



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, July 22, 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 1:00 p.m.

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

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

Absent – Board Member Kimberly Gold

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Father Sean McCann with Corpus Christi Church offered the invocation, and Chair Donelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Executive Session

Ms. Renee Congdon, Utilities Division Chief for the Office of the City Attorney, read the meeting into Closed Executive Session.

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

The Utilities Board took a five-minute break at 1:09 p.m. to prepare the room.

The Regular Utilities Board Meeting came back into regular session at 2:38 p.m.

4. Consent Agenda

- **Approval of the June 15, 2026, Working Committee meeting minutes**
- **Approval of the June 17, 2026, Utilities Board Meeting minutes**
- **Resolution of Support of Somer Mese for Appointment to the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board of Directors**

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

5. Recognition

- **A Resolution Honoring the Life and Service of Keith Ainsworth to the Customers of Colorado Springs Utilities**

Ms. Somer Mese, Chief Operations Officer, informed the Board that Mr. Keith Ainsworth, a Colorado Springs Utilities employee, had passed away on July 5, 2026. Ms. Mese read a resolution recognizing the 12 years of service that Mr. Ainsworth dedicated to the organization as a valued member of the Field Equipment team.

Chair Donelson recognized Mr. Ainsworth for his service to the customers of Colorado Springs Utilities, and that his work within the organization helped to provide reliable service to our community, which many take for granted.

Mr. Travas Deal, Chief Executive Officer, commented on Mr. Ainsworth's honorable work ethic, especially in the care of watersheds. Mr. Deal said this loss is very impactful to the organization, and Mr. Ainsworth has left a lasting legacy.

Board Member Henjum motioned to approve the Resolution Honoring the Life and Service of Keith Ainsworth to the Customers of Colorado Springs Utilities. Board Member Leinweber seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- **2026 Garden of Excellence Award from the American public Gardens Association**

Ms. Julia Gallucci, Water Conservation Supervisor, informed the Board that Colorado Springs Utilities has received the American Public Garden Association's 2026 Garden Excellence Award for the Water Wise Demonstration Garden. A video was played for the Board that highlighted the garden's impact through free programs, ecological stewardship, horticultural artistry, and civic responsibility. In receiving this award, the Water Wise Demonstration Garden joins past winners of the award, including the Denver Botanic Garden, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and the San Diego Zoo.

Mr. Deal thanked the Water Conservation Team for their continued efforts to keep the garden beautiful while also educating the community on water conservation efforts and native plants.

Board Member Leinweber said that one of his favorite charts in each month's Water Outlook is the one that depicts the growing population of Colorado Springs while also maintaining an almost flat line of water usage, thanks to the conservation of customers. He said this garden is a testament to that effort and helps shift the mindset that a beautiful space requires water heavy planting.

Board Member Henjum thanked the team for their efforts and congratulated them on this award. She asked the team to expand upon how they are working in partnership

with Mr. Alex Crochet, City Horticulturist, to do a Water Wise pilot project. Ms. Lisa Pace, Conservation Lead, described the Water Wise pilot project, which provided 65 water-wise plant packs to residential and commercial customers to help them transform high-water turf grass to low-water alternatives. This included more than 3,000 plants given to customers for free.

Vice Chair Williams congratulated the team on their award and noted that most of the previous winners probably were not water-wise focused gardens, which truly makes this achievement even more special.

- **A Resolution Recognizing Dave Padgett for His Service to the Customers of Colorado Springs Utilities**

Mr. Nicholas Peters, Chief System Planning and Projects Manager, informed the Board that Mr. Dave Padgett, General Manager of Projects and Programs, would be retiring on July 31, 2026, after 41 years of service to Colorado Springs Utilities. Mr. Peters noted Mr. Padgett's exceptional service and his many accomplishments. Chair Donelson read a resolution recognizing Mr. Padgett for his service.

Mr. Deal thanked Mr. Padgett, stating that he had been a great friend and a historian for Colorado Springs Utilities. Mr. Deal noted that Mr. Padgett had always been honest and transparent about ideas and initiatives both that worked well or didn't. Mr. Deal said Mr. Padgett had been a great help to him as he transitioned into the role of CEO and was grateful for his support.

Mr. Padgett thanked the Board and staff for this resolution and reflected on his time working at Colorado Springs Utilities. He said he was honored to receive this recognition and said he felt very confident in the future of the organization under its leadership.

Vice Chair Williams thanked Mr. Padgett for his service, and for always being honest. She said she and Mr. Padgett had many wonderful conversations over the years and wished him well in retirement.

Board Member Crow-Iverson thanked Mr. Padgett for his service, and said she hoped he would enjoy every moment of retirement.

Chair Donelson said he had enjoyed working with Mr. Padgett and his calm nature in response to issues that citizens were very concerned about over the years. He said Mr. Padgett always looked for a solution, which was something he appreciated.

Vice Chair Williams motioned to approve the Resolution Recognizing Dave Padgett for His Service to the Customers of Colorado Springs Utilities. Board Member Leinweber seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Customer Comments

Mr. Joe Petsche, a Colorado Springs Utilities customer, asked the Board to encourage Colorado Springs Utilities staff to reconsider their opt-out of the use of graywater. Mr. Petsche listed what he believed to be the benefits of graywater reuse and said he has been meeting with other interested customers in the ability to reuse graywater.

7. Compliance Reports:

- **I-8 Asset Protection – Annual City Auditor’s Report (Annual External)**
- **I-3 Financial Planning and Budgeting G-8**
- **E-2 CEO/Board Partnership Responsibilities – Electric Cost Adjustment/Gas Cost Adjustment**
- **E-2 CEO/Board Partnership Responsibilities – Water Outlook**

There were no presentations on these items.

8. Items Called Off Consent Agenda

No items were called off consent.

9. Nuclear Energy Institute and Colorado Springs Utilities Future Engagements

Mr. Marcus Nohl, Vice President of Nuclear Development and Fuel Cycle for the Nuclear Energy Institute, provided the Board with a presentation on the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and future engagements with Colorado Springs Utilities. This presentation included types of advanced reactors, system benefits of advanced nuclear energy, the lowest system cost achieved by enabling large scale nuclear deployment, federal legislation for nuclear energy, examples of 2026 state actions, state options to support advanced nuclear, large customers already using nuclear, reactor restarts, and U.S. new nuclear deployment plans.

Board Member Henjum asked if any of the projects represented on the map slide are Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). Mr. Nohl responded that almost all of them are, then explained the size difference between SMRs and Micro Modular Reactors. Board Member Henjum asked where the location of the proposed nuclear project in Colorado is. Mr. Deal stated that this was proposed for Buckley Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado. Board Member Henjum asked when this project would go live at Buckley. Mr. Nohl responded that he believed the goal was before 2030. Board Member Henjum informed Mr. Nohl that Colorado Springs Utilities will have to retire the Ray Nixon Power Plant by the end of 2032 and asked if there is a queue for waiting for a product or being able to have something available to implement. Mr. Nohl responded that there is a queue, but there will be constraints on the supply chain and workforce. He stated, as an industry, NEI is helping to develop the supply chain.

Board Member Leinweber asked Mr. Nohl to speak to some of the nuclear plants that were going to be decommissioned due to license renewal, and how that decision was reversed. Mr. Nohl used a nuclear plant in California as an example, stating that during the decision to potentially decommission the plant, there was a lot of public support to keep the plant due to its clean generation. The State of California reversed the decision and decided to keep the

plant operating, demonstrating that the discourse around nuclear has changed from past views.

10. The Acquisition of Real Property at 37433 County Road 371 in Buena Vista, Colorado to be used for the Homestake Water Project

Ms. Jessica Davis, Manager of Facility and Land Resource Services, presented the Board with an acquisition of property that will be used for the Homestake Water Project. This presentation included information on the Portable Homestake Water Project, reasons to purchase the property, the vicinity map, property information, and next steps.

Board Member Henjum made the motion to move to recommend approval of a resolution authorizing the acquisition of certain real property with a total acquisition amount greater than \$100,000 for the Rio Grande Pump Station Relocation Project pursuant to City Real Estate Manual sections 4.1 and 9.6 to the August 11, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. Board Member Casey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Board agreed to put this item on the Consent Agenda.

11. A Resolution Authorizing Colorado Springs Utilities to Apply for a Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Permit and a Certificate of Self-Insurance for Automobile Insurance

Mr. John Hunter, Financial Planning and Risk Manager, presented the Board with the Resolution Authorizing Colorado Springs Utilities to Apply for a Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Permit and a Certificate of Self-Insure for Automobile Insurance.

Board Member Rainey asked if there were any concerns from the City of Colorado Springs about this change. Mr. Hunter responded not with this resolution, which is just something the State needs with the permits that Colorado Springs Utilities is seeking.

Board Member Henjum asked if there was a cost-benefit analysis that led to this decision. Mr. Hunter responded that this would save Colorado Springs Utilities a few hundred thousand dollars a year.

Board Member Rainey made the motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Self-Insurance pursuant to C.R.S. Sections 8-40-101 and 10-4-625. Board Member Henjum seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Regional Wastewater Service Agreement with Garden Valley Water and Sanitation District

Mr. Greg Luchka, Principal Account Manager, and Ms. Sara Yakuba, Environmental Coordinator, presented the Board with a regional wastewater service agreement with the Garden Valley Water and Sanitation District. This presentation included the service agreement, Board Policy I-7 and City Code 12.5.304.C, terms and conditions of the agreement, the rate and revenue, and next steps.

Board Member Henjum asked where this neighborhood currently gets its water. Ms. Yakuba answered that the water is obtained through 11 private wells and is groundwater. Board Member Henjum asked how this water will move through the disposal system. Ms. Yakuba responded that it

would move through Colorado Springs Utilities' collection system through the Las Vegas Wastewater Treatment Plant, then be released into Fountain Creek.

Board Member Rainey made the motion to recommend approval of a Regional Wastewater Service Agreement with Garden Valley Water and Sanitation District, pursuant to City Code Sections 12.1.116 and 12.5.304 to be placed on the August 11, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting agenda on Consent.

13. Board Member Updates

Board Member Casey said he was looking forward to the upcoming Water Tour.

Board Member Leinweber also stated he was looking forward to the Water Tour.

Board Member Crow-Iverson echoed the previous statements about attending the Water Tour.

Vice Chair Williams is also attending the Water Tour and is looking forward to learning more about Colorado Springs Utilities' water infrastructure.

Chair Donelson thanked Colorado Springs Utilities for continuing to provide exceptional service to their customers.

14. Summary of Board Actions

Ms. Bingman provided a summary of Board Actions:

- Approved the June 15, 2026, Working Committee meeting minutes.
- Approved the June 17, 2026, Utilities Board meeting minutes.
- Approved a resolution of support of Somer Mese for Appointment to the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board of Directors.
- Approved a resolution honoring the life and service of Keith Ainsworth to the Customers of Colorado Springs Utilities.
- Approved a Resolution Recognizing Dave Padgett for His Service to the Customers of Colorado Springs Utilities.
- Recommended approval of a resolution authorizing the acquisition of certain real property with a purchase price in excess of \$100,000, in accordance with the City Real Estate Manual sections 4.1 and 9.6. to be placed on the agenda on the August 11, 2026, Regular City Council meeting on Consent.
- Approved the resolution authorizing self-insurance pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute sections 8-40-101, and 10-4-624.
- Recommended approval of a Regional Wastewater Service Agreement with Garden Valley Water and Sanitation District pursuant to City Code sections 12.1.116 and

12.5.304. to be placed on the August 11, 2026, Regular City Council meeting on Consent.

15. Adjournment

Chair Donelson adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.