

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Water 2025 | Community Working Group Meeting #1**  
**Westminster Municipal Service Center**  
**May 22, 2018 | 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Purpose**

- Establish roles and responsibilities of the Community Working Group (CWG)
- Gain a common understanding of the site selection project purpose, need and schedule
- Gain a common understanding of the site selection project decision making process
- Identify community values to inform the site selection process

**Welcome & Intros**

Max Kirschbaum, City of Westminster Director of Public Works and Utilities, welcomed meeting attendees, thanking them for their time and commitment to the CWG. He explained the need for a new drinking water treatment facility and underscored the importance of considering technical and community factors to identify the facility's location. He noted that investing in a new drinking water facility is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that requires long-term planning to ensure redundancy in providing such an essential public service. Max stressed that community values identified through the CWG and public process will inform the technical review, and ultimately, the final site recommended to City Council later this year.

Angela Jo Woolcott, project consultant, then explained her role as meeting facilitator and introduced project team members. She gave CWG members the opportunity to introduce one another, sharing what they hope to gain from this process. Themes that arose from this discussion include:

- The importance of a secure drinking water supply for future generations and quality of life
- The need for proactive, clear and inclusive communication to engage voices from the entire community
- Prioritizing resource stewardship, sustainability, conservation and environmental issues
- An interest in helping create an empowering and community-focused process

Angela pointed out commonalities in attendees' answers and emphasized the importance of diversity in the CWG. Angela also notified the group that some participating organizations were unable to attend the kick-off but that their attendance at future meetings will provide additional stakeholder perspective.

**Community Working Group Process**

Angela walked through meeting guidelines, and discussed the roles and responsibilities of the CWG, reiterating that the CWG is critical to the success of the project. She explained that members of the CWG are representatives of the community and their respective organizations, and are there to represent broad perspectives over individual interests. The project team will not

only ask the CWG to preview information, but rely on them to help disseminate project information to constituent groups and the community.

Angela also outlined the commitment expected of CWG members. Members are asked to attend approximately 3-4 meetings through the end of 2018 and appoint alternates if unable to attend. They will serve as project ambassadors and attend and/or promote as many public events as possible. Angela added that CWG members may have homework between meetings, and they are expected to come prepared for each meeting.

Angela reviewed the site selection decision-making process based on technical and operational requirements, as well as significant community engagement, noting that City Council will make the ultimate decision regarding a site, and the project team aims to take a site recommendation to City Council this winter. When Angela paused to see if there were any clarifying questions, attendees stated they did not have any.

CWG members agreed to the meeting guidelines and to support the roles and responsibilities outlined in the presentation. Angela asked permission to post the CWG roster on the website; there were no concerns or objections. She mentioned that the project team will also post meeting materials to the project website within 7-10 business days following each meeting.

## **Project Overview**

Christine Gray, City of Westminster Project Manager, provided context on the City's existing drinking water system and facilities, as well as the process that led to the planned replacement of Semper Water Treatment Facility. She also explained the site selection goals, process and schedule.

Christine discussed with the CWG why a new drinking water facility is needed. The maintenance and reliability challenges of operating an aging drinking water facility were identified, including system vulnerabilities to drought and wildfire. Christine described the City's comprehensive evaluation process to determine that building a new treatment facility is more efficient and cost-effective than continuing to maintain the 50-year-old Semper facility with increasingly expensive and challenging updates.

Miles Graham, project consultant, shared an overview of the project outreach process and timeline. He pointed out major upcoming technical and outreach milestones, explaining how they align. He relayed key themes from initial community interviews, noting that CWG members would have the opportunity to reflect on and add to these themes during small group discussion later in the evening. The initial interview themes were:

- **Community-focused communication**
  - There is a need and appreciation for an inclusive and proactive approach to outreach that seeks diverse stakeholder input early and often.
- **Thoughtful and forward-thinking**
  - Building a new water treatment facility is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The process for choosing a site should include considerations for future Westminster residents through intentional planning, responsible development and a long-term management strategy.
- **Site and facility characteristics**

- The ultimate location is the highest and best use for the site and is chosen with an emphasis on community context, potential amenities and sustainability.

## **Small Group Discussion**

Angela split the group into two and led, with assistance from Miles and project consultant Hannah Rimar, small group discussions. The goal of the discussion was to identify community values that will help inform the site selection process for Westminster's new drinking water facility. Angela reconvened the groups, who reported out the following key values:

- A site for the new drinking water facility that:
  - Provides seamless service and high-quality product (drinking water)
  - Accommodates future growth
  - Is centrally located, to reduce energy/cost related to pumping
  - Preserves valuable green space
  - Blends with the surrounding community
  - Offers opportunity for water education and community amenities
  - Utilizes advanced technologies
  - Sustainably manages natural resources
  - Minimizes property impacts to residents and businesses
  - Maximizes return on investment
- Proactive and clear communications that:
  - Explain why a new facility is needed
  - Define the process going forward
  - Engage diverse and multi-cultural communities
  - Identify current and future community benefits
  - Provide increasingly detailed and localized information
  - Identify cost and water rate implications
  - Share opportunities to get involved
  - Create an inclusive community process, especially in neighborhoods that are impacted the most

## **Closing**

Angela thanked members for their participation, explaining that the project team would be contacting members in the near future with a meeting summary, a Doodle poll to determine dates for a Semper Water Treatment Facility tour and an update on upcoming CWG meeting and public event dates.

## **Attendees**

### **Project Team**

- Max Kirschbaum (City of Westminster)

- Christine Gray (City of Westminster)
- Joe Reid (City of Westminster)
- Miles Graham (GBSM)
- Angela Jo Woolcott (GBSM)
- Hannah Rimar (GBSM)

## **Community Working Group**

- Matt Schaefer (Adams 12 Five Star Schools)
- Rich Seymour (Community Representative)
- Mike Smith (Community Representative)
- Kristin Green (Conservation Colorado)
- Aaron Dunn (Covenant Village)
- Joe Talarico (Developer)
- Paola Babb (Growing Home)
- Lorena Osorio (Growing Home)
- Sunnie Gist (Lao Buddhist Temple)
- Chris Ridgeway (Neighbors for Countryside)
- Dennis White (Parks, Recreation, Libraries, and Open Space Advisory Board)
- Jerry Oksner (St. Anthony North Health Campus)
- Juliet Abdel (Westminster Chamber of Commerce)
- Chip Howes (Westminster Chamber of Commerce)
- Don Fiddes (Westminster Environmental Advisory Board)
- Angie O'Brien (Westminster Inclusivity Board)
- Cathy White (community member)