

Water Development Task Force  
Thursday - August 19, 2004

Ron Kroeger called the Task Force meeting to order at 12:10 PM on Thursday, August 19, 2004. The following members were present: Dave Fisher, Jeff Davis, Julie Pearson, Chris Orr, Jerry Cole, John Wagner and Ron Kroeger.

Kroeger reported that the City Council approved an extension of the water conservation measures on August 16, 2004. The odd/even numbered watering day requirement will continue through the end of October, 2004.

Water Division Superintendent John Wagner distributed a binder to each Task Force member containing information on what has taken place over the years. A previous committee was established in the late 1980s and met for approximately one year. The binder also contains information on water usage, previous committee actions and the ordinance implementing water restrictions which was approved by the Rapid City Council in May, 1994.

Kroeger recommended that the Task Force establish short and long-term goals. The one short-term goal that was identified, extending the conservation measures, has been accomplished. The only long-term goal identified to date is to get all water users together to see if we can look at ways to conserve water. Kroeger recommended that the Task Force identify other short-term goals.

At the last meeting, the Task Force talked about the levels listed in the ordinance and if they need to be changed. Wagner explained that there are four levels: normal, concerned, critical and brownout. If changes are made to the existing conservation measures, it will require a great deal of public education and enforcement at the beginning. Also, if we were to go to watering one day a week, everyone would really pour the water on that day and we might end up using more water. These types of issues will also make it difficult to determine what the water usage will be each day.

Fisher stated that he was not talking about changing the existing conservation measures for watering, but perhaps adding another level between concerned and critical which would trigger additional conservation measures.

Wagner added that any measures implemented by the city will only affect the levels used by the city which is between 25%-50% of the water coming from the reservoir. The District is the bigger user of water flowing from Pactola Reservoir. Fisher asked how the Task Force could get the District on board with this issue. Wagner suggested that a representative from the District be added to the Task Force membership. Kroeger supported adding members from the major water users. However, we cannot put a member on for each user or the task force will be too large and nothing will be accomplished. He suggested that the Task Force meet with groups of the users a few at a time so that something can be accomplished. Wagner noted that the cost of water to

the District has increased so he feels they would be agreeable to working with the Task Force on these issues.

Kroeger asked for input on who the additional members of the Task Force should be. After discussion, it was the consensus that a representative from the following groups should be invited to attend the next meeting: 1) the District (Kroeger will contact Jerry Hammerquist or Duane Scott) 2) Ellsworth Air Force Base (Kroeger will contact Larry Bulman for a suggested representative), and 3) Rapid Valley Water & Sanitary District (Julie Pearson will contact Diane Nelson). There was discussion about including a representative from the Bureau of Reclamation on the Task Force. Fisher stated that he feels Curt Anderson would be willing to come to the next meeting and share any information he has on these issues. Fisher agreed to contact Anderson and invite him to the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Noon on Friday, September 3, 2004 in the Caucus Room of the City/School Administration Center.

Fisher requested that Wagner think about a workable "step" that the Task Force could consider adding to the conservation measures between where we are now and the next step which is an additional 20' lower in the reservoir. Kroeger agreed that we need to inform the public when the water level is going down in Pactola. If the city waits until the "brownout" stage, the public will be asking why they weren't told about the problem before it got to that level.

Cole suggested that we change the alert status to fit the criteria we are discussing. The only difference between the normal and alert levels is extending the conservation measures past August. Rather than adding a new level to the conservation measures, perhaps the percentages could be adjusted in the existing document.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 P.M.