

# Water Advocacy Task Force

## Updated Recommendation

to the

Rapid City City Council

April 2014

As an update to the July 2007 Water Advocacy Task Force Recommendation, the Task Force recommends the following:

1. The City of Rapid City should initiate, as soon as possible, the design and replacement of the Mountain View Water Treatment Facility. At a minimum the facility should be designed to provide water for the citizens of the community through the year 2040. In order to expeditiously accomplish this the City should first or concurrently proceed with the following:
  - a. Initiate an asset assessment to identify the needs of the integrated water system to include, at a minimum, the replacement of crucial components of the system that have exceeded its useful life and expansion needs for storage, fire flows, and life safety issues.
  - b. Initiate an update to the City's Water System Master Plan and establish the 2040 design capacity for the Mt. View Water Treatment Facility.
  - c. Initiate a water rate study to review the adequacy of the City's water rates for funding the proposed replacement of the Mountain View Water Treatment Facility.
2. The City of Rapid City should adopt a, "Water Management Plan Resolution", establishing at a minimum the following:

Develop a Mission Statement for the operation of the City of Rapid City water system stating, that the Public Works Water Division shall strive to insure optimal use of all City surface and ground water sources and shall recognize that the City's water sources are beneficial for municipal, industrial, and recreational uses.

The core values for operating the City's water system shall entail the following:

- a. Continue promoting water conservation measures as they relate to Pactola Reservoir per current ordinances.
- b. Continue water conservation efforts to include central irrigation/weather irrigation controller systems for City owned properties.
- c. Continue to pursue the purchase of senior downstream, "Natural flow" water rights.
- d. Utilize surface water sources to the greatest extent, when available, and supplement these sources with groundwater sources as necessary.