

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Sustainability Board

FROM: Jessica Ahlstrom, Water Conservation Program Manager
Shawn Kohtz, Director of Utilities

SUBJECT: Water Advisory Committee for the Integrated Water Resources Plan Update

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION: Water Advisory Committee for the Integrated Water Resources Plan Update.

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. The City is embarking on an update to the 2013 IWRP to continue to have an accurate and clear plan for Bozeman's water future.

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.

On April 8, 2025, the City Commission approved the [Integrated Water Resources Plan Engagement Plan](#) (Engagement Plan), which included an overview of key partners, levels of engagement, goals for community engagement, and an engagement timeline. In addition to broad public engagement, the Engagement Plan calls for the creation of a temporary Water Advisory Committee (WAC), comprised of two subcommittees: a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Public Advisory Committee (PAC). The City Commission supported the WAC framework, which included Sustainability Board representation on the PAC.

Jessica Ahlstrom, Water Conservation Program Manager, will provide a brief

overview of the WAC, including expectations and the anticipated time commitment for Sustainability Board members to consider.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by the Board.

FISCAL EFFECTS: None.

Attachments:

[Bozeman_WAC_OnePager_FINAL.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: May 9, 2025