



## UEB Meeting Minutes, June 2, 2021

**Meeting Time and Location:** Began at 4:30pm. Held remote via Zoom meeting.

**Attendance:** Jim Kerr, Lee Hall, Larry Quinn, Jerry Rotz, Chris Meline

**Staff:** Aaron Caplan

**Liaison:** Mike Karavas

**Guests:** Debbie Scott, Chris Cope

1. Amendments to Agenda

**None**

2. Approve Minutes from May 19, 2021

Noted that former Christmas house is actually 233 Park and 5 th Street was corrected to 5 th Avenue.

**Approved Unanimously**

3. Audience Business.

Debbie Scott – On PCDC working on Comp Plan wanted to know how to gain access to Town GIS. Recommended she coordinate with Phil Strom, Town Planner, who has Town GIS access and supports the PCDC.

Chris Cope is expected to be appointed to the current UEB opening at the next BOT meeting.

4. Upcoming Meetings

Carol Brehm, MEAN Customer Relations, has requested a meeting next week.

5. Updates

a) Board of Trustees, Mike Karavas

There were no BOT meetings since the last UEB meeting

b) Staff, Engineering. Aaron Kaplan

1) New WWTP outfall – The new outfall began operations on June 1 so the town

can report old outfall data for May and new data for June. The new NPDES discharge permit is now in effect. The town is delaying the \$250K re-rating project temporarily while a federal grant is pursued for larger \$3.5M of needed improvements outlined in the Wright Water report. The re-rating project only covers the new blower and re-routing centrate line.

2) Electric meter reporting. There is a need for analyzing the hourly usage data from the new meters in the future to analyze adopting time of use rates. The current Sensus contract only has the most recent two months worth of data. A separate Sensus contract option for an enhanced meter data management system may be required if we can not figure out how to save the hourly data offline. We will be providing hourly data reports to MEAN for the Net Metered solar applications and it is possible the same routines could be used on all the electric meters to save the data offline. It was noted that the WWTP and pump stations are large town electricity users and timing of operations to avoid peaks should be investigated.

c) UEB Chair – Jim Kerr

MainStage Brewing Company just opened as a bar/restaurant but are planning to build their own onsite brewery. It was requested that any permit applications be passed to the UEB for review on utility issues, particularly wastewater as that has been an issue with other brewing operations in town. It is expected a site development process will be required as they are proposing constructing a separate building to house the brewing operations and will also need three phase power, not currently at the site.

The Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) is promoting a 'night sky initiative' and hopes to cooperate with UEB and Ecology Boards. They are planning a demonstration project in Bohn Park and the UEB role probably revolves around the inventory and assessment of existing street lights in town. Most are old and there are very inconsistent designs in place, many which are not night-sky friendly. Newer subdivisions have used consistent and less bright designs.

The BOT is discussing a return to in-person meetings on Monday. Jim requested that the BOT consider allowing board members to continue to attend and vote via Zoom even if board meetings return to in-person meetings.

d) Other UEB Members

Lee Hall, Solar Farm. CU Denver has delivered preliminary deliverables to the town which are under review. They are on Google drive at 1.25GB and over 300 pages. Links have been provided and Lee will send members the Scope of Services so the UEB can determine if deliverables are adequate. The UEB will probably request a BOT workshop in July on the project. UEB members are to review documents before the next meeting and workshop.

6. Lyons Community Farm

At its 17 May meeting the BOT requested that the UEB review the Lyons Community Farm project for its impact on the Water Utility.

Questions to consider:

1. Should the Water Utility be providing wholesale water rates for this activity like it does for the Botanical Garden?
2. Does the Lyons Municipal Code currently allow a non municipal customer to be granted the wholesale rate?
3. Should this be run under the Parks Department rather than the Water Utility?
4. Should the Water Utility be subsidizing infrastructure improvements and maintenance costs in addition to the wholesale water rates requested?

The UEB discussion focused on water rights and water infrastructure. Currently the town code does not allow for different rates for non municipal customers. If the Parks department managed the project, the town rate could apply. However, it was noted that buyout properties are not considered parks per se. The unused buyout water shares (Flood Damaged Property Taps) could be leased but not given away. It was noted that this project and the botanical gardens are both on town property with leases and that the buyout water shares can be part of leases. The town is down to 8 taps left from buyout properties after allocating others. FEMA dictates that the town cannot make money on buyout infrastructure.

Motion:

The UEB is fine with the temporary leasing of a buyout water share. The Water Fund should not pay for any of the required infrastructure but using the town water rate is ok with no base fee. The leasee or other local grant entity would need to pay for the required infrastructure such as meter pit, yard hydrant, etc.

**Approved Unanimously**

## 7. Net Metering Changes

The UEB has voted on changing the current Net Metering policy for new customers. In addition to these changes Aaron has requested that the UEB consider changing the Net Metering for existing customers from the calendar year to monthly. Note this will adversely affect the bill for existing Net Metering customers but is in line with what some other utilities such as Fort Morgan and Gunnison are billing Net Metering.

This would ultimately be a much more transparent system for consumers. It was decided to delay this discussion until later in 2021 in concert with changing to time of use rates and possibly make the change after the current calendar year.

## 8. New Wastewater General Permit

Due to time restraints, this discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

Meeting ended: 6:05 pm. Minutes Submitted by: Larry Quinn