



MEMORANDUM

CWS File #19-140

To: Ben Wade, CWCB

From: Michelle Hatcher, *MH* Sira Sartori *SS*

cc: Leif Lesoing, Town of Windsor

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: 25% Progress Report for the Town of Windsor's Drought Management Plan

Clear Water Solutions (CWS) is assisting the Town of Windsor with developing a Drought Management Plan (DMP) in accordance with State regulations following the Guidance Document produced by the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The Guidance Document outlines eight tasks in the drought management planning process and the Town has completed Task 1 and Task 2. As discussed in the Scope of Work, this 25% Progress Report includes the following elements:

- The success of meeting identified goals and objectives
- Obstacles encountered
- Preliminary findings or accomplishments¹
 - Role of the Drought Planning Committee
 - List of objectives and operating principles
 - Impacts and effects of historical drought on water supplies
 - Mitigation and response strategies historically implemented and effectiveness
- Potential need for revisions to the scope of work and timelines

A kick-off meeting was held over Zoom with Town Staff on November 3, 2020 to select a Drought Planning Committee to participate and provide feedback in the DMP planning process. The Committee is a stakeholder group composed of Town staff from various departments. During the first Drought Planning Committee meeting, held on January 12, 2021, the Committee discussed plan objectives and principles, historical drought impact and assessed drought vulnerability with the stakeholders.

The Committee decided the objective of the Plan was to:

- Outline an approach for Town staff and decision makers to respond to a drought in an organized manner.

¹ Findings in this progress report are preliminary and are subject to change in the final report.

Windsor's Drought Management Plan
25% Progress Report
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A list of water use priorities was also developed during the first Committee meeting to provide guidance in the decision-making process. The following water use priorities were established:

- Drought response actions should be implemented in a manner that reflects the priorities that have been determined by the Town with the highest priority being health and safety;
- Effective coordination among Town staff is vital to the success of this Plan and any necessary exceptions to the Plan must be communicated clearly to all staff;
- Economic development is important to the Town and providing adequate drought protection for current residents is important to providing a healthy sustainable community;
- When possible, efforts should be taken to preserve the environmental and recreational value of the community.

Windsor's treated water (or potable water) supplies consist of Colorado-Big Thompson units (C-BT) and North Poudre Irrigation Company (NPIC) shares. Windsor is also in the process of changing Greeley and Loveland Irrigation Company shares, Seven Lakes Reservoir Company shares and Loveland and Greeley Reservoir Company rights in Case No. 18CW3042. Windsor's water is treated by three other entities – the Fort Collins-Loveland Water District (FCLWD), the North Weld County Water District (NWCWD) and the City of Greeley. Windsor is served treated water through a total of five master meters from the FCLWD, NWCWD and Greeley. Long-term water treatment contracts with these water providers establish the terms of service including amount, duration, and payment. Windsor owns its water rights for raw water and turns needed water over to the providers each year for treatment and delivery.

The Town's firm yield exceeds customer demands; however, a multi-year drought can still have an impact on the Town. Multi-year droughts draw down the storage supplies, lessening the firm yield over time. In addition, the projected population increases for Windsor and more generally along the Front Range makes the acquisition of additional water supplies more costly and scarce, especially during drought periods when the competition to lease water increases. The price per C-BT unit has skyrocketed since the early 2000s and is now valued at \$60,000 per unit based on Northern Water's records (2020). The average long-term yield is 0.7 acre-feet per unit which equates to over \$85,000 per acre-foot. The 2020 price per unit of C-BT water has more than doubled since 2018.

Historically, Windsor's water supplies have been sufficient during mild drought periods. During the severe drought in the early 2000s, Windsor had to lease additional C-BT supplies to meet customer demands. In 2003, established Windsor a waste water ordinance and a water restriction ordinance in response to the drought. Programs to target demand side reductions could have helped reduce the water supply gap during the drought. Since the time, Windsor has implemented various water efficiency activities to save water. The per-capita water use has a downward trend even though Windsor's population has increased since the 2000s. The Committee participated in a discussion

about the historical drought impacts related to the Town's water supply. The Town staff discussed impacts such as leasing additional water supplies, needing temporary infrastructure to maintain augmentation obligations, replacing turf at parks, and ensuring citizen safety of sporting fields as summarized in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Summary of historical drought impacts and severity.

Historical Impact	Severity
Increased costs and staff time	Significant
Public landscaping stressed or killed	Significant
Safety of public sporting fields	Moderate

Minor – very little potential impact, will not require much staff time or resources to address

Moderate – some potential impact, will require more staff time to address

Significant – key potential impact concern, will be primary focus for staff

Windsor has been successful in meeting its goals for the project to-date. No major obstacles have been encountered during the development of the DMP. The only minor obstacle is keeping the schedule on-time as the Town staff have other priorities that require their attention. **Table 2** provides an updated schedule. The next steps are to conduct the second Drought Planning Committee and submit the 50% progress report.

Table 2. Revised DMP Update timeline.

Task	Date
CWCB approves grant and PO issued	10/20/20
Kick-Off Meeting with staff	11/3/20
Drought Planning Committee Meeting #1	12/12/20
Submit 25% progress report to CWCB	4/26/21
Submit 50% progress report to CWCB	6/10/21
Drought Planning Committee Meeting #2	6/10/21
Submit 75% progress report to CWCB	7/16/21
Submit draft plan to staff for review and comment	8/6/21
Drought Planning Committee Meeting #3 (optional)	8/25/21
Present draft report at Town Board Meeting	9/27/21
Notify public of draft plan in paper and website	9/28/21
Public review period (60 days) end date	11/29/21
Town Board formally adopts final report	1/17/22
CWS submits final report to CWCB	1/20/22
CWCB approves final report	up to 90 days

Note: proposed dates are in blue.