

## REAP April 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Mark Harding at 12:00 pm.

### **Members in attendance:**

Gary May	Libby Harrington
Holly Swain	Will Koger
Chad Bunger	Clinton Meyer
Mark Harding	Ivy Craig
Gretchen Ricehill	Glenn Rotkovich
Carrie Bonds	Naomi Colwell
Robbin Schincke	Nathan Sumner
Michael Collitt	Loretta Daniel
Kevin Hougan	Jeff Baker
Donna Sus	Kip Cheroutes
Becky Zierer	Sherry James

### **Members attending through TEAMS:**

Jessica Coffey	Kathy Smiley
Justin Beacon	Jack Kirk
John Stoll	Bryan Weimer
Victoria Hafele	James Katzer
Michelle Gayeski	Gary Salazar
Adrienne Strock	

### **Approval of March 9, 2023 Minutes:**

March meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

## **Chairman's Report**

No report

## **Overview of Arapahoe County Water Plan**

Presentation provided by Will Koger, P.E. Vice President, Division Manager – Forsgren And Clinton Meyer, LRE Water, Project Hydrogeologist

Water is critical resource for anything that is produced. Arapahoe County is looking ahead at this critical issue as there is a tie between land use planning & water supply planning.

The planning team: The planning team includes personnel from Arapahoe County Planning, management consultants, three firms, & technical advisors along with task leaders for various parts of the study.

Overview: The study will examine current & future water needs up to the year 2050. Potential shortages will be identified in pockets of the County where the water supply that is planned may not meet the demand so a strategy can be developed. The team will also evaluate how water can be conserved & used more efficiently, especially with an incline in block rates by water providers.

Tasks & Deliverables: A number of factors will determine water use scenarios including growth, economy, & climate change. Also, a groundwater analysis will be done looking at aquifers & modeling to determine what water can be counted on so that is in line with the projections. There is more concern about xeriscaping & using plants that don't require a lot of water, so moving toward more water conscience landscaping. Water conservation plans will be reviewed to further determine how much water can be provided in the future. Water reuse is also a big topic. For example, indirect water reuse taking water that has been used downstream, treat it again, mix it with mountain water, & reinsert as potable water. There is also indirect potable water reuse, taking the treated wastewater effluent & treat it with advanced treatment to make it drinkable. Although this method is not widely practiced in Colorado, there are new regulations to allow it which will more than likely be part of the future.

Plan Update & Implementation: At the end of the process, a decision will be made as to what makes the most sense to implement. A user-friendly written water supply study will be developed with charts & graphs to make the findings easy to understand.

Outreach & Engagement: An advisory committee has been formed along with a few panels, one with land use planners & one with water planners that will review findings of the study as it progresses & to provide feedback. There will also be a project flyer, webpage, & MetroQuest for community engagement. Public meetings will be held as well as social media updates. These will be finished by May of 2024.

Big Picture of Water Supply: Three fourths of the world is covered with water, but in reality if it was combined it equates to a small drop on the U.S., so there isn't really that much available & it is reused over & over through the hydroelectric cycle. Of the world's water, only 3% is fresh water of which 80% is tied up in the ice caps. There is less than 1% in lakes & rivers. The

difference is what is left in groundwater. Most of Colorado's water comes from the west slope, which is diverted to the east slope & front range which has worked for many years. But now, there is an issue with the Colorado River & the mega drought, which is creating less flow combined with population growth. Important water supplies in the county are surface water, native flows, and Denver basin groundwater which is drought-proof but production decreases over time. The Denver basin is the most important to Arapahoe County & has 4 aquifers. There are more than 600,000 people dependent on these aquifers. The rate of use is faster than the recharging of the aquifer creating more depletion. A lot of water producers are focusing on re-use & conservation.

LRE Water is developing mapping & modeling of the Denver basin for a web page that is publicly available. The interactive pages include page layers of hydrology & land use, arial & basemap information, water quality information for various wells & water districts.

### **Executive Director's Report**

REAP is waiting to hear if a grant will be awarded to hold a 1-day conference related to a water depleted environment. REAP will stay active & involved with water conservation this year. REAP also submitted a letter of support for an oil & gas moratorium suggesting it is not a good idea. Sherry & Kip will be in Byers to present a donation to the Knowledge Bowl team which is about to head to a national competition in New Orleans. Student candidates will be interviewed for a REAP position to translate English to Spanish for the website & other informational materials. A group effort was put forth to get the stoplight installed by CDOT in Bennett so it should be functioning soon. A 1-mile section of Imboden Mile Road has been approved for re-engineering & paving by the end of the year. The capital improvement project involved 7 entities & had to go through a NEPA process. A ribbon cutting will be held for the stoplight & road project. Sherry & Kip will tour with PORT CO to learn about the project, see their conference center, & find out how REAP may be helpful to them in the future. A proposal was made to REAP members present to break the customary policy of holding meetings in July & August. It was noted that traction is lost with so much going on when a 2-month break occurs, so it may be beneficial to continue monthly meetings through the summer. No vote was taken, but feedback was requested. A recap was provided on the XCEL Energy Expo attended by Sherry & Kip. The focus was on EV's & charging stations & distribution of power with new technologies.

Arapahoe County Commissioner, Jeff Baker, gave an update on the land use bill.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.