



## WATER COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025

### MINUTES

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Monday, May 19, 2025

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Hearing Room

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**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Vice Chair Langley called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

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

**2. Approval of Water Commission Meeting Minutes from April 28, 2025**

Staff asked to clarify who made and seconded the motion for the March 24, 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioners confirmed that Roger Hudson motioned to approve, and Harold Smethills seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Langley asked for comments or a motion for the April 28, 2025, Water Commission Meeting Minutes.

**Roger Hudson moved to approve the April 28, 2025, meeting minutes.**

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Roger Hudson

**SECONDER:** Clark Hammelman

**AYES:** Donald Langley, James Eklund, Clark Hammelman, Roger Hudson, Jim Maras, Evan Ela, Mickey Conway, Harold Smethills, Sean Tonner, Tricia Bernhardt

**NAYS:** none

**ABSTAIN:** none

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

a. SB2025-013 – Hemphill Subdivision, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment

Member Smethills raised a concern about approving a home relying on unadjudicated non-tributary groundwater. The County Attorney’s Office clarified that the Water Commission does not make recommendations but provides comments that staff will capture. Evan Ela explained that non-tributary groundwater tied to land ownership allows for well permits without adjudication. The question remained whether the county should approve homes on unadjudicated water.

b. ZR2025-001 – Highlands Ranch Planned Development, 80<sup>th</sup> Amendment

No comments were made by the Commission on this item.

**4. Discussion and Action Items**

Vice Chair Langley asked the Commission to encourage all water providers to submit outstanding data to Forsgren.

**5. Information Items**

a. Castle Rock Water Presentation

Mark Marlowe, Director of Castle Rock Water presented. Mark Marlowe talked about their long-term strategy to transition from Denver Basin groundwater to a predominantly renewable water supply, with goals set for 2050 and 2065. Key topics included regional and agricultural partnerships, water conservation measures such as landscaping regulations, investments in storage and aquifer recharge, and expanded water reuse efforts. The presentation also addressed major infrastructure and financial commitments, regulatory challenges, and the need for continued collaboration with Douglas County to support smaller districts and future development.

Commission members expressed support and raised questions about the feasibility and challenges of renewable supply implementation, particularly for smaller districts with fewer resources. The discussion addressed the classification of reused water as renewable, treatment of PFAS contaminants, and regulatory hurdles for direct potable reuse (DPR). Castle Rock’s role as a city department was noted as an advantage for aligning planning, zoning, and water policy. Members highlighted the importance of regional collaboration and Castle Rock Water’s leadership in forward-thinking water management. The presentation concluded with commendation for the utility’s commitment to conservation and reuse as a model for the region.

**6. Member Discussion**

During the member discussion, Harold Smethills requested regular updates on the Forsgren water study. Staff informed the Commission that the first public open house has been postponed to late summer or early fall. Forsgren will present its public engagement strategy at the June Water Commission meeting.

**7. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Langley declared the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.