

**MINUTES**

**November 17, 2025**

Rosemont Conference Room or by Microsoft Teams

**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 9:00 a.m.

Present – Board Chair Dave Donelson, Board Member Tom Bailey, Board Member Lynette Crow-Iverson, Board Member Kimberly Gold, Board Member Nancy Henjum, Board Member David Leinweber and Board Member Roland Rainey

Vice Chair Brandy Williams attended the meeting virtually.

Board Member Brian Risley was excused.

Board Chair Donelson reminded meeting participants that this meeting is recorded and posted to [www.csu.org](http://www.csu.org).

**Acceptance of Oct. 20, 2025, Working Committee Minutes**

Board Member Crow-Iverson made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes and Board Member Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Safety Moment: Holiday Safety**

Mr. Mike Francolino, Chief Customer & Enterprise Services Officer, advised that November is Holiday Safety month and provided information on holiday safety tips.

**Compliance Reports**

**I-1 Pricing of Services G-5, G-6 Annual**

Mr. Tristan Gearhart, Chief Planning and Financial Officer, reviewed the I-2 Pricing of Services G-5, G-6 Annual report.

There were no questions.

**I-2 Financial Condition and Activities (to include Contracts Over \$500K\*\*) G-7 (Quarterly July-Sept.)**

Mr. Gearhart provided a brief overview of the I-2 Financial Condition and Activities G-7 quarterly report July – Sept.

Board Member Henjum asked whether the \$42 million associated with cancelled or delayed projects had been included as a placeholder. Mr. Gearhart stated that the amount had originally been designated for the Horizon Plant at the end of 2024 and had since been updated to \$66 million. When asked about the \$22 million increase, Mr. Travas Deal, Chief Executive Officer, explained that it reflected balanced budgeting adjustments.

Mr. Gearhart noted that \$20 million pertained to the operational fiber budget, which was expected as the fiber

contract ramps up with installations. He also reported that the full buildout exceeds 200,000 customers, with current revenue generated from approximately 43,000 customers.

Board Member Henjum inquired about the financial condition of the parent company. Mr. Gearhart stated that its cash position is improving and that on-time payments continue. Mr. Adam Hegstrom, Treasury and Finance Manager, added that there has been discussion regarding their long-term business model. In response to a question about potential impacts should issues arise with the parent company, Mr. Hegstrom confirmed that the organization has a payment guarantee in place.

### **E-2.3 Organizational Oversight – Compliance Frequency and Method**

Ms. Natalie Watts, Strategic Planning and Governance Manager, reviewed the E-2.3 Organizational Oversight – Compliance Frequency and Method compliance report.

There were no questions.

### **P-1.2 2026 Annual Planning Calendar**

Ms. Watts provided an overview of the P-1.2 2026 Annual Planning Calendar.

Board Member Rainey asked when the City audits these reports. Ms. Natalie Lovell, City Auditor, said that audit reports are completed within the month of the compliance report being finalized.

### **P-5.4 2026 CEO Performance Plan**

Ms. Renee Adams, Chief Human Resources Officer, reviewed the P-5.4 2026 CEO Performance Plan

There were no questions.

### **P-5.4 2026 BER Scorecard**

Ms. Watts reviewed the P-5.4 2026 BER Scorecard.

Board Member Leinweber said that the scorecard model is excellent, and would appreciate any support that can be given in helping City Leadership as they develop their own scorecards.

### **E-2 CEO/Board Partnership Responsibilities – CEO Responsibilities**

- **ECA/GCA update**

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

Mr. Deal reported that with Tallgrass coming online, the additional storage capacity will support increased usage. Board Member Henjum inquired about current coal prices, and Mr. Deal noted that they remain low. Board Member Henjum also commented that the governor is considering extending the timeline for coal plant closures at the state level.

Mr. Deal further stated that the balance parameter has been widened to allow for operational fluctuations while minimizing customer impacts.

### **Supply Chain Update**

Mr. Rich Norton, Supply Chain Management General Manager, shared a Supply Chain Update.

Board Member Rainey asked if the Southwest Power Pool will be impacted by supply chain issues. Mr. Deal said that shared projects could still have an impact on the organization.

Board Chair Donelson asked if Mr. Norton was following the supreme court case on imposing tariffs. Mr. Deal said that the organization is following these developments.

### **2026 Strategic Plan Overview**

Ms. Watts gave an overview of the 2026 Strategic Plan.

Mr. Deal noted that government agencies often utilize all available resources based on historical budget levels. He explained that the updated financial accountability strategic initiative will reflect shifts in business needs and organizational focus. In response to Board Member Henjum's question regarding implementation across the organization, Mr. Deal stated that tools have been developed and additional tools will be created to support employees in adopting these changes, with the overarching goal of operating more like a business.

Mr. Deal emphasized that division-level plans will be critical to the success of the initiative.

Board Member Henjum commented that the revisions represent an improvement to the overall strategic plan and asked how the rollout would be supported from the bottom up. Mr. Deal stated that teams will be encouraged to identify how their work groups can contribute to the enterprise strategies.

Ms. Watts reported that her team has been meeting with each division to develop standardized strategic plans. Board Member Henjum noted the importance of clear language to engage divisions and departments. Ms. Adams added that representatives from across the organization participated in a strategic-planning session and that multiple communication tools will be provided to help employees understand their role within the strategy map.

### **Rate Case Process**

Ms. Renee Congdon, Utilities Division City Attorney, led a discussion on the rate case process.

Board Vice Chair Williams said that this is beneficial for the Board and the public for transparency.

Board Member Leinweber said that ex parte communication did not allow the Board Members to respond when constituent questions were asked. Mr. Gearhart said that the proposal is if items are rate case related, they should be presented to at least two Utilities Board Working Committee meetings.

Board Member Henjum said that supplemental filings would be affected by ex parte communication. Ms. Congdon suggested a change be made to the requirements for ex parte communications. Board Members would need to disclose ex parte communications at the City Council meeting.

Board Members said they are open to changes, but had additional questions on disclosure. Board Member Bailey said that as long as information is shared in a timely manner, it should be allowed.

Ms. Congdon will draft a process and present it at a future Working Committee meeting based on feedback received. She recommends that this does not go on the consent agenda.

Board Member Bailey said that having two Working Committee meetings beforehand will help in this process as a recommendation.

Board Vice Chair Williams asked when the recommendation will be made. Ms. Congdon said that the recommendation can be made at the Working Committee.

## **Net Metering Update**

Mr. Gearhart provided an update on net metering.

Mr. Deal noted that solar customers elect to be energy producers, whereas non-solar customers do not, underscoring the need for balanced rate considerations.

Board Vice Chair Williams requested that all presentations be fully vetted. Board Member Bailey supported holding a listening session, and Board Member Henjum highlighted the Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC) as a resource for considering impacts across the full rate base. Mr. Deal clarified that UPAC addresses policy matters, while net metering pertains to rates.

The Board discussed the timeline for presenting the net metering update to City Council and whether UPAC could support the effort. Chair Donelson noted that UPAC's current assignment extends into early 2026, making it more practical for staff to develop the timeline.

Board Member Henjum expressed interest in UPAC's involvement due to its prior work on geothermal and nuclear topics. Chair Donelson reiterated that the rate case is highly specific, while Board Member Henjum stressed the importance of solar policy for the broader community.

Board Member Bailey stated that improved customer education is needed and that clear messaging to ratepayers will be beneficial. Board Member Leinweber emphasized the importance of long-term planning, particularly regarding peak-hour energy generation.

Board Vice Chair Williams offered to work with Mr. Gearhart on a proposed timeline, with follow-up communication to occur via email in December.

Mr. Deal expressed support for UPAC evaluating additional energy sources and noted the importance of managing cost transitions for net-energy producers while ensuring cost-effective service for all customers.

Board Vice Chair Williams asked whether the planned phase-out of battery rebates by the end of 2026 could be communicated to customers. Mr. Deal confirmed that this can be done.

## **Financial Impact of Government Shutdown**

Mr. Adam Hegstrom, Treasury and Finance Manager, and Mr. John Hunter, Financial Planning and Risk Manager, explained the financial impact of the government shutdown. Mr. Hegstrom said that this presentation was created prior to the end of the government shutdown, but this information is still beneficial.

Board Member Leinweber said that the government could go back into shutdown in January 2026.

Mr. Gearhart said that Project COPE has been fast-tracked during the government shutdown and approximately 30 customers have taken advantage of that.

Board Member Bailey asked if there has been a decrease in payments over the last government shutdown. Mr. Hunter said that this could be tracked through the Customer Services Division.



**UTILITIES BOARD WORKING COMMITTEE**

**Rosemont Conference Room  
121 S. Tejon St., South Tower, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903**

**Graywater Ordinance**

Ms. Jenny Bishop, Engineer IV, and Ms. Lauren Swenson, Manager of Environmental Services explained the proposed Graywater Ordinance.

Board Member Gold asked about the cost of completing the work 'after the fact.' Ms. Bishop responded that the cost would likely be double, as it would require installation of an entire plumbing system.

**Adjournment**

Chair Donelson adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.