



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: HILARY SUEOKA, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS MANAGER
RE: WORK SESSION RE. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER CONSERVATION SECTION OF THE FRISCO TOWN CODE; SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 171-20, 170-21, 170-22, AND 171-23.
DATE: MARCH 12, 2024

Summary and Background: Chapter 171, Article V of the Frisco Town Code establishes a four-phase water conservation and water use restriction system for the Town of Frisco. The water conservation phases are based upon the need to conserve water as determined by the level of water flow in North Ten Mile Creek, or by the average yield of the Town's water wells, or by a combination of the two.

The current Code defines two zones for water use, a "North Zone" that consists of all land served by the town's water utility system that is north of Main Street and a "South Zone" that consists of all land served by the town's water utility system that is south of Main Street. Watering times in the Town are defined by these zones.

Town Staff have been working with High Country Conservation Center (HC3) and other jurisdictions in the County to align with recent research and community outreach on water conservation. HC3 is recommending a unified watering schedule across Summit County to improve compliance with statewide water conservation standards. Participation in a Growing Water Smart workshop identified that "time of day/week requirements are the low hanging fruit of water conservation and efficiency." HC3 worked with a graduate student to conduct extensive research and community outreach, and found that:

- Unified schedules, even if voluntary, set a baseline for future conservation measures, such as separate landscape meters, minimum efficiency standards, and limiting turf;
- A unified irrigation schedule reduces confusion and increases compliance;
- Legislators and administrators responsible for resource conservation benefit from establishing a common system that may be adjusted in times of drought;
- Several landscapers contacted by HC3 support countywide consistency;
- A unified irrigation schedule exemplifies collaborative resource management.

To unify watering schedules across Summit County, HC3 proposes the following schedule:

Proposed Summit County Irrigation Schedule		
Last full number in address is even	Nights to water: Tue, Thu, Sat	Time to water: Overnight, 6pm – 9am
Last full number in address is odd	Nights to water: Wed, Fri, Sun	

Amendments to Chapter 171, Article V of the Frisco Town Code are before the Town Council for review, and potential action on first reading, on March 12, 2024.

Analysis: Amending the watering schedule outlined in Section 171, Article V of the Town Code will allow for participation in the county-wide unified watering schedule and lead to increased compliance with water conservation efforts. Staff proposes the following amendments for Phases 1, 2, and 3 water use restrictions to align with HC3's recommendation:

- Change from Frisco's "North Zone" and "South Zone" designations to two zones based on address number; and
- Change times from 6:00 am to 9:00 am or 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to anytime overnight, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Financial Impact: There is no direct financial impact related to these code amendments.

Environmental Sustainability: This ordinance would promote environmental sustainability by improving water conservation guidance, administration, and compliance.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: The 2023-2026 Frisco Strategic Plan was adopted on July 25, 2023, and includes the strategic objective, "We provide progress-driven Quality Core Services." Within this objective, one key pillar is environmental stewardship and reducing the effects of climate change.

The proposed modifications would improve stewardship of the Town's water resources and is consistent with the Strategic Plan and the Town Council's goals for promoting sustainability.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Town Council Approve Ordinance 24-07 on First Reading and direct staff to bring forward the Ordinance for consideration at 2nd Reading at the March 26, 2024 Town Council meeting.

Reviews and Approvals: This report has been reviewed and approved by:

Diane McBride, Assistant Town Manager
Tom Fisher, Town Manager
Leslie Edwards, Finance Director

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Ordinance 24-07
Attachment 2 – Unifying Watering Schedules Across Summit County, High Country Conservation Center