

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Shawn Kohtz, Utilities Director

SUBJECT: Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) Engagement Plan

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION: **Consider the Motion:** *I move to approve the Integrated Water Resources Plan Engagement Plan.*

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.2 Community Engagement: Broaden and deepen engagement of the community in city government, innovating methods for inviting input from the community and stakeholders.

BACKGROUND: In 2013, the Bozeman City Commission adopted an Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP), which identifies recommended water supply and use policies and practices for consideration to ensure Bozeman has adequate supplies available to meet future demands. Since that time, the City has made progress implementing many of the IWRP's recommendations, all while Bozeman has changed since 2013. It is important to continue to have an accurate and clear plan for development of future City water supplies, a clear understanding of progress implementing supply alternatives since 2013, and demand reduction achieved through effective water conservation programming.

As the City engages the community throughout the IWRP update, clear and mindful communication is needed to avoid misunderstandings, tell Bozeman's exceptional water story, and talk productively about our water supply, and the pros and cons of longer-term strategies. The City is committed to developing an IWRP update that reflects the needs of our growing community and Bozeman's longstanding character. Gathering community input throughout the process is critical to this.

The City has hired Raftelis, a municipal communications consultant with extensive experience communicating water resource management concepts, to assist City staff in the development and implementation of the IWRP Engagement Plan. The key messages identified in the Engagement Plan include:

- Bozeman depends on a safe and reliable water supply;
- Ensuring water reliability is complex in Bozeman;
- Long-term planning has always been part of Bozeman's water

management approach;

- The City is updating its IWRP to ensure a sustainable water future for Bozeman today and for future generations;
- Water conservation will continue to be a priority for Bozeman; and
- Bozeman will evaluate the water required to supply a range of growth scenarios.

Raftelis, supported by City staff, will provide a presentation on the IWRP Engagement Plan, including an overview of key partners, identified levels of engagement, goals for community engagement, and an engagement timeline. The City Commission is requested to provide general direction and guidance on the proposed plan and key questions and consider the approval of the proposed Engagement Plan.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by the Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: None. Consultant contracts to support community engagement work have already been approved in the amount of \$124,880.00 (Raftelis) and \$98,743.00 (AE2S) and will be paid for from the Water fund.

Attachments:

[IWRP Community Engagement Plan.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: March 26, 2025