
**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO
WATER CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT MINUTES
September 18, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) was held on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 9:34 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	Dallas May	Seth Clayton
Alan Hamel	Justin DiSanti	
Andy Colosimo	Kevin Karney	
Ann Nichols	Mike Bartolo	
Bill Long	Pat Edelmann	

DIRECTOR(S) ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Greg Felt, Matt Heimerich, Curtis Mitchell, and Tom Goodwin.

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; Finance Manager, Stephanie Shipley; Accountant, Karen Muniz; Administrative Support Specialist Patty Rivas; H2O Consultant, Roy Vaughan; Jewell, Jimmerson Natural Resources Law, April Hendricks; Wilson Water Group, Mitch Frischmeyer (remote); and AECOM, Curtis Thompson (remote).

PRESENT VISITORS:

Aurora Water, Abba Ahmed; USGS, Dustin Ethridge and Krystal Brown; Pueblo West Metro District, Elissa Velasquez; USBR, Mike Holmberg; Colorado Division of Water Resources, Rachel Zancanella.

VISITORS CONNECTED VIA ZOOM:

Colorado Springs Utilities, Katie Garrett and Lisa Windham.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Mr. Edelmann moved, seconded by Mr. Hamel, to approve:

- The minutes from the August 28th District Board meeting
- Treasurer report for July 2025
- Treasurer report for August 2025
- Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority, Dillon Drive Tax Incremental Agreement
- El Paso County Urban Renewal Authority, Odyssey at North Weber Tax Incremental Agreement
- El Paso County Urban Renewal Authority, Moreno and Cascade Tax Incremental Agreement

Motion carried unanimously.

President Long called to order at 9:37 a.m., the Enterprise Board of Directors Meeting to be held in conjunction with the District Board Meeting for the purposes of approving the following action items:

ACTION ITEMS:

APPOINTMENT OF BUDGET OFFICER

Appointment of a Budget Officer is an annual occurrence in order to be in compliance with Colorado State Budget Law.

The first action the governing board must take under the Budget Law is to designate or appoint a Budget Officer to prepare and submit a proposed budget (Section 29-1-104, C.R.S.).

Mr. DiSanti moved, seconded by Mr. Clayton, that the Board of Directors appoint Leann Noga, Executive Director, as the Budget Officer for the 2026 Enterprise budget period. Motion carried unanimously.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Board of Directors conducts a Public Hearing each year prior to adopting the annual budget to be in compliance with Colorado State Law C.R.S 29-1-108(1).

A published notice of the Public Hearing is required for District policy and compliance with Colorado State Law C.R.S. 29-1-106(1).

A copy of the Letter to the newspapers as well as the notice was provided to the Board.

Mr. Hamel moved, seconded by Mr. Colosimo that the Board of Directors set Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 9:45 a.m. for the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District to hold the Public Hearing of the 2026 Proposed Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

President Long recessed the Enterprise Board of Directors meeting @ 9:39 a.m. and reconvened the District Board of Directors meeting.

APPROVAL OF RENEWED FOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE CONTRACTS

Mr. Lee Miller presented to the Board an action item recommending that the District Board authorize execution of the renewal contract with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and a renewed contract with Fountain Valley Authority (FVA) for, among other things, the conveyance of Project and non-Project water through the Conduit and the transfer of the care, operation, and maintenance of the Fountain Valley Conduit (Conduit).

The Secretary of the Interior declared the Conduit to be substantially complete in 1985 and deemed it to be placed into service as of January 1, 1986. Since that time, the Conduit has been operated by FVA pursuant to contract with the District assuming the District's obligations to operate and maintain the Conduit. The contracts between the District and Reclamation and FVA expire on December 31, 2025.

The renewed contracts have two significant changes from prior contracts:

1. The contracts do not have a repayment obligation since repayment to Reclamation has been completed.
2. The new contracts have a perpetual term.

Contract 25XX650064 was provided to the Board.

Mr. Edelmann moved, seconded by Mr. Clayton, that the District Board approve execution of the renewal contract with the Bureau of Reclamation and a renewed contract with Fountain Valley Authority for, among other things, the conveyance of Project and non-Project water through the Conduit and the transfer of the care, operation, and maintenance of the Fountain Valley Conduit. Mrs. Abby Ortega recused herself from the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY REPORTS:

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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

As of September 13, 2025:

- 191,205 acre-feet stored in Pueblo Reservoir
- 136,077 acre-feet of Project Water
- 49,019 acre-feet of Excess Capacity Water
- 6,783 acre-feet of Winter Water
- 109,296 acre-feet of Project Water Space Available in Pueblo
- 30,268 acre-feet of Project Space in Twin & Turquoise Lake

August 31, 2025, Total M&I PW in the system = 133,616 AF

- EAST = 25,962
- WEST = 11,840
- PUEBLO = 18,144
- OTHER = 4,586
- FVA = 73,804

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- CSU = 53,534
 - FOUNTAIN = 6,521
 - SECURITY = 6,065
 - STRATMOOR = 2,076
 - WIDEFIELD = 5,605

Winter Operations:

- Continue moving water from Turquoise to Twin until Twin is full
- Will have ~ 30,000 AF of space in Turquoise
- Mt. Elbert down in January

Questions were asked of Mr. Holmberg.

COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Mrs. Rachel Zancanella provided a presentation updating the following:

- Administrative Challenges, Ponds
 1. 2018 Pond management Program initiative under Bill Tyner
 - a. Challenges: Volume of Structures, Cost prohibitive paths to compliance, Media coverage, Staffing
 2. Alternative (Introduced at the ARBWF)
 - a. Custer County Pilot Pond Program
 - b. 2024 Efforts: Develop guidance, Inventory Ponds, 400/460, Work with the Conservation District
 - c. 2025 Efforts: Continue inventory, Final 60 inspections, Work on classifications, Complete report
 3. Future Operations: El Paso, Lake County, Pueblo, Hi-Model Area
 4. Funding: Discussions with Fountain Creek District, ASACE, DU
- Administrative Challenges – Administration call tool
 1. Continuity of operations: Institutional knowledge losses, Administration requires tools, District 16 Pilot Administrative Call Tool
 2. Defensible data
 3. Continuity of operations: New Water Commissioner, few data points, unique administration
 4. Displayed the model that was created for data
 5. Displayed new tools
- Next Steps
 1. Testing
 2. Follow up training contract
 3. Work on updating other tools: Colors of Water, ADAT, Purgatory Model, Groundwater Tools, Data lifts to complete consultant contracts
 4. Implement in future areas

Extensive discussion was had with the Board and Mrs. Zancanella.

COLORADO RIVER ISSUES

Mr. Lee Miller updated the Board with the following; Acting Assistant Secretary Scott Cameron set a November 11, 2025, deadline for the seven Basin states to propose an agreement in principle to the Interior Department, with details to be completed no later than February 14, 2026, for consideration by the Department in the Record of Decision. Negotiations among the States are ongoing.

On July 1, 2025, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) held a special Board meeting to consider the formal hearing requests of Colorado Springs Utilities, Denver Water, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and Aurora regarding the River District's request that the CWCB accept the donation of the Shoshone Power Plant water rights for instream flow purposes. The hearing will be held on September 18, 2025. The District is not a party in the proceeding but will continue to stay in contact with the participating Front Range Water Council to stay informed. The District decision to not participate in the CWCB hearing will not preclude the District from filing a statement of opposition to the resulting water court application to protect the District's water rights.

A Colorado River and Water Supply Committee meeting will be held following the Board meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

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

- Water Court Resume
- 2026 Budget Calendar
- Special Water Counsel Legal Report
- State Legislative Update
- 2025 Redesign of the District Secure Website Contract
- Winter Water Annual Meeting
- NWRA Annual Conference and Leadership Forum
- December Board Meeting/Holiday Luncheon
- Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference

President Long asked if there were any other matters to come before the District Board. Hearing no other matters, Mr. Long recessed the District meeting at 10:41 a.m.

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