

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
MINUTES  
of the  
Board of Water Commissioners**

Video Conference: <http://zoom.us/join>, Meeting ID: 915 6031 2400, Password: 666891  
or Dial-in: (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 915 6031 2400

**Wednesday, November 4, 2020**

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**Open Session**

A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held Wednesday, November 4, 2020, beginning at 9:00 a.m. via Video Conference: <http://zoom.us/join>, Meeting ID: 915 6031 2400, Password: 666891 or via Dial-in: (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 915 6031 2400. Members of the Board present during the Regular Meeting were:

**H. Gregory Austin, President  
Gary M. Reiff, First Vice President  
Paula Herzmark, Vice President  
Craig Jones, Vice President  
John R. Lucero, Vice President**

Board employees and others present during portions of the meeting were:

J.S. Lochhead, CEO/Manager	A. Joseph, Attorney
J.A. Anderson, Chief of Staff	L. Kaatz, Environmental Lead Scientist
A. Bricmont, Chief Financial Officer	R. Marsicek, Planning Manager
J. Brody, General Counsel	J. Martin, Project Engineer
B.D. Good, Chief Administrative Officer	L. Morales, Community Relations Sr. Specialist
D. Gorgemans, Chief Internal Auditor	K. Oligney, Director IT Infrastructure
M. King, Chief External Affairs Officer	C. Palmore, Division Analyst
R. Mahoney, Chief Engineering Officer	A. Parker, Planner Lead
T.J. Roode, Chief Operations and Maintenance Officer	R. Peters, Engineer, Sr.
S. Abram, Director Financial Planning & Performance	C. Proctor, Communication Sr. Specialist
A. Antolovich, Engineering Manager	B. Ransom, Recreation Manager
M. Aragon, Director Customer Relations	A. Rettig, Finance Supervisor
	K. Riegler, Attorney

*Denver Water aspires to be the best water utility in the nation.*

Integrity :: Vision :: Passion :: Excellence :: Respect



D. Arnold, Attorney  
J. Bandy, Planning Manager  
D. Bennett, Director Water Resources Strategy  
C. Bramon, Procurement Manager  
A. Cavallaro, Paralegal  
S. Chesney, Director Public Affairs  
E. Cinchock, Division Sr. Analyst  
F. Davis, Rates Manager  
N. Elder, Planning Manager  
J. Finehout, Community Relations Sr. Specialist  
P. Freeman, Business Operations Manager

J. Shaw, Community Relations Sr. Specialist  
L. Southard, Administrative Sr. Assistant  
J. Tejral, Public Affairs Manager  
A. Turney, Director Engineering - Property  
P. Williams, Executive Assistant  
H. LaMair, High Line Canal Conservancy  
C. Lane, Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District  
D. McDermott, Board Chair, High Line Canal Conservancy  
M. Rosser, High Line Canal Conservancy

## INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

Commissioner Austin called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

### Public Comment and Communications

Commissioner Austin issued an invitation to members of the public to comment to the Board on any matters not included in the Agenda for the meeting. There was no public comment.

## ACTION ITEMS

Upon motion regularly made, seconded and unanimously carried by the Commissioners then present, unless otherwise noted, the Board acted upon the following agenda items:

**1. ITEM II-A-1: MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 14, 2020**

Approved the Minutes from the October 14, 2020 Board Meeting.

**2. ITEM II-A-2: MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 28, 2020**

Approved the Minutes from the October 28, 2020 Board Meeting.

## POLICY MATTERS

### 3. ITEM III-A: HIGH LINE CANAL TRANSFORMATION

Ms. LaMair, Executive Director of the High Line Canal Conservancy (HLCC), presented the Board with a High Line Canal Transformation update, a copy of which is attached to and incorporated in these Minutes as Exhibit A. Ms. LaMair thanked Denver Water staff, the HLCC team, and the Board for their partnership and assistance with the long-term planning for the Canal. She explained that the HLCC was formed in 2014 in collaboration with Denver Water to lead the transition of the Canal from an outdated water conveyance to a 71-mile legacy greenway for future generations. This transition enhances public use and ensures permanent protection and improved environmental health of the Canal. There has been over \$30 million in public funding already invested in the HLCC's plan to date.

The HLCC's strategic business plan's key goals and objectives have taken over five years of collaboration and planning. A few key accomplishments include completion of the community vision plan, engaging over 6,000 residents, raising \$6.6 million since 2015, and the development of over 500 successful volunteer and community programs. One major accomplishment is the Canal Collaborative that formalizes and expands existing collaborations with over a dozen local governmental entities, with the Conservancy serving as the backbone of the collaborative. An important objective of the plan is to celebrate the diverse character of the Canal and the ecosystems along the Canal's path.

A capital campaign was designed for the Canal to fund the long-term care of the Canal and has two major components: a \$10 million capital improvement campaign and a \$15 million Stewardship Fund. The former will fund improved access, recreational activities, signage, and a variety of enhancements, while the latter will provide long-term funding support for maintenance and operations. The HLCC already has active and planned projects for 2020-21, including four stormwater projects that are underway, transitioning eight miles of the Canal. Canal programs and volunteer engagements are ongoing and a recent event, Walk for the Canal, raised over \$190,000 with 82% of contributors being first-time donors.

Mr. Roode provided an update on the 2020 customer conversion progress, which involves converting High Line Canal water customers from water delivery systems that were increasingly inefficient to more efficient water sources. The

Board previously authorized the acquisition of contracts for original irrigation customers along the High Line Canal, and although progress has been hampered by COVID-19 and budget concerns, agreements with customers are ongoing. There are currently 61 contracts remaining with 42 customers.

He reported that Denver Water and the HLCC have been developing a master funding agreement by which Denver Water will contribute up to \$5 million in \$1 million annual matching contributions to the Stewardship Fund for five years. This concept is predicated upon matching HLCC's fundraising projection of \$10 million for the Stewardship Fund. Additionally, Denver Water would contribute two properties that are no longer utilized for Denver Water's operations to enhance the Canal. The Stewardship Fund would support future maintenance of the Canal at a higher level of maintenance, resulting in a lower total cost to Denver Water.

Commissioner Austin thanked Ms. LaMair for her long-term work on the High Line Canal.

Commissioner Herzmark added that the High Line Canal transformation is truly extraordinary. She noted that Ms. LaMair's leadership and her team's efforts have been outstanding, and we should be proud of Denver Water and the resources provided by Mr. Roode and Ms. Turney.

#### **4. ITEM III-B: DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS UPDATE**

Mr. Finehout provided the Board with a Drought Preparedness update, a copy of which is attached to and incorporated in these Minutes as Exhibit B. He reported that Denver Water's reservoir storage is currently at 80% as compared to the 85% storage average. Reservoir levels have been impacted by some of the hottest and driest conditions on record for both spring and summer. Denver Water's water shortage preparedness committee is getting ready both internally and externally with its distributors and other utilities for possible scenarios in 2021 as winter and the next year approach.

This year started with slightly above-average storage levels, falling to average around July, and moving slightly below average since then. The forecast for the end of the year continues slightly less than average but is not yet at an action level. Staff is taking measures to preserve storage levels, which include pumping water from Chatfield reservoir, reducing outflows to minimum flows, and maintaining the low treatment rates at Moffat Treatment Plant. In addition to lower storage levels, soils in both the collection system and the service area

have been drier than usual and will need a large snowpack to increase moisture levels.

Denver Water's finance staff has analyzed multiple drought scenarios to determine potential revenue impacts and identified capital and operating projects that could potentially be delayed during a drought. Public affairs will continue to communicate with customers about the increasingly dry conditions and their role in the solution. Denver Water is also communicating with partners on the West Slope through the Learning by Doing committee and will continue to monitor these conditions to best prepare for the potential for drought.

### EXECUTIVE UPDATE

#### 5. ITEM IV-B: CFO REPORT

Ms. Bricmont noted that the Third Quarter Performance Report will be presented to the Board on November 18, 2020.

### ADJOURNMENT

No further business appearing, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into an Executive Session at approximately 9:40 a.m.

DocuSigned by:  
*Jim Lochhead*  
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SECRETARY

DocuSigned by:  
*Greg Austin*  
44266A886895454...  
PRESIDENT