



WATER COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025

MINUTES

Monday, August 25, 2025

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Hearing Room

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Hilbert called the meeting to order at 3:33 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) (arrived after roll call, remote)
Regular Member Clark Hammelman (Dist. II)
Regular Member Jim Maras (Dist. II)
Regular Member Evan Ela (Dist. III) (remote)
Regular Member Harold Smethills (Dist. III)
At-Large Sean Tonner
At-Large Tricia Bernhardt

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

Chair Hilbert asked for comments or a motion to approve the July 28, 2025, Water Commission Meeting Minutes.

Don Langley moved to approve the July 28, 2025, meeting minutes.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Don Langley
SECONDER: Sean Tonner
AYES: Jack Hilbert, Donald Langley, James Eklund, Clark Hammelman, Jim Maras, Evan Ela, 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. US2025-003 9560 S East Cherry Creek Rd

No comment.

- b. US2025-009 Town of Sedalia, Block 7, Lots 9-14

Member Harold Smethills raised concerns about septic systems in the alluvium near Chatfield Reservoir, particularly regarding potential contamination and the need for rigorous inspections. He emphasized the importance of ensuring septic systems are functioning properly until a sewer line is available.

4. Discussion and Action Items

No discussion or action items

5. Information Items

- a. Douglas County Water Plan Update

Douglas County Water Plan Update was presented by Will Koger, Forsgren and Associates; Bill Fronczak, LRE Water and Ted Hyde, Michael Baker International.

The Commission and presenters had a question-and-answers session.

Questions discussed included: how groundwater data is organized and linked to aquifers; the distinction between legal and physically recoverable water; the impact of exempt wells on aquifer pressure and groundwater availability; the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of small-scale reservoirs and deep well drilling; the inclusion and availability of water quality data such as radium; zoning and land use strategies to reduce water demand; landscaping and irrigation regulations; rainwater harvesting policy extensions; and reuse systems for high-water-use commercial operations like car washes and data centers.

6. Member Discussion

Member Tricia Bernhardt raised a question regarding an email from Karen Hickman about discrepancies in well counts. Members discussed discrepancies in well count estimates, which ranged from 6,800 to over 11,000. Discussion addressed implications of coning around wells, pressure loss on individual wells, and use of cisterns to help manage water pressure. While the exact number of wells remains uncertain, the overall impact of individual exempt wells on the Denver Basin was considered minimal compared to that of large commercial withdrawals.

7. Adjournment

Chair Hilbert declared the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.