



COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES BOARD
Microsoft Teams Web Conference
and Blue River Board Room

MINUTES
Colorado Springs Utilities Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 16, 2025

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

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

Utilities Board members excused:

None

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

Travas Deal, Renee Adams, Lisa Barbato, Mike Francolino, Tristan Gearhart, Somer Mese, Sara Akins, Jay Anderson, Joe Awad, Bryan Babcock, Kerry Baugh, Pattie Benger, Jenny Bishop, Nathan Bloomfield, Melissa Brown, Andrew Colosimo, Crystal Cooley, Marcela Espinoza, Brian Fergen, Jennifer Franceschelli, Katie Garrett, Kim Gortz, Diana Harmon, Nick Harris, Adam Hegstrom, Ken Hughlett, Jennifer Jordan, Rebecca Kerrigan, Brenda Kosky, Sarah LaBarre, Scott Lorenz, Patrick Malone, Nicole Means, Danielle Nieves, Jacqueline Nunez, Christopher Olney, Abigail Ortega, Lisa Pace, David Padgett, Gail Pecoraro, Jessica Ramirez, Brittanie Schneider, Bethany Schoemer, Kim Schwartz, Leslie Smith, Stuart Smith, Bill Sunderland, Alex Trefry, Amy Trinidad, Jennifer Valdois, Corey Walker, Al Wells and Natalie Watts

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

David Beckett, Chris Bidlack, Renee Congdon, Nathan Endersbee, Hannah Gerardy, Natalie Lovell, Alexander Ryden, Ryan Trujillo and Jariah Walker

Residents present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:

Albert Badeau, Harold Franson, Ross Frisbie, Rachel Garrett, Chris Meyer, Scott Smith and Lisa Tormoen-Hickey

1. Call to Order

Chair Donelson called the Utilities Board meeting to order at 1:04 p.m., and Ms. Gail Pecoraro, Utilities Board Administrator, called the roll.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Pastor Ross Frisbie with Pikes Peak Christian Church delivered the invocation, and Board Member Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Executive Session

Ms. Renee Congdon, City Attorney Utilities Division Chief, read the notice to go into Executive Session. The Utilities Board voted to go into Executive Session unanimously at 1:09 p.m.

The Utilities Board returned from the Executive Session at 1:45 p.m.

4. Consent Agenda

- **Approval of June 18, 2025, Utilities Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Member Gold made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Board Member Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Customer Comments

Mr. Harold Franson, a Colorado Springs Utilities customer, addressed the Utilities Board regarding property damage he believes resulted from fiber installation activities. He stated that his complaint and subsequent request for video footage were both denied. Chair Donelson asked Mr. Franson to provide his contact information to facilitate follow-up by staff.

6. Recognition

WaterNow Alliance 2025 Emerging Leader Award

Ms. Lisa Barbato, Chief System Planning and Projects Officer, introduced Ms. Julia Gallucci, Water Conservation Supervisor, and Ms. Lisa Pace, Lead Water Conservation Specialist. Ms. Pace was recently honored by the WaterNow Alliance as a recipient of the 2025 Emerging Leader Award.

Ms. Pace was praised for her leadership in water conservation, including developing customer programs, managing the Water Wise Demonstration Garden, and leading a statewide education initiative.

Board Member Henjum expressed appreciation for Ms. Pace's enthusiasm and dedication, noting that her work is essential to planning for a sustainable future.

American Public Gas Association's System Operational Achievement (SOAR) Award

Ms. Crystal Cooley, Gas Distribution and Management Manager, and Mr. Bill Sunderland, Electric and Gas System Operations Manager, announced that the natural gas team at Springs Utilities received the SOAR Bronze Award from the American Public Gas Association. This recognition honors excellence in system integrity, continuous improvement, employee safety, and workforce development. Springs Utilities was one of only 16 recipients selected from 750 member organizations.

Board Chair Donelson expressed gratitude to the team for their dedication and contributions that led to this achievement.

7. Compliance Reports

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

A copy of the Electric Cost Adjustment and Gas Cost Adjustment Update was included in the Utilities Board meeting packet; no formal presentation was provided.

Mr. Nick Harris, Water Resource Planning Engineer, provided an update on the Water Outlook. He reported that year-to-date local precipitation is 117% of normal, with temperatures 0.8 degrees below average. These conditions have resulted in lower-than-projected water usage. Despite increasing drought conditions across the western United States, including severe impacts in the Colorado River basin, system storage remains strong at 89% of capacity.

Chair Donelson requested that future presentations include a statewide map and inquired about Colorado River inflows and Lake Powell levels in 2023.

Vice Chair Williams recommended a more detailed water presentation be scheduled for the August Working Committee meeting.

Chair Donelson affirmed his interest in reviewing water data in depth, with further discussion on presentation content at the August Working Committee meeting.

8. Items Called Off Consent Agenda

No items were called off the Consent Agenda.

9. Restoration of Yield (ROY) Establishing Agreement

Mr. Scott Lorenz, Water Resources Management Planning Supervisor, and Mr. Nathan Endersbee, Senior Attorney with the Office of the City Attorney, provided an overview of the ROY program, a collaborative initiative involving multiple partners: the Board of Water Works of Pueblo, the City of Aurora, the City of Fountain, the Pueblo West Metropolitan District, and the Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise.

The proposed Water Authority would be a separate governmental entity created via an intergovernmental agreement. Its responsibilities would include acquiring property, constructing and operating water diversion, conveyance, and storage facilities, and managing the Haynes Creek Property and other assets related to ROY program projects.

Mr. Endersbee stated that the Utilities Board is being asked to approve the ROY Establishing Agreement, with a presentation scheduled for the August 12, 2025, City Council meeting under the consent agenda.

Board Member Crow-Iverson moved to advance the ROY Establishing Agreement to the August 12, 2025, City Council meeting consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Board Member Bailey and passed unanimously.

10. Overlook Mutual Worker Company Settlement and Augmentation Agreement

Ms. Jenny Bishop, Water Resource Planning Engineer, and Ms. Congdon provided an overview of the Overlook Mutual Water Company settlement and augmentation agreement. The Overlook Mutual Water Company (Overlook) serves 28 homes on Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado Springs. Overlook has used junior water rights from the McKay Tunnel, originally owned by the Broadmoor Hotel Water and Power Company under a 1957 agreement granting perpetual use of the water rights to Overlook. In 1973, the City purchased Broadmoor's assets and took over service for Broadmoor's certificated area.

In 2022, the Colorado Division of Water Resources informed Overlook that it would have to obtain an augmentation plan to continue using the water. Overlook asserted that Colorado Springs Utilities was required to obtain the augmentation plan on behalf of Overlook under the 1957 and 1973 Agreements and Springs Utilities disagreed. The parties have negotiated a Settlement Agreement under which Springs Utilities would convey the McKay Water Rights to Overlook, and the parties would then enter into an Augmentation Service Agreement with Overlook adjudicating the augmentation plan. This would be a 25-year agreement.

Next steps include seeking approval from City Council at the July 22, 2025, City Council meeting on the consent calendar.

Board Member Gold made a motion to move this forward to the July 22, 2025, City Council Meeting on the consent agenda. Board Member Rainey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC) Assignment Approval of Scope

Board Chair Donelson reported that the Utilities Board approved geothermal energy as the next Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC) assignment at its June 18, 2025, meeting. Feedback from Board Members was collected through July 1, and additional input was gathered during the July 2 UPAC meeting regarding the draft scope.

The approved scope focuses on evaluating the feasibility of industrial-scale geothermal electric generation for Colorado Springs Utilities. Key areas of inquiry include technological readiness, cost considerations, environmental impacts, water constraints, regulatory and permitting environments, funding opportunities, domestic and international benchmarks, and potential partnerships.

No additional feedback or questions were raised by Board Members. UPAC will now establish a timeline, engage subject matter experts, and begin research. Updates will be provided to the Utilities Board, and a final recommendation will be presented upon completion of the assignment.

Board Member Rainey moved to approve the geothermal assignment scope; the motion was seconded by Board Member Crow-Iverson and passed unanimously.

12. Board Member Updates

Board Member Leinweber requested a presentation on the water exchange process at a future Utilities Board meeting.

Board Member Rainey expressed appreciation to Mr. Deal and the trading floor staff following an afternoon spent observing energy trading operations. He noted the experience significantly enhanced his understanding of this critical function.

Board Member Crow-Iverson shared that the City Council recently participated in an eight-hour team-building exercise and shared that it was a very productive session.

Vice Chair Williams extended her gratitude to fellow Board Members for their cards and well-wishes during her recent hospitalization.

Board Chair Donelson attended a change-of-command ceremony at the U.S. Air Force Academy and a retirement ceremony for a Colorado Springs Police Department member with over 30 years of service. He thanked Springs Utilities staff for their continued excellence in communications with the Utilities Board.

Mr. Deal distributed a hard-copy version of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recent decision regarding reliable, low-cost power. He invited Board Members to reach out with any questions.

13. Summary of Board Actions

- Approved June 18, 2025, Utilities Board meeting minutes.
- Approved moving the Return of Yield establishing agreement to the August 12, 2025 City Council meeting on the consent agenda.
- Approved moving the Overlook Mutual Water Company Settlement and Augmentation Agreement to the July 22, 2025 City Council meeting on the consent agenda.
- Approved the scope of the UPAC Assignment on geothermal energy.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.