



**OFFICE OF WELD COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**WELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
2025– 2nd Quarter  
REPORT TO THE PEOPLE**

The Weld County Council is mandated in accordance with the Home Rule Charter of Weld County, Colorado, to report to the people of Weld County on a quarterly basis, those matters related to the council's review of Weld County government. This report summarizes the activities of the Weld County Council during the second quarter of the calendar year 2025.

**April 21, 2025**

**Presentation by Patrick O'Neill – Director of Facilities**

Facilities is currently working on a cost comparison for a judicial center to be built downtown or on O Street. The judicial center is projected to take 49-60 months to complete.

Mr. O'Neill said his department has 35 full time skilled professionals, 8 security professionals, 3 custodial professionals, and 4 construction and project management professionals for a total of 50 staff members.

His department works 24/7 and 365 days a year with an operating budget of \$14.5 million. His department maintains 4,017 square miles of properties and grounds.

On average, the department has 110 construction projects annually with an average annual cost of \$32 million.

Facilities objectives and 2025 goals include:

- 1) Raise the bar/set high expectations for facilities staff – provide staff training, modeling, coaching
- 2) Future planning: collaborate with department leaders to understand and support common interests – ensure facilities are efficient and strategically located
- 3) Facility maintenance – maintain all facilities to ensure they are safe, clean and efficient – address issues outlined in the facilities condition assessment, establish a 5-10 year project plan.

Regarding the facilities master plan, 67 percent of county buildings are between 25 and 50 years old. The county is expected to grow 53 percent in the next 20 years. Top priorities are establishing a new fleet building and a judicial center.

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**May 19, 2025**

**Presentation of the department of Veteran's Services**

Ms. Ulrich and Ruth DeBoer explained veteran's services joined with the Department of Human Services to better serve the public.

Veterans Services Officers (VSO) Tom Gonzales and Tim Marquardt help Ms. DeBoer manage the department. VSO professionals help and support veterans in navigating the various benefits and services available to them.

They assist with disability claims, burial and survivor benefits, income-based health care enrollment, and education benefits.

They stressed they are not the VA and don't make decisions regarding claims.

Ms. Ulrich said the wait time for appointments have gone from a wait of 8 months to about 2.5 weeks, a major improvement.

In April, it was estimated they saw more than 120 veterans.

Mr. Marquardt said it's important veterans know there is no time limit on when you can apply for veterans benefits. And, it's not true that you'll lose your gun if you apply for benefits.

**June 16, 2025**

**Brett Cavanagh - Director of Oil & Gas Energy**

Mr. Cavanagh has worked in the industry for 17 years. The biggest challenge in Colorado is regulation.

The mission of the department is to ensure safety and protect the public's health.

The main purpose of the department of oil and gas is to review permits and regulations; manage pipeline locations, routing and listing of infrastructure to ensure each site is properly vetted; and to coordinate with other departments and the State of Colorado's oil and gas commission.

Public engagement and communication is a priority of the department, as well as education and transparency. The department acts as a liaison between drillers and the public. Mr. Cavanagh said he hopes the public understands their rights and knows how to contact his department. More information can be found here: <https://www.weld.gov/Government/Departments/Oil-and-Gas-Energy>

Mr. Cavanagh said his department monitors reclamation, checks for compliance with noise and dust, conducts visual screenings, water management, road use, emergency management response and environmental performance.

He said his department acts as the regulators and problem solvers.

This year, his department is updating its permitting process, clarifying noise regulations and adding geothermal well sites. His department ensures local and state standards are being met.

Weld County produces more than 80 percent of Colorado's oil and more than 50 percent of its gas. He said 21 permits have been approved this year and they've processed 91 amendments. He anticipates the number of permits to decrease in the current economy.

**WELD COUNTY COUNCIL**

Absent

Council President Nancy Teksten

Elijah P. Hatch

Council Vice-President Elijah Hatch

Jeff Reck

Councilmember Jeff Reck

James Welch

Councilmember James Welch

Terry DeGroot

Councilmember Terry DeGroot

Date Signed: August 18, 2025