

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO
WATER ACTIVITY
ENTERPRISE MINUTES
October 16, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise (Enterprise) was held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 9:59 a.m., at the District office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado. The ZOOM platform was also made available for Board Members and Visitors.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Abby Ortega	Curtis Mitchell	Mike Bartolo
Alan Hamel	Dallas May	Pat Edelmann
Andy Colosimo	Greg Felt	Seth Clayton
Ann Nichols	Justin DiSanti	Tom Goodwin
Bill Long	Kevin Karney	

DIRECTOR(S) ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Matt Heimerich.

DISTRICT OFFICIALS:

Executive Director Leann Noga; General Counsel, Lee Miller; Staff Attorney Peter Levish; Senior Policy and Issues Manager Chris Woodka; Engineering Manager, Gordon Dillon; Project Engineer, Trevor Singleton; Water Resources Engineer, Robert Banham; Water Resources Administrative Analyst, Margie Medina; Administrative Manager, Misty Bellino; Administrative Support Specialist, Patty Rivas; H2O Consultant, Roy Vaughan; Jewell, Jimmerson Natural Resources Law, April Hendricks and Pete Jaacks; Wilson Water Group, Mitch Frischmeyer (remote); and Kogovsek & Associates, Christine Arbogast.

PRESENT VISITORS:

Aurora Water, Abba Ahmed; Pueblo West Metro District, Elissa Velasquez and Jeffery DeHerrera.

VISITORS CONNECTED VIA ZOOM:

James Ayalla, Representative Jeff Hurds Office; Kaysie Schmidt, Otero County; Lonnie Spady, Division of Water Resources; and Rick Kienitz, Aurora Water.

CONSENT ITEM:

Mrs. Ortega moved, seconded by Mr. Edelmann, to approve:

- The minutes of the September 18th Enterprise Board meeting
- Treasurer Report for September 2025

Motion carried unanimously.

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PRESENTATION ITEMS:

FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

Ms. Christine Arbogast gave an update to the Board:

The Government remains closed with no sign of an immediate agreement in Congress. Most projections are that the shutdown will run through Thanksgiving. Keep in mind that even if a compromise were to be put on the table tomorrow, the House and Senate processes takes several days. These could be waived, but there are members who generally force sticking to the rule, so likely a week or longer.

There is discussion of offering an amendment to the current proposal in front of the Senate that includes funding the Government through November 21; that amendment would move the Continuing Resolution to ending sometime in December.

Majority Leader Thune is taking steps to start moving appropriations bills; a three-bill package would go to conference between the House and Senate; and for the Senate to move defense appropriations. The Energy and Water bill is not included in this early movement and has yet to be released by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

There is not any movement on our bill on the AVC repayment of our 35 percent cost share, sponsored by Reps. Boebert and Hurd, in the House and supported by Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper.

Next Tuesday, October 21st, the Senate Agriculture Committee will mark up the *Fix Our Forests Act*. Authorizing some significant changes but does not authorize any appropriations to implement, so any funding needed would have to be reprogrammed from other Forest Service funding pots.

AVC UPDATE

Mr. Gordon Dillon updated the Board on construction of the AVC:

- AVC 2025 Trunkline Design & Construction
 1. Boone Reach 1
 - a. Clean Up
 - b. Demobilization
 2. Boone Reach 2
 - a. Laying east from Boone Reach 1
 - b. Gas line relocation is scheduled for October.
 3. Injection Site Phase 1- Early 2027 completion (current schedule)
 4. Crowley Reach 1 – Construction starts early 2027

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- AVC 2025 Workplan through November
- 1. Design through Rocky Ford (SRF Package 1):
 - a. First design is deliverable due October 17th – staging area for PNA
 - b. Second design is deliverable due November 3rd for SRF Loan Application
- 2. SRF Loan Application is in process for November 5th submission

Questions were asked of Mr. Dillon.

WATER RESOURCES UPDATE

Mr. Robert Banham presented to the Board a PowerPoint:

Precipitation and Soil Conditions Overview

Current precipitation outlook and soil conditions in Southeastern Colorado as of October 2025.

- Precipitation outlook indicates varying conditions across the region.
- Soil conditions are assessed to understand moisture levels and agricultural impacts.

Streamflow and Drought Conditions

Streamflow conditions and historical drought data for Colorado.

- Streamflow conditions are critical for water resource management.
- Historical drought data from 1895 to 2025 shows trends in drought severity.
- Drought categories range from Abnormally Dry (D0) to Exceptional Drought (D4).

Questions were asked of Mr. Banham

Mr. Mike Holmberg from USBR sent in a PowerPoint to the Board, Mr. Banham highlighted the following topics.

As of October 6, 2025:

- 187,671 acre-feet stored in Pueblo Reservoir
- 135,042 acre-feet of Project Water
- 47,481 acre-feet of Excess Capacity Water
- 6,058 acre-feet of Winter Water
- 110,331 acre-feet of Project Water Space Available in Pueblo
- 30,522 acre-feet of Project Space in Twin & Turquoise Lake

September 30, 2025, Total M&I PW in the system = 132,360 AF

- EAST = 25,786
- WEST = 11,751
- PUEBLO = 18,031
- OTHER = 4,183
- FVA = 72,609

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- CSU = 52734
 - FOUNTAIN = 6,411
 - SECURITY = 5,972
 - STRATMOOR = 1,971
 - WIDEFIELD = 5,521

INFORMATION ITEMS:

The Board was provided written material on the following topics, which were posted to the Board website, and OnBoard:

- Arkansas Valley Conduit Newsletter
- JWBHP Update
- Excess Capacity Master Contract Update
- 2026 Proposed Budget Message

President Long adjourned the Enterprise Board Meeting @ 10:26 a.m. and reconvened the District Board Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Lee Miller announced a request has been made for the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District to enter Executive Session for the purpose of:

Discussion with legal counsel on the following matter:

1. **Aurora Water Purchase**
2. **Colorado River Issues**

Pursuant to:

“ **C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b):** (Conferences with an attorney for the local public body for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions)

“ **C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e):** (Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators)

The presence of the following individuals are requested at this Executive Session:

1. Non-Excused Board members, (state for the record any who are excused)
2. Executive Director
3. General Counsel
4. Staff Attorney
5. Special Legal Counsel
6. Senior Policy and Issues Manager
7. Water Resources Specialist/Engineer

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**MINUTES WILL BE ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED AS REQUIRED BY THE COLORADO
OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

MOTION

VOTE (2/3 needed)

At this time the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District will enter into Executive Session.

Mr. Goodwin moved, seconded by Mr. Karney, that the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District will enter into Executive Session at 10:27 a.m. The vote was unanimous.

At 11:46 a.m. coming out of Executive session, Mr. Lee Miller advised that there was discussion with legal counsel instructing, and that no action was needed for Executive Session Items:

- 1. Aurora Water Purchase**
- 2. Colorado River Issues**

President Long asked if there were any other matters to come before the District Board, hearing no other matters, Mr. Long adjourned the District Board meeting at 11:47 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

**Patty Rivas
Administrative Support Specialist**

Seth Clayton – Secretary

Bill Long – President

Greg Felt

Curtis Mitchell – Vice President

Justin DiSanti

Ann Nichols – Treasurer

Kevin Karney

Abby Ortega

Matt Heimerich

Alan Hamel

Mike Bartolo

Andy Colosimo

Pat Edelman

Dallas May

Tom Goodwin