

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

Denver Water Administration Building  
1600 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Denver, CO  
Board Room, First Floor

Video Conference: <http://zoom.us/join>, Meeting ID: 882 3417 6376, Password: 600590  
or Dial-in: (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 882 3417 6376

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

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**Open Session**

A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held Wednesday, January 24, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference: <http://zoom.us/join>, Meeting ID: 882 3417 6376, Password: 600590 or via Dial-in: (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 882 3417 6376. Members of the Board present during the Regular Meeting were:

**Dominique Gómez, President**  
**Stephanie Donner, First Vice President**  
**Craig Jones, Vice President**  
**Gary M. Reiff, Vice President**

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

A. Salazar, CEO/Manager	D. Higham, Planner Lead
J.A. Anderson, Chief of Staff	A. Hill, Government Relations Liaison
A. Bricmont, Chief Financial Officer	G. Johnson, Planning Manager
J. Brody, General Counsel	A. Joseph, Attorney Sr.
B.D. Good, Chief Administrative Officer	M. Laws, Business Analyst
D. Gorgemans, Chief Internal Auditor	J. Lorton, Director Accounting
R. Mahoney, Chief Engineering Officer	J. Martin, Project Engineer
R. Marsicek, Chief Water Resource Strategy Officer	D. Martinelli, Finance Associate Analyst
T.J. Roode, Chief Operations and Maintenance Officer	P. McCormick, Project Engineer
	J. Mitchell, Financial Planning & Performance Manager

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

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



S. Abram, Director Financial Planning & Performance	S. Nnuro, Internal Sr. Auditor
S. Adamkovics, Finance Sr. Analyst	K. Oligney, Director IT Infrastructure
B. Akins, Finance Sr. Analyst	I. Oliver, Director SOS
K. Arbour, Business Operations Support	C. Palmore, Business Sr. Analyst
J. Archer, Engineering Manager	R. Pence, Engineer
R. Badger, Planning Manager	L. Quintana, Administrative Sr. Assistant
J. Barbier, Engineer Sr.	D. Randall, Engineer Sr.
L. Bissey, Paralegal	J. Reich, IT Infrastructure Tech
C. Burri, Interagency Project Manager	K. Riegle, Attorney Sr.
H. Carroll, IT Support Manager	B. Scott, IT Manager
A. Cavallaro, Paralegal Sr.	C. Shaw, Division Analyst
M. Crosswright, Executive Assistant	L. Southard, Business Operations Support
J. Daly, Procurement Specialist	K. Spahr, Planner Sr.
F. Davis, Rates Manager	K. Taft, Sustainability Manager
R. Davis, Engineer	J. Walter, Finance Analyst
L. Duffy, Finance Sr. Analyst	P. Williams, Executive Assistant
C. Easom, Attorney	D. Wilson, Construction Project Sr. Manager
L. Evora, Executive Assistant	T. Winchell, Planner Sr.
C. Fikan, Finance Associate Analyst	D. Winter, Director Organizational Improvement
K. Fletcher, Business Operations Support	E. Crane
M. Freeman, Grants Administrator	G. Hood, Jacobs
C. Gonzales, Internal Sr. Auditor	M. Vajda
L. Harris, Engineer Sr.	
A. Heidema, Director Engineering – Property	

## INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

Commissioner Gómez called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Upon motion regularly made, seconded and unanimously carried, Commissioner Gant was found to be absent for good cause and was excused.

### **Public Comment and Communications**

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

## **Ceremonies, Awards, and Introductions**

Mr. Gorgemans introduced a new addition to the internal auditing team, Sam Nnuro, in the position of Internal Sr. Auditor. Mr. Nnuro has over 10 years of experience and Denver Water is happy to have him join the team.

## **Executive Personnel Matter**

Upon motion regularly made, seconded and unanimously carried by the Commissioners then present, the Board adopted and approved the appointment of Alan Salazar as Denver Water's permanent CEO/Manager. A copy of the Resolution for Appointment of Alan Salazar as Permanent CEO/Manager is incorporated and attached to these Minutes as Exhibit A.

Commissioner Gómez announced that the Board has selected Alan Salazar as the permanent CEO/Manager for Denver Water, effective immediately. She stated that Mr. Salazar is an established and well-respected leader in our community and understands the importance of bringing different interest groups together, working toward a common goal. Commissioner Gómez also noted Mr. Salazar's warmth, humility, wisdom, and expertise, which make him the perfect fit for Denver Water.

Mr. Salazar stated that he is honored, humbled, challenged, and excited by this opportunity. He emphasized that he is committed to contributing to Denver Water's mission and honored to be affiliated with a conscious-driven organization and the workforce behind the operations.

## **Legislative Update**

Mr. Hill briefly discussed the legislative briefing paper, noting staff support for SB24-005, which prohibits local governments, special districts, and homeowners' associations from installing or allowing nonfunctional turf. Nonfunctional turf is defined as turf that is predominantly ornamental and not regularly used for civic, community, or recreational purposes and does not include residential turf, parks, sports fields, or playgrounds. He added that SB24-005 will be heard tomorrow.

Mr. Hill was available to answer any questions regarding the Legislative Update Briefing Paper. The Board had no questions.

## 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: DONATION OF PROPERTY AT GROSS DAM ROAD AND HIGHWAY 72 TO COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – CONTRACT 505926**

Approved Contract 505926 and declared 0.803 acres as surplus property, no longer needed for water works purposes, for donation to CDOT by the Bargain and Sale Deed.

**2. ITEM II-B-1: WISE DIA CONNECTION**

Ms. Barbier presented the Board with the Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency Partnership (WISE) DIA Connection, a copy of which is attached to and incorporated in these Minutes as Exhibit B. She reported that WISE is a regional water supply project among Denver Water, the City of Aurora, and the South Metro WISE Authority. The WISE DIA Connection is a six-mile, 18-inch pipeline and regulating facility. The DIA Connection project will construct infrastructure needed by the WISE Partnership, by connecting Denver Water's DIA infrastructure to Aurora's Prairie Waters system at Prairie Waters Pump Station Number 2.

The overall goal of the partnership is to reduce reliance on non-renewable water sources in the South Metro Area and develop a sustainable surface water supply by utilizing excess capacity in existing infrastructure and as-available, unused water supplies from Denver Water and Aurora to create a new sustainable water supply for South Metro. South Adams County Water and Sanitation District will share in the cost of the work within the E-470 Right of Way, as described in Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 505968.

Approved award of Contract 505687 to JHL Constructors, Inc. for the WISE DIA Connection 18-inch Main from E. 96<sup>th</sup> Ave. to E. 114<sup>th</sup> Ave. project, for the contract period from January 24, 2024 to April 30, 2025, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$13,718,378.

Approved IGA Agreement 505968 with SACWSC for cost sharing in the WISE DIA Connection crossing of E-470, for the period from January 24, 2024 to April 30, 2033, for a total receivable amount of approximately \$1,160,000.

## POLICY MATTERS

### 3. ITEM III-A: SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW

Ms. Taft presented the Board with the Sustainability Overview and Policy Questions, a copy of which is attached to and incorporated in these Minutes as Exhibit C. She provided an overview of the Denver Water 2024 business model, including sustainability goals and planning, greenhouse gas and energy data, policy questions, and carbon-reduction alternatives. She highlighted Denver Water's environmental stewardship and sustainability progression, explaining that the uncertainty of climate change and limited energy resources create challenges in forecasting energy dependability and estimating long-term costs, thus supporting sustainable practices and investments is a wise choice. Denver Water employees are currently participating in a greenhouse gas reduction cohort in which many utilities are sharing goals of reaching carbon neutrality between 2030 and 2050.

Ms. Taft indicated that while significant progress has been made over the past few years, staff has identified two potential gaps in Denver Water's sustainability strategy for the Board's consideration. She presented two alternative scenarios to achieve net-negative carbon emissions as detailed in the draft Carbon (Emission) Strategy, which provides an overview of the current carbon footprint and lays out pathways to reach carbon zero and/or net-negative carbon. Both scenarios take similar steps to zero emission but involve different timelines.

The Board discussed Denver Water's current financial obligations within the organization and how those obligations may influence sustainability goals and policy decisions going forward. In their consideration of renewable energy, the Board explored alternative sources such as geothermal, in addition to wind, solar, and hydropower.

In response to questions from the Board, staff pointed to additional revenue streams as alternative means of funding this sustainability strategy, such as grants, partnerships, and tax credits to offset upfront capital and operating costs.

Mr. Salazar thanked Ms. Taft and the Board for the opportunity to think long-term about sustainability.

## EXECUTIVE UPDATE

### 4. ITEM IV-B: CEO UPDATE

Mr. Salazar stated that he will be attending the 2024 Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention next week. The gathering brings together water professionals, policymakers, and stakeholders from Colorado and beyond, and provides a forum for education, collaboration, and networking. He added that ongoing discussions and collaboration with Denver City Council have concluded on a high note.

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

Ms. Bricmont reported that the annual audit process is under way and the Board can expect to receive the January Financials for their review in the coming days.

### 6. ITEM IV-C: OPERATIONS UPDATE

Ms. Anderson stated for the record that the Board has received the 2023 Year-in-Review. This report highlights Denver Water's accomplishments for the year, in addition to its established yearly organizational priorities.

## BRIEFING PAPERS & REPORTS

### 7. ITEM V-A-1: BRIEFING PAPER FOR SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW

The Board received a Briefing Paper for Sustainability Overview, a copy of which is incorporated and attached to these Minutes as Exhibit D.

### 8. ITEM V-A-2: BRIEFING PAPER FOR LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY

The Board received a Briefing Paper for Legislative Strategy, a copy of which is incorporated and attached to these Minutes as Exhibit E.

### 9. ITEM V-B-1: BRIEFING PAPER FOR NTP UPDATE

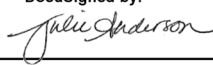
The Board received a Report for the Northwater Treatment Plant, a copy of which is incorporated and attached to these Minutes as Exhibit F.

**10. ITEM V-B-2: BRIEFING PAPER FOR WATER SUPPLY UPDATE**

The Board received a Report for the Water Supply Update, a copy of which is incorporated and attached to these Minutes as Exhibit G.

**ADJOURNMENT**

No further business appearing, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into an Executive Session at approximately 9:56 a.m.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Secretary

DocuSigned by:  
  
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President