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**Minutes**  
**City of Fort Collins**  
**Futures Committee Meeting**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**300 LaPorte Ave**  
**City Hall**  
**October 8, 2012**  
**5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present:**

Wade Troxell  
Lisa Poppaw  
Gerry Horak  
Bruce Hendee

**Committee Members Absent:**

Darin Atteberry

**Guests:**

Donnie Dustin  
Kevin Gertig  
Brian Janonis

**Agenda Item 1: Water Supply Outlook**

The High Park Fire impacts impaired the Poudre River. Samples have been taken on a daily basis since the fire. For 107 days (since the fire started), we could not take water from the Poudre. We were allowed unrestricted use because of a high allocation of CBT water and limited ability to save it for next year. Prior conservation efforts made things easier this year. The continuing efforts to save water include: water conservation programs, audits on sprinkler systems (we set a record with number of audits this year), tiered and seasonal rate structures, etc.

2013 Conditions include:

The 2013 water year starts on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Assumed conditions include dry-year demands (hot and dry summer) and 30% from the Poudre River flows. The CBT system still has decent storage: about 120% available if 2013 is similar to 2012.

If there were to be a water supply shortage, there is a Water Supply Shortage Response Plan in place that defines restriction levels. Levels include a set number of days to water, potential rate reductions and other details.

There are three potential ways to increase CBT supplies, which include:

- North Poudre Irrigation Company

- No CBT rentals, AG to CBT: 1,000 – 2,000 AF
- Reuse Plan
  - Could provide over 1,900 AF (depends on snowpack)
- Horsetooth Carriage Contract
  - Could provide up to 5,600 AF (\$85/AF up front with uncertainty)

Financial Impacts include:

Lost rental revenue up to \$700,000, Increased CBT costs of \$315,000 and Reduced revenue from potential restrictions (mainly high water use months)

Summary:

Monitor supplies and demands, restrictions next year are possible but unlikely, agricultural community might be upset; these conditions may persist for several years; communications efforts coming soon.

## **Agenda Item 2: Water Storage**

Highly variable flows affect City water right yields.

The general reason for storage includes; return flow obligations which are critical, future demands, vulnerability protection and also to store what we conserve. The City's current storage consists of the Joe Wright Reservoir, which is about 6,500 acre-feet. It regulates the Michigan Ditch and Reuse Plan and has limited carryover ability. Second is the Horsetooth Reservoir (CBT project). This not the City's reservoir, it is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and administered by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, it cannot store Poudre supplies and it has limited carry over policies. These consist of only year to year, city controls only 3,800 arce-feet, heavy costs involved and the policy could be eliminated. The City is highly reliant on the CBT project storage.

Our current water supplies have been adequate in most years, it is based on 1 in 50 year drought criteria and 31,000 acre feet/year treated water firm yield. Future water demands and supplies depend on the population and commercial growth. It is estimated the utility population will grow around 35,000 by 2050 and large contractual use will increase about 3,000 acre-feet/year by 2050. The supply needed depends on water supply demand criteria, which include the drought criterion, storage reserve factor and planning demand level. These criteria will be determined in the Water Supply and Demand Management Policy update that will be presented to City Council in late October.

Current City Storage Projects include either acquiring or developing storage capacity to help manage current and future water rights. This includes operational storage, such as gravel pits or similar and carryover and vulnerability protection storage, for example the Halligan Reservoir enlargement project or similar. Information regarding the Halligan project included its location, proposed size, reasons for enlargement, potential impacts, permitting process, costs/funding and potential alternatives (that will be evaluated as part of the permitting).

Storage continues to be a key City need. The operational storage is critical; the carryover and vulnerability storage provides multiple benefits. Advocate low water use and increase storage to make effective use of conserved water. This provides climate change protection and sustainable water supply future.

**Next Steps:**