

WATER & SEWER BOARD AGENDA

Wednesday, November 20, 2019
2:00 p.m.

GREELEY CITY CENTER

1001 11TH Avenue

Greeley, CO 80631

1. Roll Call: _____ Chairman Harold Evans _____ Vice Chairman Mick Todd
 _____ Mr. Bob Ruyle _____ Mr. Fred Otis
 _____ Mr. Joe Murphy _____ Mr. Tony Miller
 _____ Mr. Manuel Sisneros _____ Mayor John Gates
 _____ Mr. Roy Otto _____ Mrs. Renee Wheeler
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Approval of and/or Additions to Agenda

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda is a meeting management tool to allow the Board to handle several routine items with one action.

The Board or staff may request an item to be “pulled” off the Consent Agenda and considered separately under the next agenda item in the order they were listed.

End of Consent Agenda

4. Any Pulled Items from Consent Agenda
5. Welcome New Employees
6. Water Supply Update
7. Legal Report
8. Executive Session
 - Matters Related to Case No. 17CW3020
 - Matters Related to Potential Acquisition of Water Storage
9. Director’s Report
10. Such Other Business That May Be Brought Before the Board and Added to This Agenda by Motion of the Board



If, to effectively and fully participate in this meeting, you require an auxiliary aid or other assistance related to a disability, please contact Ettie Arnold at 970-350-9812.

**City of Greeley
Water and Sewer Board
Minutes of October 16, 2019
Regular Board Meeting**

Chairman Harold Evans called the Water and Sewer Board meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

1. Roll Call

The Clerk called the roll and those present included:

Board Members:

Chairman Harold Evans, Vice Chairman Mick Todd, Fred Otis, Robert Ruyle, Joe Murphy, Tony Miller, Manny Sisneros, Renee Wheeler and Roy Otto

Water and Sewer Department Staff:

Director Sean Chambers, Deputy Director Water Resources Adam Jokerst, Deputy Director of Operations Nina Cudahy, Utility Finance Manager Erik Dial, Water Resources Manager Jen Petrzelka, Civil Engineer Peter Champion, Special Projects Engineer Mary Gearhart, Office Manager Shannon Metcalf, and Senior Administrative Assistant Ettie Arnold

Legal Counsel:

Counsel to Water & Sewer Board Attorney Carolyn Burr, Environmental and Water Resources Attorney Jerrae Swanson, Environmental and Water Resources Attorney Aaron Goldman, Environmental and Water Resources Attorney Dan Biwer, Bond Finance Counsel Dan Lynch, and City Attorney Doug Marek

Guests:

Brown & Caldwell Consultants Jake Kunugi, Samantha Kepley, Cortney Brand, Lori Sullivan and Alan Ridgeway. Executive Director Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity Cheri Witt-Brown, Development Review Manager Julie Cozad, and Consultant Paul Weiss

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Miller advised of a typing error on page 2, item 6 should read “the title (not tile) of the agenda”. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Vice Chairman Todd, to approve the September 18, 2019 Water and Sewer Board meeting minutes as corrected. The motion carried 7-0.

3. Approval of and/or Additions to Agenda

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

******Consent Agenda******

4. Review and Recommend City Council Approve Airport Raw Water IGA Amendment

Recommended Action for Consent Agenda: Recommend approval by City Council of the Airport Raw Water IGA Amendment.

5. Approve and Recommend City Council Approve the WGFP Fifth Amendment to Fifth Interim Agreement

Recommended Action for Consent Agenda: Approve the WGFP Fifth Amendment to Fifth Interim Agreement and recommend City Council approve the same.

******End of Consent Agenda******

Mr. Ruyle moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the items on Consent Agenda and their respective recommended actions. The motion carried 7-0.

6. Pulled Consent Agenda Items

There were no consent agenda items pulled.

7. Welcome New Employees

Mr. Chambers provided an introduction of new Water and Sewer Department employees starting this month.

8. Approve and Recommend to Council the Acquisition of Interest in Real Property for the Purpose of Construction of the Poudre Trunk Sewer Line Extension

Mr. Champion presented information regarding this sewer trunk line extension and the acquisition of property interests that will be necessary for the project.

Vice Chairman Todd moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve and recommend to City Council the Acquisition of Interest in Real Property for the Purpose of Construction of the Poudre Trunk Sewer Line Extension. The motion carried 7-0.

Civil Engineer Peter Champion left the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

Deputy Director of Operations Nina Cudahy joined the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Consultant Paul Weiss joined the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

Development Review Manager Julie Cozad left the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

9. Water Court Update – 3rd Quarter

Ms. Petrzelka provided an update regarding the Department's legal activities from July to September 2019, including an overview of Water Court cases and a summary of the Water Resources Division's legal expenses.

10. 2019 Sanitary Survey Overview and Review of CDPHE Recommendations

Mr. Chambers provided information regarding the CDPHE field audit completed in September 2019 on findings of the tri-annual Sanitary Survey, and to further share a summary of the sanitary survey process and public notice requirement. Areas for focus and improvement were documented in the field audit; minor issues have been addressed and corrected, as well as some infrastructure issues which require planning, budget and further CDPHE feedback.

11. Legal Report

Carolyn Burr of Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley provided this month's legal report to the Board.

1. Recommended Statements of Opposition: Based on review of the August, 2019 Water Court Resume, staff and water counsel recommended that the Board authorize filing statements of opposition in the following three cases:
 - a. Case number: **19CW3157** Application of Coulson Excavating Company, Inc. for approval of plan for augmentation, change of water right, and for conditional and absolute underground and surface water rights, including water storage rights on the Big Thompson River.
 - b. Case numbers: **19CW3165 and 19CW3169**. These are two separate, but related cases whereby Applicants: Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and Cache La Poudre Water Users Association are seeking diligence for their respective interests in the conditional Grey Mountain Dam & Reservoir and Cache la Poudre Forebay Dam & Reservoir rights. We recommend that Greeley file a statement of opposition in these cases because the total size of the conditional rights, 225,400 a.f., could have important implications for Poudre River administration in the future. We recommend filing a statement of opposition in these two cases so that Greeley can monitor and understand the development of these important water rights.

Cheri Witt-Brown left the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

12. Executive Session

Chairman Evans moved, seconded by Mr. Murphy, to hold an executive session to address the following matters as provided by C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) and (e) and Greeley Municipal Code 2.04.020(a)(2) and (5).

1. To receive advice from their attorney and determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators on matters related to Milton Seaman Reservoir Expansion Project.

The motion carried 7-0.

Present during the executive session were:

Chairman Harold Evans, Vice Chairman Mick Todd, Fred Otis, Robert Ruyle, Manual Sisneros, Tony Miller, Joe Murphy, Renee Wheeler, Roy Otto, Director Sean Chambers, Deputy Director Water Resources Adam Jokerst, Deputy Director of Operations Nina Cudahy, Utility Finance Manager Erik Dial, Water Resources Operations Manager Jennifer Petrzela, Special Project Manager Mary Gearhart, City Attorney Doug Marek, Environmental and Water Resources Attorney Jerrae Swanson, Environmental and Water Resources Attorney Aaron Goldman, Environmental and Water Resources Attorney Dan Biwer, Water and Sewer Board Counsel Carolyn Burr, and Senior Administrative Assistant Ettie Arnold

Brown & Caldwell Consultants Samantha Kepley, Laurie Sullivan, Alan Ridgeway and Jake Kunugi, Leonard Rice Consultant Cortney Brand, Consultant Paul Weiss and Special Counsel to Board Dan Lynch

Chief Engineer Adam Prior joined the executive meeting at 2:45 p.m.

This executive session was authorized by Subsection(s) (b) and (e) of Section 24-6-402(4) of the Colorado Revised Statutes, and Subsection(s) (2) and (5) of Section 2.04.020 (a) of the Greeley Municipal Code.

Mary Gearhart left the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Lori Sullivan and Alan Ridgeway left the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Cortney Brand left the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 6:00 p.m. and the regular meeting resumed.

13. Director's Report

Mr. Chambers reported on the following items:

- Welcome new baby – Brooks Jacob Biwer

- South Platte River Basin Forum – Oct. 23rd and 24th @ Westin Westminster
- Water in the West Symposium – Nov. 6th and 7th @ Gaylord Rockies
 - Already registered: Mick Todd and Harold Evans
- Greeley History Book Update

14. Such Other Business That May be Brought before the Board and Added to This Agenda by Motion of the Board

There were no additional items brought before the Board and added to the agenda.

Board Member Robert Ruyle left the meeting at 6:02 p.m.
Jake Kunugi and Samantha Kepley left the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Chairman Evans adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Harold Evans, Chairman

Ettie Arnold, Senior Administrative Assistant

WATER & SEWER BOARD AGENDA NOVEMBER 20, 2019

ENCLOSURE _____

NO ENCLOSURE X

ITEM NUMBER: 5

TITLE: WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

RECOMMENDATION: INFORMATION ONLY

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Staff to introduce and welcome new full-time employees starting employment in May within the department.

- Jacob Hoffman, Plant Operator at WPCF – starts 11/14/2019

WATER & SEWER BOARD AGENDA NOVEMBER 20, 2019

ENCLOSURE X NO ENCLOSURE

ITEM NUMBER: 6

TITLE: WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please see the attached memorandum for details.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Sean Chambers, Water and Sewer Director
FROM: Jen Petrzela, Water Resources Operations Manager
DATE: November 20, 2019
RE: November 2019 Water Supply Update

ISSUE

In accordance with the Drought Emergency Plan, staff will report the water supply status to the Greeley Water and Sewer Board ("Board") in April, July and November of each year. Previous modeling analysis has shown that the amount of water needed in storage to supply the citizens of Greeley through an extreme drought is approximately 20,000 acre-feet. When this target storage level has been met, the Board can declare an "adequate water year" with normal watering restrictions.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, monthly temperatures were close to average with the exception of February and March when Greeley experienced temperatures 20% and 14 % below average, respectively. This year's cumulative precipitation to date is 93% of the 10-year average of 12.6 inches. Monthly precipitation diverted slightly from the average most months with above average precipitation in March and June setting the region up for wet conditions to start the irrigation season and allowed reservoirs to fill. Currently the South Platte Basin storage is at 125% of average. Production through October totaled 25,031 acre-feet which is 9% higher than 2018 likely due to a hot and dry conditions that occurred July through September.

The U.S. drought monitor shows northeastern Colorado as drought free with other areas of the state in abnormally dry to severe drought conditions. The Colorado SWSI¹ value for the South Platte indicates above normal supply conditions at an index of 3.21. The Poudre Basin has abundant supply conditions at 3.82 and the Big Thompson basin has normal supply conditions at an index of 2.28. These values illustrate good supply and no predicted drought conditions going into the new water year.

El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) has ended and is currently in a neutral state. In Colorado, this likely means a mild winter with temperatures slightly above average and below average

¹ The Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was developed by the Colorado Division of Water Resources and the U.S.D.A Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This is an indicator of mountain-based water supply conditions for the major river basins in Colorado. It is based on streamflow, reservoir storage, and precipitation. The SWSI scale goes from -4 (severe drought) to +4 (abundant supply) with 0 being near normal supply.

precipitation, although precipitation is harder to predict. This is supported by the three-month forecast for temperature published by the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA) which is predicting above average temperatures through January. In contrast, NOAA's three-month forecast for precipitation is above average through January.

For Water Year (WY) 2019, the High Mountain Reservoir (HMR) system yielded over 7,000 acre-feet of supply with the majority of that rented out to agriculture. The Greeley Loveland System (GLIC) yielded 16,749 acre-feet for municipal use supplies, with 14,000 acre-feet carried over to WY 2020. Greeley rented out over 7,000 acre-feet of excess Colorado Big Thompson water (C-BT). In total, Greeley leased approximately 25,600 acre-feet in agricultural leases and high mountain reservoir water.

The Greeley System Storage Analysis table for Water Year 2020 shows the April 2021 storage level will be approximately 21,394 acre-feet. This conservatively assumes high demands in Greeley, no Windy Gap or HMR yields, 60% quota issued for the C-BT project, and collateralizing 2,000 acre-feet of C-BT for Greeley's Windy Gap requirements. The GLIC system yields represent dry year supplies.

RECOMMENDATION

Initial Projections show the target storage volume is greater than 20,000 acre-feet. Board will make a determination of adequate water year at the April 2020 Board meeting.

Greeley System Storage Analysis

2020 Water Supply Update

C-BT=60% HMR*= 0 AF
Yields GL/LL/7L = 9/31/6

Water Year 2020 Operations

	Beginning Storage (1)	Estimated Yield (2)	Total Supplies (3)	Total WY 2019 Demands (4)	Early Season Spills and Collateralized (5)
NCWCD (C-BT)	6,267	17,497	23,764	(17,982)	0
WINDY GAP	0	0	1,565	(1,620)	1,565
POUDRE SYSTEM	9,108	8,895	18,003	(10,916)	0
GLIC SYSTEM	14,000	8,855	22,855	(7,064)	(6,530)
TOTAL	29,375	35,247	64,622	(37,583)	(4,965)
Balance					22,075

Water Year 2021 Storage Volume

	Ending WY '20 31-Oct-20 Storage (6)	1-Nov-20 Spills (7)	Beginning WY 2021 1-Nov-20 Storage (8)	Winter 2020 (Nov thru April) Demands on Storage and Shrink (9)	1-Apr-21 Carryover (10)
NCWCD (C-BT)	6,808	0	6,808	(681)	6,127
WINDY GAP	0	0	0	0	0
POUDRE SYSTEM	7,032	0	7,032	0	7,032
GLIC SYSTEM	8,235	0	8,235	0	8,235
TOTAL	22,075	0		(681)	21,394
Target Storage Volume:					20,000

WATER & SEWER BOARD AGENDA NOVEMBER 20, 2019

ENCLOSURE X NO ENCLOSURE

ITEM NUMBER: 7

TITLE: LEGAL REPORT

POSSIBLE ACTION: STATEMENTS OF OPPOSITION, IF ANY

RECOMMENDATION: INFORMATION ONLY

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- I. **Statements of Opposition:** Based on review of the September, 2019 Water Court Resume, staff and water counsel recommend that the Board file a statement of opposition in the following case:
 - a. Case Number: **19CW3181** Application of City of Thornton for findings of reasonable diligence and to confirm portions of water rights as absolute. Applicant is seeking a finding that it has been reasonably diligent with respect to conditional storage water rights and exchanges decreed in Case No. 1996CW1116, on October 20, 2005. These conditional water rights are used to convey water to the confluence of the Cache La Poudre River to meet replacement obligations under the “Northern Project” Decree or delivered to WSSC. Some of Thornton’s proposed operations are within the exchange reach of Greeley’s South Platte/Big Thompson Exchange, and these structures are used to facilitate Thornton’s operations on the Cache la Poudre River. We recommend that Greeley file a statement of opposition to ensure that the applicable legal standards have been satisfied and to protect against any injury to Greeley’s water rights.
- II. **Proposed Motion Language:** “I move that the Board authorize the filing of a statement of opposition in Case No. 19CW3181, and for staff and legal counsel to seek resolution of issues raised by this case consistent with Water and Sewer Board Resolution No. 3-15.”

WATER & SEWER BOARD AGENDA NOVEMBER 20, 2019

ENCLOSURE _____

NO ENCLOSURE X

ITEM NUMBER: 8

TITLE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECOMMENDATION: INFORMATION ONLY

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Matters Related to Case No. 17CW3020
- Matters Related to Potential Acquisition of Water Storage

WATER & SEWER BOARD AGENDA NOVEMBER 20, 2019

ENCLOSURE X

NO ENCLOSURE

ITEM NUMBER: 9

TITLE: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

RECOMMENDATION: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Water Budget Allocation Refinement Status Update
- Boyd WTP VFD Electrical Article
- Colorado River Demand Management Article Summary

Water Budget Outreach updates for your Directors Report

1. We created a Marketing Plan to include multi-level engagement tactics
 - a. Use existing graphics from original rollout
 - b. Retained a marketing consultant to help with messaging
 - c. Create ads and placement strategy in-house
2. Open House is November 20, 4:30-6:30pm on Board Day in the overflow room
3. 3 Bill stuffers (Nov 2019, Jan 2020, Mar 2020)
4. Print advertising including the Tribune and Magazines
5. Radio spots
6. Social Media (posts and paid advertising)
7. Overhaul the EfficiencyRewarded.com website
 - a. Update pages
 - b. Redub the video
 - c. And edit and update FAQs


The ad will run in the Dec. Greeley Neighbors


The bill stuffer below is a third page back and front and will start running the first week of Nov.

Water Budgets are Changing

Since 2017, water budgets have helped Greeley residents save millions of gallons of water.

Starting in January 2020, the indoor portion of your water budget will change from 55 gallons per person per day to 45 to reflect more accurately how our community uses water. The outdoor portion will also be slightly decreased to reflect moderate (as opposed to high) water use on lawns. These changes maintain Greeley's water supply without a significant change to your water bill.



 **EfficiencyRewarded.com**

Efficiency rewarded.™
GREELEY WATER BUDGET

Let's Get Ready

Before the updated budgets begin in January, learn how it's calculated, how it works, and how to be prepared for the change by visiting EfficiencyRewarded.com.



Water Budget Map
View your irrigable area (places in your yard where plants can grow).

Update My Information
Confirm your household size and irrigable area.

FAQs
Got questions? We have answers.

Indoor Water Audit
Sign up for a free water audit for a personalized assessment of your water use.

Water Budgets are Changing

Since 2017, water budgets have helped Greeley residents save millions of gallons of water.

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GREELEY WATER BUDGET
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(712) 722-1662

Contact Us

Menu

HIGH- ALTITUDE ELECTRICAL



HIGH-ALTITUDE ELECTRICAL

October 14, 2019

Interstates' Fort Collins, CO, office has been busy collaborating with the City of Greeley on updates to its Boyd Lake water treatment plant in Loveland, CO. Working with general contractor Hydro Construction, based in Fort Collins, Interstates provided electrical construction services on this project.

The Boyd Lake water treatment facility in Loveland provides seasonal drinking water to Greeley water customers – up to 38 million gallons per day. Raw water supply comes from both Boyd Lake and Lake Loveland. The treated water from this plant is then pumped to the city's finished water reservoirs. The Boyd Lake plant is used as a peaking plant during the highwatering season (late spring, summer, and early fall) and is also a backup in case the main plant in Bellvue, 18 miles away, is down. The Boyd Lake facility was built in 1974 and has had a few upgrades over the years.

The City of Greeley needed to update aging equipment in various parts of the water treatment plant. Interstates reconfigured the filter building, replacing a 75HP variable frequency drive (VFD) for a backwash pump. In the

high-service pump station, motors were being fed from nearly 40-year-old switchgear that was at its end of life. Interstates replaced antiquated medium voltage switchgear with new medium voltage switchgear, and new medium voltage VFDs. The crew then refed all the equipment in that building. "We replaced the medium voltage switchgear with large, 4160-volt VFDs to pump water from this facility to Greeley, about 20 miles away," says Nick Wathier, Project Manager at Interstates.

The crew also installed new electrical in the treated water return vault. Eric Novotny, Superintendent at Interstates, explains, "When the plant was meeting demand, it would dump all the clean water back into the lake. Now, instead of doing that, they are able to shut the incoming water off and dump the clean water back into the plant, circulating the clean water until the City of Greeley needs it. This will save them a significant amount of money."

Tight working windows and long lead times caused scheduling headaches. The new medium voltage switchgear and new VFDs arrived later than originally scheduled. "That caused us to have to do some work out of sequence," says Wathier. "We had to install all conduit, tray, and cable prior to the switchgear being installed in order to stay on track with the schedule." Once the MCC did arrive, the project's structural engineer had concerns that the equipment would be too heavy to sit on the concrete pad prepared for it. "It was a challenging scenario. We had to consider how to get the MCC to the pad, if we needed special equipment, if we could even roll it on. There was talk of removing the building's roof to crane the MCC in. In the end, we did get approval from the engineers to get it into the building using regular means," says

Wathier. “The company that built the MCCs had never built anything of this size, so they did not know what it weighed until complete,” added Eric Novotny.

Interstates had some ideas how to make up for lost time. The project was designed to have conduit running from the medium voltage MCC to the motors it feeds. “We proposed running cable tray and cable instead of conduit. This saved a good amount of time and dollars,” says Wathier. Having the Interstates panel shop build a control panel offsite also reduced manhours in the field.

Finishing on time and budget is always a priority, but Wathier had additional measures of the project’s success: “We had no safety incidents or accidents on this job, and that’s important. We also formed solid relationships with the client and general contractor.”

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✉ bdev@interstates.com

RECENT RESOURCES

31
OCT

Mindset Shift For Accountability

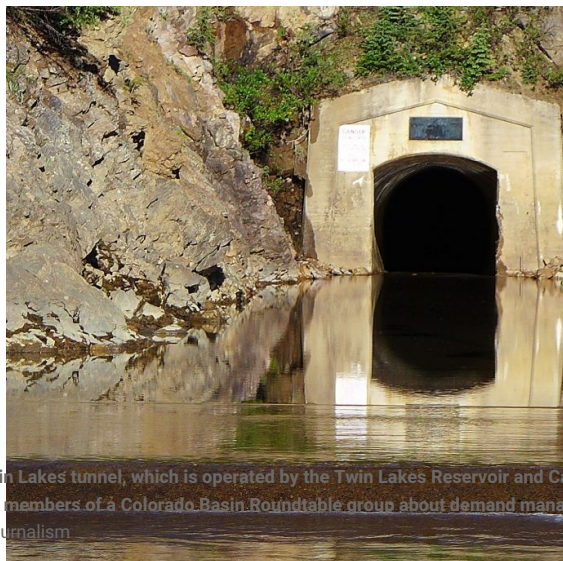
29
OCT

Join Us | Apprentice Open House 11.12.19

Demand-management groups multiply in Colorado water fight

News | October 30, 2019

Heather Sackett
Aspen Journalism



The east-side outlet of the Twin Lakes tunnel, which is operated by the Twin Lakes Reservoir and Cache la Poudre River Water Conservancy District, recently declined to meet with members of a Colorado Basin Roundtable group about demand management. Brent Gardner-Smith/Aspen Journalism



[Hide Captions](#)

GLENWOOD SPRINGS — The state of Colorado's investigation into the feasibility of a demand-management program has spawned the spinoff of several additional groups to study the issue, underscoring persistent tensions between the Western Slope and Front Range water managers.

In June, the Colorado Water Conservation Board named 74 people — most of them experts in their fields — to nine workgroups charged with helping the state study whether a water-use reduction plan is right for Colorado. Now, some roundtables and conservation districts are forming their own grassroots stakeholder groups to study demand management outside of the state's formal process.

One of those is the Colorado River Basin Roundtable. The stakeholder group, chaired by Kirsten Kurath, who is general counsel for the Grand Valley Water Users Association, invited Front Range water providers to an informal meeting on Monday to discuss demand management and address some assumptions about the contentious topic.

Although representatives from Northern Water and Aurora Water initially accepted the invitation, a subsequent letter from the Front Range Water Council made it clear that Front Range water interests were circling the wagons and closing ranks. The FRWC is an ad-hoc group made up of representatives from Front Range urban water providers.

In a letter signed by FRWC chair and Denver Water CEO James Lochhead, the group declined Kurath's invitation to the meeting.

“We feel it is best at this point not to have ‘official’ side meetings regarding demand management and what a demand management process/program may look like because, particularly with press present, such conversations may lead to confusion and may undermine the state process,” the letter reads.

Kurath said she was extremely disappointed and discouraged by the response.

“It seemed like a great opportunity as part of our workgroup to invite folks from the Front Range Water Council and chat with them about what we are thinking about demand management,” Kurath said. “We do need to work at relationship-building between these historically adverse parties.”

So, why is demand management a touchy subject that highlights tensions between Colorado’s West Slope and Front Range? It may be because some in Western Slope agriculture worry that Front Range water providers, backed by a reliable pot of money from their rate-paying customers, can simply pay ranchers to fallow fields without having to reduce their own water consumption. Some Western Slope agricultural water users have voiced concerns about how to create a demand-management program that reduces water use equitably across all sectors, not just agriculture.

On top of that, some fear that if fields are no longer producing crops, a cascade of unintended consequences for the local economy could be the result. The Colorado River Water Conservation District and the Southwestern Water Conservation District are studying the secondary economic impacts of demand management.

“What are the economic impacts should someone decide not to grow a crop?” said Frank Kugel, executive director of the Durango-based Southwestern Water Conservation District. “What about the tractor-supply store, the feed stores, the restaurants and the workers that work on those farms?”

Adding to the controversial nature of demand management is Colorado’s social and cultural backdrop. At the heart of a demand-management program is a reduction in water use on a temporary, voluntary and compensated basis in an effort to send as much as 500,000 acre-feet of water downstream to Lake Powell to bolster water levels in the giant reservoir and, indirectly, to meet Colorado River Compact obligations. Under such a program, ranchers and farmers could get paid to leave more water in the river.

But Andy Mueller, general manager of the CRWCD, said the concept of intentionally saving water goes against the age-old Western water adage of “Use it or lose it.” Some irrigators believe their water right, which is seen as a property right, could be considered abandoned if they don’t use their entire share of the water all the time, although it is rare in Colorado for this aspect of the law to be enforced by the state.

“We are asking people to change 150 years of cultural, family, political traditions,” Mueller said. “What we need to do in the water-policy world is help provide people with security and confidence they are not unintentionally damaging themselves for the future and that they are protected and have economic certainty.”

To this end, the river district also is forming a demand-management stakeholder group of its own. Mueller said the goal is to convene a group of roughly 30 water users to figure out how their interests would be protected if a demand-management plan is implemented.

“It’s a really critical thing for our actual water users to be driving the train because they know how their farms work,” Mueller said. “If you get ideas from them, they are much more likely to work in the long run.”

Although some might assume that the easiest way to save a large amount of water in a demand-management program is to take it from Western Slope agriculture, Front Range water providers say that isn’t the case. Lochhead said that Denver Water would participate in a demand-management program along with everyone else using “wet water,” not just by throwing money at the problem.

Brad Wind, general manager of Northern Water, agreed that water savings solely from Western Slope agriculture isn’t the solution.

“I get the impression from some West Slope entities ... that they think the whole burden of demand management is going to come on the backs of the West Slope,” he said, “and honestly, I don’t think anybody on the Front Range Water Council is saying that.”

These were some of the issues Kurath was hoping to clear up in a meeting with her stakeholder group and Front Range water providers.

“We just wanted to explore that with folks,” she said. “It was a real disappointment to me to have them decide they didn’t want to participate.”

Editor’s note: Aspen Journalism collaborates with the Aspen Times and other Swift Communications newspapers on coverage of rivers and water. For more, go to aspenjournalism.org.

WATER & SEWER BOARD AGENDA NOVEMBER 20, 2019

ENCLOSURE _____

NO ENCLOSURE X

ITEM NUMBER: 10

TITLE: SUCH OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY BE
 BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD AND
 ADDED TO THIS AGENDA BY MOTION OF
 THE BOARD

RECOMMENDATION: TO BE DETERMINED

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: