

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO
WATER CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT MINUTES
February 20, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) was held on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 9:36 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:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Andy Colosimo | Greg Felt | Pat Edelmann |
| Ann Nichols | Howard "Bub" Miller | Seth Clayton |
| Bill Long | Justin DiSanti | Tom Goodwin |
| Curtis Mitchell | Kevin Karney | |
| Dallas May | Matt Heimerich | |

DIRECTOR(S) ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Alan Hamel

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; Administrative Support Specialist's Margie Medina and Patty Rivas; Administrative Manager Michelle Tocydlowski; H2O Consultant, Roy Vaughan; Kogovsek & Associates, Christine Arbogast; and attending remotely, AECOM, Curtis Thompson.

PRESENT VISITORS:

Aurora Water, Abba Ahmed; USBR, Mike Holmberg; Pueblo West Metro, Jeffery DeHerrera; Palmer Land Trust, Kristie Nackord; and Consor Engineering, Shane Hayden.

VISITORS CONNECTED VIA ZOOM:

Wilson Water Group, Angie Alvarado; Colorado Springs Utilities, Christopher Olney; USGS, Andres Klakulak and Krystal Brown; Security Water and Sanitation, Roy Heald; and Senator Bennetts Office, Jacob Topping.

CONSENT ITEMS: MINUTES AND TREASURER REPORT:

Mr. Howard Bub Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Edelmann to approve minutes & treasurer report. Motion unanimously carried.

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PRESENTATION ITEM:

PALMER LAND TRUST

Kristie Nackord presented to the Board a review of a Campaign Update for the “Mirasol, Looking at the Sun” production. Questions were asked of Kristie.

ACTION ITEMS:

AUTHORIZATION OF STIPULATION IN THE APPLICATION OF CPW AND PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION, CASE NO. 23CW3048

Mr. Peter Levish presented to the Board an action item recommending that the Board of Directors authorize Special Water Counsel to execute a stipulation with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife and the Parks and Wildlife Commission (collectively, “CPW”) in Case No. 23CW3048, Water Division 2, consenting to entry of a decree that is no less restrictive on CPW and no less protective of the District’s water rights and interests than the proposed decree dated January 17, 2025.

A copy of the Proposed Decree was provided to the Board.

Mr. Clayton moved, seconded by Mr. Colosimo, to authorize Special Water Counsel to enter a stipulation with CPW consenting to the entry of a decree in Case No. 23CW3048 that is no less restrictive on CPW and no less protective of the District’s water rights than the proposed decree dated January 17, 2025. Motion unanimously carried.

STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION IN THE APPLICATION OF UAWCD, CASE NO. 24CW3055

Mr. Peter Levish presented an action item recommending that the District Board authorize Special Water Counsel to file a Statement of Opposition to the Application of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District in Case No. 24CW3055 (Water Division 2).

Mr. Karney moved, seconded by Mr. Clayton, that the District Board authorize Special Water Counsel to file a Statement of Opposition to the Application of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District in Case No. 24CW3055. Mr. Greg Felt and Mr. Tom Goodwin recused themselves from the vote. Motion unanimously carried.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY REPORTS:

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mr. Mike Holmberg presented a PowerPoint to the Board that reviewed the following topics.

- As of February 13, 2025:
 - 250,086 acre-feet stored in Pueblo Reservoir
 - 138,643 acre-feet of Project Water
 - 51,687 acre-feet of Excess Capacity Water
 - 46,479 acre-feet of Winter Water
 - 106,214 acre-feet of Project Water Space Available in Pueblo
 - 35,406 acre-feet of Project Space in Twin & Turquoise Lake

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- Teacup Diagrams with statistics as of February 14, 2025
 - Ruedi 72% full
 - Turquoise 59% full
 - Mt. Elbert 60% full
 - Twin lakes 80% full
- January 31, 2025, Total M&I PW in the system = 132,967 AF
- First Use Project + PCO Municipal Water
- Snow Water Equivalent in Roaring Fork
- Snow Water Equivalent in Upper Arkansas Headwaters
- Current Operations
- Pueblo Joint Use Projections
- Spill Operations

Questions were asked of Mr. Holmberg.

STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE

Mr. Peter Levish gave an update to the Board. The first regular session of the 75th General Assembly convened on January 8, 2025. A copy of the deadline schedule for the 2025 session and the Colorado Water Congress Bill Status Sheet were provided to the Board.

COLORADO RIVER ISSUES

Mr. Lee Miller gave an update to the Board:

On January 17, 2025, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) published the Alternatives Report to document the alternatives that were officially released on November 20, 2024, and are anticipated to be carried forward in the draft EIS for the ongoing Post-2026 Colorado River Operations NEPA process. Information submitted following the November 20, 2024, publication of the alternatives, such as the Upper Division States refinements reported on last month, has not been considered in this report. Reclamation will continue its efforts working with Colorado River Basin partners and stakeholders and will analyze information submitted after November 20, 2024. Additionally, Reclamation will also prepare the environmental impact analysis for the draft EIS.

The five anticipated alternatives are:

- No Action Alternative
- Federal Authorities Alternative
- Federal Authorities Hybrid Alternative
- Cooperative Conservation Alternative
- Basin Hybrid Alternative

The Upper Colorado River Commission is scheduled to meet on February 18, 2025, via webinar. Topics for the meeting will include the Drought Response Operations Agreement, the current Basin States Discussions and Post-2026 Process Updates and the future of the System Conservation Pilot Program. The meeting will be held without a Federal Commissioner, as Anne Castle, appointed by President Biden, has submitted her resignation

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at the request of the Trump Administration and the resignation was accepted a week after President Trump's inauguration. No replacement has yet been nominated.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

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

- Water Court Resume
- Other Business Matters:
 1. ARBWF – March 5-6, Pueblo
 2. Colorado Rural Water Association March 17-20, Loveland

President Long asked if there were any other matters to come before the District Board, hearing no other matters, Mr. Long adjourned the District meeting at 10:48 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Patty Rivas
Administrative Support Specialist

Seth Clayton – Secretary

Bill Long – President

Howard “Bub” Miller

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Curtis Mitchell – Vice President

Justin Disanti

Ann Nichols – Treasurer

Kevin Karney

Alan Hamel

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Matt Heimerich

Andy Colosimo

Pat Edelmann

Dallas May

Tom Goodwin

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Greg Felt