



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ARAPAHOE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

ATTENDANCE	<p>A regular meeting of the Arapahoe County Planning Commission (PC) was called and held in accordance with the statutes of the State of Colorado and the Arapahoe County Land Development Code.</p> <p>The following Planning Commission members were in attendance: Kathryn Latsis; Randall Miller, Chair; Dave Mohrhaus; Richard Sall; Lynn Sauve, Chair Pro-Tem; and Jamie Wollman.</p> <p>Also present were Robert Hill, Senior Assistant County Attorney; Jason Reynolds, Planning Division Manager; Ava Pecherzewski, Development Review Planning Manager; Molly Orkild-Larson, Principal Planner; Larry Mugler, Planner; Loretta Daniel, Long Range Planning Manager; Kim Lynch, Planning Technician.</p>
CALL TO ORDER	<p>Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and roll was called.</p> <p>The meeting was held in person and through the Granicus Live Manager platform with telephone call-in for staff members and public.</p>
STUDY SESSION ITEMS:	
ITEM 1	<p>ARAPAHOE COUNTY WATER STUDY UPDATE – LARRY MUGLER, PLANNER – PUBLIC WORKS AND DEVELOPMENT (PWD)</p> <p>Study partners Mr. Will Koger, PE, Forsgren Assoc.; Mr. Bill Fronczak, LRE and Ted Heyd, Michael Baker International were introduced by Co-Project Manager Larry Mugler.</p> <p>Mr. Mugler said the purpose of the study session was to provide an update by the consultant team on the County’s Water Supply Study. He stated the purpose of the Water Supply Study was to understand present and future conditions of water supply and demand, to identify efficiencies that could be achieved, and to take steps through comprehensive planning, development review, and regulatory processes to encourage best practices for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation. He stated the primary objective was to ensure that land use decisions were made based on balancing the efficient use of limited water supplies with the needs of new residents and industry to have a reliable water supply.</p> <p>Mr. Koger described how the Water Supply Study had a planning horizon of 2050 and expanded on the scope of an earlier study. He said it would update</p>



	<p>data from the County's 2001 water study and make recommendations for implementing the proposed 300-year rule for groundwater, foster closer partnerships with water districts, and identify options for sustainable water supply, conservation, and reuse. He explained the contract identified 11 tasks and, as of the first of September, four tasks were completed in draft form and work is underway on five others.</p> <p>Mr. Fronczak presented the findings from completed and other tasks on going. More details can be found in the attached presentation. He summarized the Groundwater Study populated with data from the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) and described the legal supply of Denver Basin Groundwater and the amount that has already been allocated. He explained how groundwater data had been input to construct a Petra geological mode to estimate physical supply and compared Petra model results to DWR allocations. He demonstrated the GIS Well Mapping tool that is in development for the study that will assist in more accurately reporting water resources in Arapahoe County (ArapCo). He reported that only 60% of the physical supply from the Denver Basin was actually recoverable. He described growth patterns and concluded the best opportunity for conservation would rely on household and commercial limitation of water use for irrigation.</p> <p>Mr. Heyd discussed the ongoing community outreach activities for water efficiency and other project deliverables. He demonstrated the MetroQuest web tool in development. He reported improved water efficiency over the last 25 years was already in effect. He complemented the proactive approach to landscaping changes in progress for the Land Development Code in ArapCo by the Planning Division staff. He described other available strategies such as water reuse. He stated efficiency goals were needed in water provider planning documents. He concluded flattening demand projections would play a critical role in meeting water demand in 2050. He said the group's next steps would be in developing policy recommendations during the Spring of 2024.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding the urban heat island issue and the need for local policy recommendations, the need for incentives to reduce existing Kentucky bluegrass in long established landscaping and the cascading economic effects of altering away from big commercial water users.</p> <p>Mr. Fronczak noted that the 300-year rule recommended in policy practice was more regularly applied as the 100-year rule. He concluded this practice was ultimately not sustainable to meet growth projections for 2050.</p> <p>Mr. Miller thanked the Study Team, and the Study Session was closed.</p>
ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>Ms. Pecherzewski said there would not be a November 21st PC meeting and the next confirmed PC meeting of 12-19-2023 had two agenda items scheduled.</p>



	Mr. Reynolds reported that LDC23-004 Oil & Gas Amendments Phase 2a had been heard that morning at the BOCC and had passed on a vote of 3-2 in spite the PC's recommendation to deny.
ADJOURNMENT	There being no further business to come before the Planning Commission, the meeting was adjourned.