



WATER COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

MINUTES

Monday, March 24, 2025

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Hearing Room

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Hilbert called the meeting to order at 3:31 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 Jim Maras (Dist. II) (*remote*)
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

2. Approval of Water Commission Meeting Minutes from February 24, 2025

Chair Hilbert asked for comments or a motion for the February 24, 2025, Water Commission Meeting Minutes.

Mickey Conway moved to approve the February 24, 2025, meeting minutes.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Mickey Conway
SECONDER:	Sean Tonner
AYES:	Hilbert, Langley, Eklund, Hammelman, Ela, Conway, Tonner, Bernhardt
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	Maras, Smethills

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

a. ZR2021-006 – Ice Tong Rezone

No comments were provided.

b. SB2024-066 – Antelope Crossing, Minor Development Residential

Tricia Bernhardt made a comment expressing no opposition to this specific project but raised a concern about the cumulative impact of multiple similar projects in the lower Dawson aquifer using groundwater. She noted that while they have a legal right to the water, the physical availability hadn't been assessed.

4. Discussion and Action Items

a. Water Plan – Outreach Materials

Lauren Pulver, Planning Supervisor, Department of Community Development, introduced Will Koger, representative of Forsgren, who provided information on the outreach process and materials. The focus would be on topic-specific focus groups rather than a separate broad stakeholder group. Examples of potential focus groups included water providers and individual water well owners. Commissioners offered feedback on refining the outreach, including organizing focus groups by water zones and emphasizing data collection before policy formation. Additional suggestions for the survey included questions on firm water supply determination, historical water use, financial health, tap fees, reuse water definitions, and unaccounted-for water. Concerns were also raised about the ability of smaller water districts to complete the survey, prompting suggestions for support. Commissioners also recommended reordering the project schedule to emphasize supply analysis, adding a clear public call to action, and clarifying that the outreach encompasses all Douglas County residents.

5. Information Items

a. Water Resources Related Presentation –Dominion Water & Sanitation District

Andrea Cole, P.E., Esq, General Manager of Dominion Water & Sanitation District (Dominion) provided an overview of Dominion, their role in Douglas County as a wholesale water and wastewater provider with a focus on renewable water supplies. She highlighted their focus on renewable supplies, major infrastructure projects like the Eastern Regional Pipeline and the planned Chatfield Basin Water Reclamation Facility, and their demand management strategies. Following her presentation, the Commission discussed topics such as Dominion’s groundwater entitlements, regulatory processes with the Corps of Engineers, conservation practices in Sterling Ranch, adjustments to service areas, and environmental flow requirements along the South Platte River.

6. Member Discussion

No additional items were raised for discussion.

7. Adjournment

Chair Hilbert declared the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.