Alonge, Cathy Andrew, Jay Anderson, Logan Almagest, Pattie Bengner, Jenny Bishop, Andrew Colosimo, Jenny Daniel, Jessica Davis, Kandy Drake, Matt Dudden, Steve Duling, Travis Eckland, Brian Fergen, Carlos Garcia, Kimberly Girling, Jason Green, Brian Grim, Kelly Guisinger, Jesse Harding, Diana Harmon, Nick Harris, Alec Hart, Adam Hegstrom, Ken Hughlett, Logan Hutchison, Eric Isaacson, Tyrone Johnson, Jennifer Jordon, Tom Kackley, Rebecca Kerrigan, Brenda Koskey, Birgit Landin, Amy Lewis, Patrick Malone, Kyle McCarthy, Daniel McKinnis, Nicole Means, Jared Miller, Joe Montmeny, Michael Myers, Danielle Nieves, Daniel Norton, Jacqueline Nunez, Abigail Ortega, David Padgett, Gail Pecoraro, Scott Read, David Reeve, Jim Sanchez, Bethany Schoemer, Kim Schwartz, Scott Shirola, Stuart Smith, April Speake, Admar Susic, Jim Swindler, Matthew Thieme, Amy Trinidad, Jennifer Valdois, Natalie Watts, Al Wells, Michelle Wills-Hill, Phil Zeisler and Jane Zook

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

David Beckett, Chris Bidlack, Kellie Billingsley, Jill Burris, Corina Clemons, Renee Congdon, Jamie Fabos, Carly Hoff, Natalie Lovell, Yemi Mobolade, Alexander Ryden, Matthew Vanlandingham and Jariah Walker

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

Albert Badeau, Jack Cropper, Ann Esch, Jill Gaebler, Shechinah Hinkle, Brennen Kauffman, Chris Meyer, Marla Novak, Lisa Tormoen Hickey and Kelly Williams

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Ron Phares with All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church delivered the invocation, and Board Chair Donelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. Election of Utilities Board Chair**

Board Chair Donelson explained that at the first Utilities Board Meeting after odd-numbered year municipal elections, the Utilities Board elects by majority vote one of its members as the Chair of the Utilities Board.

Board Member Risley nominated Board Chair Donelson to continue in the role of Utilities Board Chair. There were no other nominations. Board Chair Donelson said he appreciates the nomination and will accept the role of Utilities Board Chair.

The nomination of Board Chair Risley as Utilities Board Chair was approved on a vote of 8 to 0, with Board Member Gold excused.

### **4. Election of the Utilities Board Vice Chair**

Board Chair Donelson asked for nominations for the position of Utilities Board Vice Chair.

Board Member Leinweber nominated Board Member Henjum for the role of Utilities Board Vice Chair. Board Member Henjum thanked Board Member Leinweber for the nomination but declined the nomination. Board Member Henjum nominated Board Member Williams for the role of Utilities Board Vice Chair. There were no other nominations.

The nomination of Brandy Williams as Utilities Board Vice Chair was approved on a vote of 8 to 0, with Board Member Gold excused.

### **5. Consent Agenda**

- **Approval of March 19, 2025, Utilities Board meeting minutes**

Board Member Crow-Iverson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Board Member Henjum seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **6. Customer Comments**

There were no customer comments.

### **7. Recognition**

- **2024 American Public Power Association (APPA) Safety Award of Excellence at the Platinum Designation**

Ms. Renee Adams, Chief Human Resources Officer, said that receiving the platinum award is a great distinction for the organization.

Mr. Michael Myers, Safety and Health Manager, said that each year the APPA recognizes public power utilities that prioritize safety in their day-to-day operations and the overall state of their safety programs and culture. Award recipients are determined by worker hours of exposure and the utility incident rates that showcase the effectiveness of their

safety programs. Colorado Springs Utilities has earned the Platinum level award for 2024.

## **8. Compliance Reports**

- I-12 Environmental Stewardship

This report was provided in the meeting packet and was discussed at the March 17, 2025 Working Committee meeting. There were no questions or additional discussion.

Board Member Henjum stated this report is accessible to the public on [www.csu.org](http://www.csu.org).

- E-2 CEO / Board Partnership Responsibilities
  - Water Outlook
  - Electric Cost Adjustment / Gas Cost Adjustment Monitoring

Mr. Nick Harris, Water Resource Planning Engineer, and Mr. Justin Zeisler, Water Resource Planning Engineer Supervisor, explained that the Water Outlook report is a summary of what is happening in the Springs Utilities water system.

The report describes the local weather conditions as of April 16, 2025. Mr. Harris said that half the country is facing abnormally dry or drought conditions. He stated the snowpack in the Arkansas River Basin is 52% of normal as of April 14, 2025, and in the Colorado River Headwaters Basin is 81% of normal. He reviewed the 2025 water demands, the monthly water use for March and the 2025 actual water consumption.

Board Member Henjum asked where the Upper State Basin Agreement stands and its impact on the system. Mr. Zeisler said that the organization continues to abide by the Agreement, but the organization does participate in several roundtables to ensure that the organization's interests are being upheld. Ms. Lisa Barbato, Chief Systems Planning and Project Officer, said that the organization is very involved with conversations along the Colorado River and is working with state partners. It is anticipated that the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) report on the operation of the system will be released later this year. The Colorado River supplies approximately 70% of the water to the organization.

Board Member Bailey asked how specific the Monthly Water Use slide is. Mr. Zeisler said that this trend is seen across other municipalities. Board Member Bailey said it is important to communicate the improvement in water usage/conservation to the community. Mr. Harris that the employees of the Water Conservation Center do phenomenal work and are leaders in their field. Ms. Barbato agreed that the Water Conservation team is a leader within conservation across the state. There are different partnerships that have also contributed to this success, including Springs Utilities' customers.

Board Member Leinweber asked how much water is sourced from the Arkansas River Basin without Fountain Creek's contribution. Mr. Harris said that the Arkansas Basin is roughly

18% of the Springs Utilities' water system. Ms. Abigail Ortega, Resource and Infrastructure Planning General Manager, said the total Arkansas River Basin, excluding Pikes Peak, is approximately 18% of Springs Utilities' water supply. The supply is fairly stable, having been developed more than 100 years ago. Board Member Leinweber said that the organization does it in a conservative way, putting more water back into the system for other uses. Ms. Barbato said that more time will be dedicated at a future meeting for more in-depth conversation.

Reservoir system levels are above average, and Colorado Springs' system-wide storage is at 79% of capacity.

Board Member Leinweber asks if this takes into consideration the fact that the South Catamount Reservoir is currently empty. Mr. Harris said that these totals are not adjusted for the reservoir closure. Ms. Barbato said that South Catamount Reservoir is expected to be filled again in 2026, after maintenance is complete.

Board Member Risley asked if the local storage is finished or raw water. Mr. Harris stated that it is raw water.

Chair Donelson asked where the rainfall is measured, and Mr. Harris stated it is measured at the Colorado Springs Airport.

#### **9. Items Called Off Consent Agenda**

No items were called off the Consent Agenda.

#### **10. Purchase of Finished Water Easements with Public Works' Project**

Ms. Jessica Davis, Land Resource Manager, explained that the City of Colorado Springs' Public Works Department is currently working on widening Marksheffel Road – North Carefree to Dublin Project. Collaborating with Public Works, Colorado Springs Utilities identified future easement needs along this corridor for our finished water system. The properties to be acquired include permanent easements for the benefit of Colorado Springs Utilities. The costs of acquiring those easements will be reimbursed to Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) pursuant to an existing agreement.

A utility easement is needed on the property identified by TSN: 5321001005, owned by Stetson Hills Property Owner, LLC, which will cost a total of \$167,800. Pursuant to the City's Real Estate Manual this acquisition will require the approval of both the Utilities Board and City Council. We are requesting Utilities Board approval of this item. If approved, this item will be voted on by City Council at its formal meeting on April 22, 2025.

Board Vice Chair Williams asked if we are purchasing real property or an easement. Ms. Congdon said that it is an easement. The City of Colorado Springs will not own the property.

Board Member Henjum made a motion to approve the acquisition of a property interest over \$100,000. Board Member Risley seconded this motion. This motion passed on a vote of

8 to 0, with Board Member Gold excused. This item will move forward to the April 22, 2025, City Council consent agenda.

#### **11. Board Member Updates**

Jamie Fabos, City of Colorado Springs Chief of Staff, stated she is looking forward to seeing Board Members at a luncheon for new Board Members to meet City department heads on Friday, April 18.

Board Member Bailey thanked Springs Utilities staff for the new Board Member orientation presented this morning. He explained he is very happy to be here.

Board Member Henjum thanked the Springs Utilities staff for their communication on significant events. She specifically mentioned a construction hit that occurred recently. She welcomed the new Board Members.

Board Member Risley welcomed his new colleagues.

Vice Chair Williams said she is excited to be back and is excited to help lead Colorado Springs Utilities.

Board Member Crow-Iverson wished everyone a Happy Easter and resurrection Sunday.

Board Member Rainey was thankful for the Board orientation and is looking forward to the journey. He appreciates the work of Colorado Springs Utilities.

Chair Donelson thanked the Springs Utilities Board for their confidence in voting him as the Utilities Board Chairman and looks forward to working with the new Board and is excited for the future.

#### **12. Summary of Board Actions**

- Elected Board Member Donelson as the Utilities Board Chair
- Elected Board Member Williams as the Utilities Board Vice Chair
- Approved the March 19, 2025, Utilities Board meeting minutes
- Approved of the Purchase of Finished Water Easements with Public Works' Project over \$100,000, and moving this item to the April 22, 2025, City Council Meeting on the consent agenda

#### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.