

LARAMIE CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO: 2023-35

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LARAMIE CITY COUNCIL CERTIFYING
THE CASPER AQUIFER PROTECTION PLAN UPDATE-A COLLABORATION
BETWEEN ALBANY COUNTY AND THE CITY OF LARAMIE-IN ITS
ENTIRETY.**

WHEREAS, Wyoming Statutes Section 15-1-502 authorizes cities to form a planning commission;

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of Laramie (City) and Albany County has reaffirmed that safeguarding the City's drinking water provided by the Casper Aquifer is critical to the protection of public health, safety and welfare within the City and Albany County;

WHEREAS, the Casper Aquifer supplies more than fifty-five percent (55%) of the City's fresh drinking water and one hundred percent (100%) of the fresh drinking water to the rural homeowners that fall within the Casper Aquifer Recharge Area;

WHEREAS, the delineated recharge area of the Casper Aquifer encompasses approximately seventy-two (72) square miles that lie east of the City and extends to the crest of the Laramie Range. The northern boundary is five (5) miles north of the City limits and the southern boundary is approximately six (6) miles south of the City limits. The City's four (4) municipal wellfields are included in the area. Exposure of the Casper Formation in the delineated area results in increased vulnerability to contamination from land uses;

WHEREAS, inappropriate development on the Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone can adversely affect the quality of the City's drinking water through the intentional or unintentional release of contaminants which is harmful to the health, safety and welfare of City residents;

WHEREAS, the City, in Resolution 2002-02, charged the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) to study and monitor the groundwater quality and formulate an aquifer protection plan;

WHEREAS, in 2002, the City adopted the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan that provides scientific analysis, conclusions and policies for the protection of the Casper Aquifer;

WHEREAS, in 2002, the City adopted Ordinance No. 1404, establishing the Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone providing development standards for properties within the boundaries of the Casper Aquifer Protection Area;

WHEREAS, in 2006, due to growing concerns about the quality of the Casper Aquifer water, development pressure and time passed since the plan and regulations were adopted

the City through Resolution 2006-78 authorized the update of the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan;

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2007, the City Council adopted the Laramie Comprehensive Plan which states that protection of the Casper Aquifer is of high priority, listed as a vulnerable feature and is the primary water supply for City residents.

WHEREAS, through a multi-year process, numerous public meetings and many public hearings the Laramie Planning Commission, at their February 25, 2008 meeting, recommended approval of the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan and Aquifer Protection Ordinance to the City Council;

Whereas, on June 3, 2008 the Laramie City Council, following three readings and multiple public hearings concurred with the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval and adopted the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan and Aquifer Protection Ordinance;

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2021 the County and City published a Request for Proposal for Albany County and City of Laramie Casper Aquifer Protection Plan Update;

WHEREAS, a joint review of proposals was conducted by City and County Staff which resulted in a contract that was made and duly executed with Stantec (Contractor) on December 9, 2021, in accordance with the authorization by majority vote of the duly elected members of the City Council of Laramie and Albany County commissioners;

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Laramie City Council and Albany County Board of Commissioners appointed an Intergovernmental Committee made of elected officials from the City and County staff to oversee the development of the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan Update;

WHEREAS, throughout the process the Intergovernmental Committee held meetings to formulate the direction of the planning process, consider public input and provide guidance related to the direction of the plan.

WHEREAS, throughout the process the City of Laramie Planning Commission met on December 6, 2022, January 23, 2023, February 13, 2023 and on March 27, 2023 to provide input on the planning process, consider public input and provide guidance related to the direction of the plan.

WHEREAS, throughout the process the Albany County Planning and Zoning Commission met on January 30, 2023 and March 15, 2023, as well as discussed the Plan at most meetings in 2022 and 2023, to provide input on the planning process, consider public input and provide guidance related to the direction of the plan.

WHEREAS, throughout the process the Environmental Advisory Committee, City of Laramie Planning Commission, Albany County Planning and Zoning Commission met at

a Joint Work Sessions on September 21, 2022 to provide input on the planning process, consider public input and provide guidance related to the direction of the plan.

WHEREAS, throughout the process the Intergovernmental Steering Committee, Environmental Advisory Committee, City of Laramie Planning Commission, Albany County Planning and Zoning Commission met at a Joint Work Sessions on August 24, 2022 and November 29, 2022 to provide input on the planning process, consider public input and provide guidance related to the direction of the plan.

WHEREAS, City, County, and Contractor staff held numerous opportunities for public input through many public meetings with the Planning Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, online, during Focus Group meetings and public meetings related to the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan Update;

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2023 the Environmental Advisory Committee adopted Resolution 2023-01, supporting the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan 2023 Update;

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2023 the Laramie Planning Commission voted to approve Resolution 2023-04, adopting the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan Update;

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2023 the Albany County Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend approval the adoption the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan Update to the Board of County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, on July 5, 2023 the Albany County Board of County Commissioners voted to recommend approval the adoption of the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan Update;

NOW THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF LARAMIE, WYOMING, RESOLVES:

Section 1. Wyoming State Statute § 16-1-101 endorses joint planning efforts like the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan Update with the following language: “In exercising, performing or carrying out any power, privilege, authority, duty or function legally vested in any one (1) or more of them by Wyoming law, the state of Wyoming, and any one (1) or more of its counties, municipal corporations, school districts, special districts, public institutions, agencies, boards, commissions and political subdivisions, and any officer or legal representative of any one (1) or more of them, may cooperate with and assist each other, and like entities or authorities of other states, the United States and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes of the Wind River Reservation. Cooperation may be informal or subject to resolution, ordinance or other appropriate action, and may be embodied in a written agreement specifying purposes, duration, means of financing, methods of operations, termination, acquisition and disposition of property, employment of executive and subordinate agents, reciprocation of governmental immunity protections or other limitations of liability pursuant to W.S. 16-1-104(f) and other appropriate provisions.”

Section 2. The Albany County Board of Commissioners is following the County's approved process for adopting the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan Update. This process is being carried out congruently with the City's process of adopting the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan Update.

Section 3. Therefore, pursuant to Wyoming State Statute § 16-1-101, the Laramie City Council hereby certifies the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan Update in its entirety, included as an Attachment to the resolution, for the physical development of the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan Update as described in the plan and as approved by the Laramie Planning Commission for adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED the 5th day of July, 2023.



Brian Harrington, Mayor and President of the
City Council



Attest: 

Nancy Bartholomew, CMC, City Clerk

Duly published in the Laramie Boomerang this 12th day of July, 2023.