



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, September 16, 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 1:01 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 Kimberly Gold, Board Member Nancy Henjum (online), Board Member David Leinweber, Board Member Roland Rainey, Board Member Brian Risley, and Vice Chair Brandy Williams

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Pastor Travis Norton with First Lutheran 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.

Ms. Congdon polled the Board Members on whether they agreed to enter the executive session on both items. Board Member Casey stated that he works for the Department of the Interior, which is the parent agency of the Bureau of Reclamation, which oversees the Colorado River. Board Member Casey was advised that he could have an appearance of conflict with the first matter to be discussed in the closed session. Though he does not work on any water issues related to the Department of the Interior, he stated that he would abstain from voting to go into closed session on the first item but voted yes to go into closed session on the second item. Board Member Casey stated that he would leave the room for the first item. Ms. Bingman stated she would bring Mr. Casey back into the room for the second item. The rest of the Board Members voted yes on moving into a closed session to discuss both items.

The Utilities Board took a five-minute break at 1:07 p.m. to prepare the room.

The Regular Utilities Board Meeting came back into regular session at 2:30 p.m.

4. Colorado River Update

Mr. David Robbins, Partner at Hill and Robbins P.C., and Ms. Kim Gortz, Manager of Water Resource Management, presented the Board with the Colorado River update. This presentation included what Colorado contributes to the Colorado River Compact, where the water is used in the Colorado River Basin, Lake Powell's steady decline, and Colorado River water use.

Board Member Leinweber asked Mr. Robbins to explain Colorado's water rights as an Upper Basin State. Mr. Robbins responded that storage is a part of water rights, and as a municipal utility, Colorado Springs Utilities is responsible for ensuring water carries over between years of drought and heavy moisture. Mr. Robbins said that Lower Basin States should not get to take water simply because it is not used. Board Member Leinweber agreed with this statement and said continuing to advocate for the Upper Basin States will be important as drought increases.

Board Member Rainey asked what the role and responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior is in this case. Mr. Robbins answered that all the water that the Lower Basin States receive is from federal reservoirs. The Secretary of the Interior is in contract with those water users and makes decisions about their water. The Upper Basin States do not have this arrangement, and there has not been willingness to cede to the Federal Government control over natural resources. However, the Upper Basin States do their best to cooperate and be a good neighbor to the Lower Basin States.

Board Member Henjum asked Mr. Robbins how the Board and Colorado Springs Utilities can continue to educate and encourage the customers of Colorado Springs Utilities to continue their conservation efforts as the City grows in population. Mr. Robbins explained that he is an alternate Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission and said his main goal in that role is the protection of Colorado Springs. He stated that continuing to educate the public on conservation practices not only in domestic use, but in irrigation and commercial use, is critical. Mr. Robbins said working with industries to make sure the most efficient practices are in place will also continue the mission of water conservation.

5. Consent Agenda

- **Approval of the August 17, 2026, Working Committee meeting minutes**
- **Approval of the August 19, 2026, Utilities Board meeting minutes**

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

6. Recognition

- **Resolution of Appreciation for Utilities Policy Advisory Committee Member Gary Burghart**

Chair Donelson informed the Board that Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC) Member Gary Burghart completed his third and final term in September 2026 and will be stepping off UPAC. Chair Donelson thanked him for his exemplary service as a UPAC member and read a resolution that noted many of Mr. Burghart's accomplishments during his time serving.

Board Member Gold thanked Mr. Burghart for his service on UPAC and wished him well in future endeavors.

Board Member Henjum echoed Board Member Gold's statement of appreciation for Mr. Burghart.

Chair Donelson commented that he is the liaison to UPAC and has been thoroughly impressed with Mr. Burghart's leadership on UPAC and the magnitude of his service.

Mr. Burghart thanked the Board for their well wishes and expressed appreciation for their leadership.

Board Member Henjum motioned to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Utilities Policy Advisory Committee Member Gary Burghart. Board Member Gold seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Resolution of Appreciation for Utilities Policy Advisory Committee Member Larry Barrett**

Chair Donelson informed the Board that UPAC Member Larry Barrett had also completed his third and final term in September 2026 and will be stepping off UPAC. Chair Donelson thanked Mr. Barrett, citing several of Mr. Barrett's contributions to UPAC over the many years he served. Chair Donelson then read a resolution of appreciation for Mr. Barrett's time as a UPAC member.

Board Member Henjum thanked Mr. Barrett for his time and service on UPAC.

Chair Donelson also thanked Mr. Barrett, stating that he had appreciated working with him while serving as the liaison to UPAC.

Board Member Gold motioned to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Utilities Policy Advisory Committee Member Larry Barrett. Board Member Casey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Resolution Honoring the Life and Service of Phil Tollefson to the Customers of Colorado Springs Utilities**

Mr. Travas Deal, Chief Executive Officer, informed the Board of the passing of Colorado Springs Utilities' first CEO, Mr. Phil Tollefson. Mr. Deal expressed great admiration for Mr. Tollefson and his influence on Colorado Springs Utilities. Mr. Tolleson cared deeply about both the community and the employees who served it and stated that many of the systems and values that guide the organization can be traced back to his leadership and vision. Mr. Deal then read a resolution honoring the life and service of Mr. Tollefson and the impact he made on Colorado Springs Utilities.

Ms. Shirley Martinez, a former Colorado Springs Utilities employee, thanked Mr. Deal for his kind remarks about Mr. Tollefson, and reflected on her time working for him.

Mr. Balu Bhayani, a former UPAC member and a former Colorado Springs Utilities employee, also fondly remembered Mr. Tollefson, and informed the Board there would be a celebration of his life later in the year.

Board Member Rainey motioned to approve the Resolution Honoring the Life and Service of Phil Tollefson to the Customers of Colorado Springs Utilities. Board Member Henjum seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- **FEMA Ready Campaign's National Preparedness Month**

Ms. Erin Duran, Emergency Management Program Manager, informed the Board that the FEMA Ready Campaign's National Preparedness Month is observed each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that can occur at any time. Throughout September, Colorado Springs Utilities will promote preparedness by participating in the Ready Campaign's media campaign and providing employees and the community with information and resources. Finally, in honor of National Preparedness Month, Colorado Springs Utilities will hold Emergency Preparedness Week, the final week in September. The week will focus on employee training, exercises, and other related preparedness efforts. The fifth annual Colorado Springs Utilities' Emergency Preparedness Week will take place from September 21 - 25, 2026.

7. Customer Comments

There were no customer comments.

8. Compliance Reports:

- **I-2 Financial Condition and Activities (to include Contracts Over \$500K) G-7 (Quarterly April through June)**
- **I-9 Treatment of Customers and Customer Information (Annual)**
- **CEO/Board Partnership Responsibilities – CEO Responsibilities**
 - 1. Water Outlook

There were no presentations on these items.

9. Items Called Off Consent Agenda

No items were called off consent.

10. Lockwood – Settlement for the Acquisition of an Easement for the Kelker to South Plant Project

Ms. Kellie Billingsley, Real Estate Services Manager for the City of Colorado Springs, presented the Board with the Lockwood – settlement for the acquisition of an easement related to the Kelker to South Plant Project. This presentation included background on the Kelker to South Plant Transmission Project, property information for PE-38A and PE-38B, property information on PE-38C, the status, the settlement, and next steps.

Board Member Crow-Iverson motioned to recommend 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 settle Case No. 2026CV31162 for an amount in excess of \$250,000 in accordance with City Code section 1.5.503 to be placed on the October 13, 2026, Regular City Council meeting agenda as Utilities Business. Vice Chair Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Electric Cost Adjustment/Gas Cost Adjustment Update

Mr. Soctt Shirola, Pricing and Rates Manager, provided an informational presentation on the Electric Cost Adjustment (ECA) and Gas Cost Adjustment (GCA) filing. In this update, Mr. Shirola provided a summary of the ECA and GCA, detailing the natural gas prices as of September 1, 2026, and the ECA and GCA predictions. Due to an overcollection in the Electric Cost Adjustment, Mr. Shirola said he would like to bring the ECA to City Council for a decrease. The rest of the presentation provided sample bills, various ways for customers to receive billpaying assistance and efficiencies to lower utility bills, and the timeline of next steps.

Chair Donelson commented that this increase, paired with the Energy Wise winter rates going into effect on October 1, 2026, will help customers feel some pressure taken off their monthly bill. He also commented that Colorado Springs Utilities' cost of electric is still around 15% lower than other communities on the Front Range.

The Board informally agreed to move this item forward to the September 22, 2026, Regular City Council meeting as Utilities Business.

12. Board Member Updates

Board Member Leinweber noted that this meeting was Ms. Congdon's final Utilities Board meeting, as she would be leaving her current role on Friday, September 18. He thanked Ms. Congdon for her help, always responding, and providing valuable assistance.

Board Member Henjum echoed Board Member Leinweber's appreciation of Ms. Congdon, stating that her integrity was unparalleled. Board Member Henjum also stated that she had attended the Children's Water Festival, and it was a very successful event.

Chair Donelson thanked Ms. Congdon for her service in her role, and for being honest and open when asked questions by Board Members. He also announced he would be running the Pikes Peak Ascent.

Mr. Deal echoed the statements about Ms. Congdon and thanked her for all her help throughout the years serving in her role.

13. Summary of Board Actions

Ms. Bingman provided a summary of Board Actions:

- Approved the August 17, 2026, Working Committee meeting minutes.
- Approved the August 19, 2026, Utilities Board meeting minutes.
- Approved a resolution of appreciation for Utilities Policy Advisory Committee member Gary Burghart.
- Approved a resolution of appreciation for Utilities Policy Advisory Committee member Larry Barrett.
- Approved a Resolution Honoring the Life and Service of Phil Tollefson 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 settle Case No. 2026CV31162 for an amount in excess of \$250,000 in accordance with City Code section 1.5.503 to be placed on the October 13, 2026, Regular City Council meeting agenda as Utilities Business.
- Informally agreed to place the Electric Cost Adjustment Rate Decrease on the September 22, 2026, Regular City Council meeting agenda as Utilities Business.

14. Adjournment

Chair Donelson adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.