



WATER COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025

MINUTES

Monday, November 17, 2025

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Hearing Room

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Jack Hilbert called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

PRESENT: Chair, Jack Hilbert (Dist. I)
Vice Chair, Donald Langley (Dist. I)
Regular Member, James Eklund (Dist. I)
Regular Member, Clark Hammelman (Dist. II)
Regular Member, Roger Hudson (Dist. II) (remote)
Regular Member, Jim Maras (Dist. II) (remote)
Regular Member, Harold Smethills (Dist. III)
Regular Member, Evan Ela (Dist. III) (remote)
At-Large, Tricia Bernhardt
At-Large, Sean Tonner

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Jack Hilbert asked for comments or a motion to approve the October 27, 2025 Water Commission Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Approve the October 27, 2025 Water Commission Meeting Minutes
RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Harold Smethills
SECONDER: Sean Tonner
AYES: Harold Smethills, Sean Tonner, Donald Langley, Jack Hilbert, Clark Hammelman, Tricia Bernhardt, Roger Hudson, Jim Maras, James Eklund, Evan Ela
NAYS: none
ABSTAIN: none

2. Referral Items for Possible Consideration – a “No Comment” will be provided for any and all items unless the Commission indicates otherwise

a. SB2025-042 Driskill Subdivision

No comments were made.

b. ZR2025-008 3250 Flintwood Road

No comments were made.

3. Discussion and Action Items

No items were discussed.

4. Information Items

a. Growing Water Smart Presentation – Sonoran Institute

Presented by Meryl Corbin, Director, Growing Water Smart Program, Sonoran Institute. Topics discussed included the integration of land use and water planning, five strategies for water-smart development (planning, supply assurance, land use policy, watershed resilience, and demand efficiency), best practices for zoning and conservation, implications of new state legislation (HB24-174 and SB24-005), and the role of counties in convening water providers. The presentation also introduced the “Bridging the Gap” report, which analyzed five recent Colorado water supply projects and emphasized early engagement, negotiated agreements, and adaptive management.

The Commission and presenter had a question-and-answers session. Questions discussed included Castle Rock’s tap fee structure, innovation in Arizona, codification of WaterSense plumbing guidelines, support for rainwater harvesting, federal land management and post-fire watershed recovery, the role of counties in water planning, and the need for a clearinghouse of best practices and implementation outcomes.

b. Douglas County Water Plan Update

Presented by Will Koger, Principal, Forsgren Associates, and Bill Fronczak, LRE Water. Presentation covered results of the water provider survey, projected demand and supply through 2050, supply types (Denver Basin groundwater, surface water, alluvial, and wholesale), and the absence of projected supply gaps for some districts. The presentation also included a demonstration of the GIS mapping tool, which visualizes well data, aquifer allocation, zoning overlays, and water rights, and allows users to access well permits, construction logs, and aquifer depth.

The Commission and presenters had a question-and-answers session. Questions discussed included the need for more detail on future water supply projects, usability of the GIS tool for homeowners and policymakers, inclusion of data vintage and update frequency, aquifer allocation versus recoverability, and the importance of public guidance materials. Commissioners also requested that the tool include overlays for roads and subdivisions, and that a user guide or tutorial be developed.

5. Member Discussion

Regular Member, Tricia Bernhardt asked about term renewals for members whose terms end in December. Staff clarified that members may continue to serve until reappointment decisions are made by the Board of County Commissioners.

6. Adjournment

Chair Hilbert declared the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.