

Commission Members Present: Craig Bialy, Dan Herlihey (Chair), Matt Elkins, Gene Packer, Randy Lee Williams, Christopher Say, Don Cook (Vice Chair), John Butler

LUC Commission Members Absent: Bill Szmyd, Richard Bilancia, Gary Hausman

Council Liaison Present: Steve Olson

Council Liaison Absent: Andrea Samson

City Staff Members Present: Jim Lees, Nathan Alburn, Donald Cecil, John Faulkner, Chad Birgenheier, Ryan Van Pelt, Catharine Kellogg, Adam Bromley, Kevin Gertig (Director), Melanie Reeves, Noah Cecil, Tracey Hewson, Todd Hanlin, Sharon Israel (Incoming Director), Cyril Vidergar, Travis Johnson

Guest Attendance: None

CALL TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER: Dan Herlihey called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Director Kevin Gertig introduced incoming director Sharon Israel, who will be taking over the week of February 3, 2025. Kevin's last day with the City of Loveland will be Friday, February 7, 2025.

Noah Cecil introduced Senior Assistant City Attorney, Cyril Vidergar, who will be attending LUC meetings in Noah's place, as needed.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Item 2.1: Adoption of Minutes – Dan Herlihey

This item requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2024 meeting.

Recommendation: Adopt A Motion to Approve of the Loveland Utilities Commission Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2024.

Motion: Matt Elkins made the motion.

Second: Randy Williams seconded the motion. The minutes were **approved** with a **6-0 vote**.

CITIZENS REPORT

Item 3.1: Citizens Report

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Item 4.1: Water Treatment Plant Daily and Monthly Flow Report – Chad Birgenheier

This item provides an update on the Loveland Water Treatment Plant daily and monthly flows for the month of December 2024.

Recommendation: Information Item Only. No Action Required.

Item 4.2: Water Supply Update – Ryan Van Pelt

This report focuses on the City's current water supply and the status of our raw water resources for the remainder of the water year (November 1 through October 31).

Recommendation: Information Item Only. No Action Required.

Item 4.3: Water Law and Legislative Update – Ryan Van Pelt

This item provides a brief update on:

- (1) water-related legislation introduced or under discussion by the Colorado General Assembly during the legislative session;
- (2) water court developments or items of interest in District 4 of Water Division 1 (Big Thompson and Little Thompson River basins); and
- (3) Colorado or Loveland-related water news.

Recommendation: Information Item Only. No Action Required.

Item 4.4: Financial Report Update – FYI there will be NO financial reports in January as we wait on year-end closure. We will have an update for you at the February LUC meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Item 5.1: Green Ridge Glade Reservoir Oxygenation – Donald Cecil

The Green Ridge Glade Reservoir Oxygenation Project proposes to install a hypolimnetic oxygenation system at the Chasteen's Grove Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and Green Ridge Glade (GRG) Reservoir. The oxygenation system will supplement oxygen within lower levels of the reservoir, improving water quality, and effectively increasing the firm capacity within the reservoir.

Recommendation: Staff item only. No action required.

Discussion:

John Butler wanted to know the level of oxygenation we anticipate to combat stratification. **Donald Cecil** was not able to give him a specific number but noted that they would be testing various levels when this system is implemented.

Councilor Olsen wanted to know if we would decommission the solar bees. **Donald Cecil** confirmed that this oxygenation system is intended to replace them.

Christopher Say wondered why we are using a liquid oxygenation system over using a blower in the lake. **Donald Cecil** noted that we are specifically addressing the chemical composition of the reservoir.

Dan Herlihey wanted to know about the delivery of the oxygen to the tank near the reservoir and was notified that deliveries will be made from the county road to accommodate the large truck.

COMMISSION & COUNCIL REPORTS

Item 6.1:

Commission Reports

Dan Herlihey: Welcome to Sharon! Dan caught a recent news story that the CDC has started to research potential links between fluoride and developmental issues in child brain development. **Kevin Gertig** confirmed that he saw that story and indicated that the key to the fluoride discussion is the dosage. He agreed that there is more work that needs to be done. Kevin suggested that the group keep up with the research and encouraged regular updates to the LUC. **Sharon Israel** noted that the regulatory framework and established safe levels of fluoride are provided by public health officials. She thinks part of the policy discussion will need to be discussing acute vs. chronic health affects (short term benefits vs. long term risks). She committed to continuing to update the commission with information from the Water Quality lab. We also confirmed that our city fluoride decisions were decided by City Council and are not mandated by the City Charter.

Gene Packer: Gene wanted to know the cost savings of not having the 4th of July display in 2025. **Councilor Olsen** did not have that information.

Bill Szmyd: N.A.

Don Cook: Welcome to Sharon!

Gary Hausman: N.A.

John Butler: None.

Matt Elkins: Welcome to Sharon! Looking forward to meeting you!

Randy Williams: Welcome to Sharon – offered to lend her the book The Big Burn.

Richard Bilancia: N.A.

Christopher Say: Welcome to Sharon! Since the Legislative session has started, are there any upcoming pending state legislation that would affect the utilities or increase costs? **Noah Cecil** noted that there are a few water items coming up (not necessarily regulatory or cost-related) and that they could provide additional information at a future meeting.

Craig Bialy: None.

Council Reports

Steve Olson: Councilor Olsen noted that they are now down to 8 councilors with the departure of Councilor Krenning. Council is in the process of terminating a contract with the law firm that has been used in some of the council-related litigation, and he is hoping this will save the city some money. Steve gave a brief overview of the Oil and Gas presentation that Council received yesterday (1/14/2025). Council had some time off and it was nice to having no meetings during the holidays. Steve wanted to thank everyone for taking the time to participate in the Loveland Utilities Commission!

Andrea Samson: N.A.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Item 7.1: Director's Report – Kevin Gertig

1. Welcome Sharon Israel, incoming Director of Utilities for Loveland Water and Power!
2. Water Project Updates for December– see **Attachment A**.

3. AMI Deployment Project Updates for January – see **Attachment B**.
4. **John Faulkner** gave an update on a leak near South Namaqua Road. There was a large portion of the pipe that was corroded out the bottom. We had to reach out to a contractor to assist with the large replacement.
5. Kevin wanted to give his sincere thanks to the Commission. His entire career has been public service to the utilities – there is nothing more rewarding! When you love your profession, every day is a joy (in spite of the challenges)! Kevin has been with the COL for the past three years but has spent 49 years in the industry. He’s happy to wrap up a wonderful career here in Loveland. He encouraged Sharon to continue with asset management and storytelling regarding the capital improvement needs here. He is also very proud of the work that staff put into the Alexander Mountain Fire operation.
 - a. **Councilor Olsen** wanted to know what we need to do to prepare for a future fire on the south side of the canyon. Kevin recommended a pre-sedimentation basin that would help alleviate the issues of sediment/runoff that occurs after a fire. He is confident that staff is already working on a lot of solutions and plans for the future. He also encouraged some upgrades in the interconnects. Councilor Olsen requested that we bring a proposal or explanation of this need to Council as soon as possible to emphasize the importance of this need.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at **4:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Reeves
Recording Secretary
Loveland Utilities Commission /s/ Dan Herlihey, Chair

