

CAC minutes for the meeting of July 20, 2023

CAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Alyssa Quinn, Chair, Distributor Representative
Andrew Ross, Vice Chair, Denver Citizen Representative
Nona Shipman, Secretary, Public Interest Group Representative
Charley Garcia, Environmental Representative
Lisa Mathai, Denver Citizen Representative
Emily Meek, Suburban Customer Representative
Jim Fitzmorris, Homebuilders Representative

CAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Alan Hassler, West Slope Representative
Mike Eytel, West Slope Representative

DENVER WATER STAFF

Ashley Denault
Jessica Alexander

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Tim Flynn

Opening Remarks

5:00 p.m. – 5:11 p.m.

- Approval of June minutes – Charley moved, Lisa seconded, all in favor.
- Approval of July agenda – Lisa moved, Nona seconded, all in favor.
- Public comment – no comments.

Denver Water Presentation

5:11 p.m. – 5:54 p.m.

- Gross Reservoir Expansion Project Update (Jess Alexander)
 - Gross Dam History
 - Originally designed for two future raises totaling 125 feet. Raising is now happening.
 - Expansion overview
 - 131-foot raise, nearly tripling current storage capacity.
 - Adds 77,000 acre-feet of storage.
 - Upgrades to primary outlet works.
 - When the raise is complete, it will be the tallest dam in Colorado and the tallest and largest roller-compacted concrete dam raise ever completed.
 - Construction began in April 2022.
 - Raise will inundate 400 acres around the dam.
 - Construction completes and reclamation begins in 2026/2027.
 - Holding reservoir to 2/3 full during construction.
 - Grand County Learning By Doing:
 - 501c3 non-profit organization.
 - Founded by Intergovernmental Agreements.
 - Management Committee led by East and West Slope partners.
 - Goal is to protect and, where possible, restore and enhance aquatic environments in Grand County through annual monitoring plans, annual

- operations plans, restoration projects, etc.
 - All plans and reports are on the website.
 - Update to Grand County Stream Management Plan. The update will better reflect current stream conditions and reexamine technical aspects of the SMP. It will include a stakeholder outreach program. GC SMP interactive website will be available to the public.
- Charley added that Trout Unlimited's support of GRE helped form LBD. LBD has been very beneficial to the Fraser River.
- Jessica clarified that future stakeholder meetings will be a mix of in-person and virtual.
- Charley raised concerns about water temperatures for the fishery. Jessica noted the CDPHE permit certificate requires data collection on current macroinvertebrates to monitor changes throughout construction. She added that the 5,000 acre-feet environmental pool will help support aquatic habitats in South Boulder Creek.
- Jessica said water quality is being monitored as well as other elements in line with agreements and permit requirements.
- Lisa asked if there will be enough water to fill the reservoir once the expansion is complete when considering drought and climate change. Jessica responded that Denver Water's water rights and priority do ensure there is water to fill the reservoir. Once construction is complete, it will take at least five years to fill per FERC requirements. Ashley added that water usage from Gross will remain similar to what it was before the expansion. Jessica said the reservoir is our insurance policy in drought years.

CAC Business

5:54 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.

- Member Updates
 - Emily said that next week she'll be able to go out and watch a lead service line repair with Denver Water.
 - Charley encouraged the group to visit the Headwaters Museum in Winter Park to learn more about the Fraser River and water in Colorado.
 - Alyssa mentioned a native grass workshop in Colorado Springs next week hosted by Colorado Spring Utilities. This event is two days and free. Additional information on Colorado Water Wise website under "events".
- Denver Citizen Representative Position Update
 - The committee weighed in via email over the last month on the candidates and there was a tie between two candidates.
 - The committee voted to invite Zack Parker to the committee.
 - Charley moved to present Zach as the Denver Water Representative to the Denver Water Board, Jim seconded, all in favor.
- Reappointment of Nona Shipman as Public Interest Group Representative
 - Charley moved to reappoint Nona as the Public Interest Group Representative, second Lisa, all in favor.
 - This decision will go to the Denver Water Board.

Next Meeting

6:10 p.m. – 6:16 p.m.

- The CAC elected to move the August meeting to Aug. 24 to accommodate changes to the date of the first reading of rates.

Adjourn

6:16 p.m.