

# December 17 Utilities Board meeting recap

by Kim on 12/19/2014

In case you missed the Utilities Board meeting earlier this week, here's a quick recap. You can also visit our website to [watch recordings of previous board meetings](#).

## **Board approves two significant solar projects**

The Board voted to purchase Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs), which will assist in compliance with Colorado Renewable Energy Standards, and help achieve the [2020 Energy Vision](#) of 20 percent renewable energy.

In addition, the Utilities Board approved a purchase power agreement for a solar array to be built near the Nixon Power Plant (Clear Spring Ranch), south of Colorado Springs. This also supports the Energy Vision and state mandate for renewables. In order to receive three times the credit toward Colorado Renewable Energy Standards, the project needs to be complete by June 30, 2015.

## **Utilities Board governance process proceeds**

The Board agreed to move forward with implementing a Board Governance Public Process Plan beginning in January. Information will be provided as meetings and agendas are determined.

## **Proposed assignment for [Utilities Policy Advisory Committee \(UPAC\)](#)**

The Utilities Board approved UPAC's economic development assignment, which includes: annexation and infill policies, the role of Colorado Springs Utilities in economic development and growth, and line extension policies. UPAC will begin its assignment next month and will provide the Board with an update in March and a recommendation in May.

UPAC is a fact-finding body whose mission is to review, analyze and, when appropriate, provide recommendations to the Utilities Board regarding the various overall strategic operating and financial policies for Colorado Springs Utilities.

## **Strategic planning**

The Utilities Board approved the proposed Strategic Plan, which includes the addition of long-range strategic enterprise plans to the strategic planning process; the strategy map's themes and objectives; the five-year enterprise strategic initiatives and the five-year enterprise balanced scorecard. The Board will meet throughout the year on long-range strategic planning.

## **[Electric Integrated Resource Plan \(EIRP\)](#) update**

Staff provided an update on 2015 EIRP planning effort. The EIRP is a long-term strategic plan used to guide resource acquisition, conservation and demand-side management decisions to meet customer electric demand over a 20-year horizon.

Last updated in 2012, the EIRP is being updated now to address new and changing energy-related factors including proposed environmental regulations, the 2020 Energy Vision, potential Martin Drake Power Plant decommissioning, fuel prices and bill impact, demand response and reliability, and new technologies.