Colorado Springs Utilities
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UTILITIES BOARD WORKING COMMITTEE
Rosemont Conference Room
121 S. Tejon St., South Tower, 5th Floor
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

MINUTES
October 20, 2025
Rosemont Conference Room or by Microsoft Teams

1. **Call to Order**
   Pursuant to the Colorado Open Meetings Law and the City Charter, since three or more members of the Utilities Board may be attending this public meeting, it is noticed and open to the public. Pursuant to the Utilities Board Bylaws, this Committee of the Utilities Board will not accept public comments at this meeting.

   Board Chair Dave Donelson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

   Present – Board Chair Donelson, Board Member Tom Bailey, Board Member Nancy Henjum and Board Member David Leinweber

   Vice Chair Brandy Williams, Board Member Lynette Crow-Iverson, Board Member Kimberly Gold and Board Member Roland Rainey attended the meeting virtually.

   Board Member Risley was excused.

2. **Acceptance of Aug. 18, 2025, Working Committee Minutes**
   Board Member Bailey made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes and Board Member Henjum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Safety Moment: Fire Prevention Month**
   Ms. Renee Adams, Chief Human Resources Officer, advised that October is National Fire Safety Month and provided information on smoke alarm and fire extinguisher safety.

4. **Compliance Reports**
   E-2 CEO/Board Partnership Responsibilities – CEO Responsibilities
   - Electric Cost Adjustment / Gas Cost Adjustment (ECA/GCA) Update

   Mr. Scott Shirola, Pricing and Rates Manager, reviewed the ECA/ GCA adjustment update.

   I-7 Water Supply Management (Annual)
   Ms. Jenny Bishop, Water Resource Planning Engineer, reviewed the I-7 Water Supply Management (Annual) report and proposed changes to the I-7.

   Board Member Henjum asked if the Fort Lyon supply was in the Arkansas Basin, and Ms. Bishop said that it is.

   Board Member Henjum asked what NMCI stands for. Ms. Bishop said it is the Northern Monument Creek Interceptor Project.

   Board Member Henjum asked what effect on capacity bringing the Air Force Academy could potentially have. Ms. Bishop said that the J.D. Phillips facility was designed to process approximately 20 million gallons per day. There is a lot of extra capacity for regional use as well.

Board Chair Donelson asked if water used in watering landscaping goes back into the wastewater system. Ms. Bishop said this water does not go back into the wastewater system.

Mr. Nicholas Peters, Chief Systems Planning and Projects Officer, said that there have been a lot of savings from energy programs.

Board Member Leinweber asked when the construction starts on Cheyenne Mountain. Ms. Bishop said she is not sure of the timeline to bring Cheyenne Mountain Estates online.

I-10 Treatment of Staff (Annual)
Ms. Heather Harvey, Human Resources Manager, provided a brief overview of the I-10 Treatment of Staff (Annual) Compliance Report.

Board Member Henjum asked when the last full Employee Climate Survey was conducted. Ms. Harvey said that the full survey was conducted in 2024, and that action planning is done the following year.

Board Member Henjum asked how many discrimination complaints have been received, and Ms. Harvey said that these are tracked as required by law. Ms. Harvey said there is a formalized process that is followed by Human Resources.

Board Member Bailey asked if any significant changes were anticipated for the Employee Policy and Procedure Manual. Ms. Harvey said that the latest promulgation only had 11 employee suggestions.

I-11 Compensation & Benefits G-9 (Annual)
Ms. Heather Harvey, Human Resources Manager, reviewed the I-11 Compensation & Benefits G-9 (Annual) report.

Board Member Henjum asked when the next compensation updates should be implemented. Ms. Harvey said any marked changes should be implemented in January 2026.

E-2.8 Emergency CEO Succession (Annual)
Ms. Adams reported on the E-2.8 Emergency CEO Succession (Annual) Compliance Report.

Board Member Leinweber said that the legislative section of the City does not have a Succession plan.

5. **Government Streetlighting Revenue Requirement**
Mr. Shirola provided an update on the Government Streetlighting Revenue Requirement.

Board Member Henjum asked if there is outstanding debt with the City. Mr. Shirola said that there is still debt, because the cost at one point was too much to cash fund, so this is being addressed over time.

Board Member Leinweber asked if there are still problems with vandalization and stealing copper from the streetlights. Mr. Tristan Gearhart, Chief Planning and Financial Officer, said that the lights now contain aluminum and not copper, but there is still an expense to repair damage once it is realized that the streetlights do not contain copper. Board Member Leinweber asked if numbers can be provided for damage to streetlights through theft.

Board Member Leinweber asked how many streetlights are still fluorescent. Mr. Peters said that these are replaced as they fail or damage occurs with the LED lights. Mr. Shirola estimates 50% of the lights are LED.

Board Member Henjum wondered if there was an opportunity to do a brief presentation for City Council highlighting the relationship between Colorado Springs Utilities and the City.

6. City Code Changes: Lead and Copper Service Lines

Ms. Tara McGowan, Design Water and Wastewater Engineering Manager, explained City Code Changes to the Lead and Copper Service Lines.

Board Chair Donelson asked if there was a conscious decision to not include lead fittings and just the lead pipes. Ms. McGowan said that this was not led by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), but by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Board Member Henjum if lead can be found through the routine testing that is performed. Ms. McGowan said that it can be found through water quality testing.

Board Member Henjum asked how often lead is found inside the customer's property and how that is handled. Ms. McGowan said that she is unsure.

Board Member Rainey asked if lead is identified and mentioned to the customer, does the customer have the option to have it fixed at their cost or not to have it fixed. Ms. McGowan said that the organization is not required to make those repairs on the customer's side or to require the customer to make those replacements.

Board Chair Donelson asked when using lead fittings were mandated to stop. Ms. McGowan said that eliminating the use of copper was dictated in 1969.

Board Member Henjum asked if customers are notified of this code change. Ms. McGowan said the communications team is working on a campaign to notify customers of these changes. Ms. Jennifer Jordan, Public Affairs Specialist, Senior, said that there is a campaign that outlines responsibility – this should be rolled out within the coming year. Board Member Henjum asked if the City Code change will be included in this communication, and it will be included.

Board Member Leinweber asked about forever chemicals and plastic piping. Ms. McGowan said that new residents are installing High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE). Board Member Leinweber asked if Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipe has forever chemicals in it, and Ms. McGowan said that it does not.

Board Member Henjum asked what caused this code change. Ms. McGowan said that the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) adopting different requirements caused the need for this code change. Board Member Henjum asked if there is still an EPA, Ms. McGowan said that the EPA is not going away.

7. How We Exchange Water

Ms. Katie Garrett, Engineer IV, gave an informational presentation on how the organization exchanges water.

Board Member Leinweber asked about decreased snowpack and increased rain amounts. Ms. Abigail Ortega, General Manager of Infrastructure & Resource Planning, said that is where storage comes into play. Ms. Garrett said that this is daily operation and there is a team in place to monitor and manage the water exchanges. Ms. Kim Gortz, Water Supply Resources Manager, said that water is moved in anticipation of major storm events – but the demand also decreases during these times.

Board Member Leinweber asked if the organization ever hits lower water rights. Ms. Ortega said that certain conditions must be met to store water.

Board Member Leinweber asked about water that is received from northern El Paso County. Ms. Ortega said this will go into the transit model.

Board Member Bailey asked how water quality is measured. Ms. Garrett said that as long as exchange rules meet the Colorado statute requirements, then water quality should not be much of a concern.

Board Member Henjum said that every time she hears about the water system, she learns something. She said she is impressed by the expertise of the Water Planning Department and how they manage the system.

Board Member Henjum asked how the knowledge of such a complex system is captured within the organization and shared. Ms. Ortega said that there are numerous process documents that have been developed and a SharePoint database has been created.

Board Member Bailey asked what the plan is for addressing net metering. Board Chair Donelson said that staff needs time to consider different options based on feedback received at the recent City Council meeting before they present to the Utilities Board. Ms. Renee Congdon, City Attorney Utilities Division said that this topic has not been noticed, so in order to discuss it, it should appear on the agenda. Mr. Gearhart said that a discussion topic on net metering can be expected at a future Utilities Board or Working Committee meeting.

Board Member Bailey asked about the process for requesting information to be included at a future meeting. Ms. Congdon said that the Board Chair sets the agenda so the item needs to come to the Board Chair so that it can be reviewed at the monthly agenda prep meeting. Another option is to bring the subject up during the Board Member comments section at the end of the regular Utilities Board meeting.

Vice Chair Williams said that some conversations need to be more timely, and a process needs to be worked out to allow this to happen.

8. Adjournment

Chair Donelson adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.