

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

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**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO  
WATER CONSERVANCY  
DISTRICT MINUTES  
December 12, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) was held on Thursday, December 12, 2024, @ 10:05 a.m., at the District office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado. The ZOOM platform was also made available for Board members and visitors.

President Long asked Patty Rivas for a roll call of those connected via ZOOM.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Alan Hamel	Greg Felt	Pat Edelmann (remote)
Andy Colosimo	Justin DiSanti	Seth Clayton
Ann Nichols	Kevin Karney	Tom Goodwin
Bill Long	Mark Pifher	
Curtis Mitchell	Matt Heimerich	

**DIRECTOR(S) ABSENT AND EXCUSED:**

Dallas May, and Howard "Bub" Miller

President Long established that a Quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:**

President Long advised there were no visitors in attendance.

**DISTRICT OFFICIALS:**

Executive Director Leann Noga; Staff Attorney Peter Levish; Principal Engineer Gordon Dillon; Senior Policy and Issues Manager Chris Woodka; Water Resources Principal Engineer Garrett Markus; Administration Manager Michelle Tocyldowski; Administrative Support Specialist Patty Rivas; and Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek and Associates.

**VISITORS PRESENT:**

None

**VISITORS CONNECTED VIA ZOOM:**

Angie Alvarado, Wilson Water Group.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

President Long said the minutes from the November 21, 2024, District Board meeting were posted to OnBoard and the Website for review and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Mr. Hamel moved, seconded by Mr. Goodwin, to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**2025 PROPOSED BUDGET AND RESOLUTION ADOPTION**

Mrs. Leann Noga reported the Board received the 2025 Proposed Budget on October 15, 2024. The 2025 Proposed Budget was presented to the Board of Directors and the general public at the November 21, 2024, Public Hearing.

Since the November Public Hearing, there has been one change to the 2025 Proposed Budget for the District. District staff have added a total of \$50,000 to the 2025 Proposed budget for the study of a fee development for the use of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project facilities to conveyance non-Project Water.

Final assessed valuation figures for the 2025 tax collection are anticipated to be received from all counties by December 10, 2025. Staff will then certify the full mill levy by December 15, 2024. This process occurs after approval of the 2025 Budget, staff will adjust the mill levy tax revenues for the Final 2025 Budget Publication.

All other descriptions regarding the 2025 Budget will be included in the 2025 Adopted Budget Publication.

A copy of Resolution 2024-01DF and the 2025 Proposed Budget message were provided to the Board.

Mr. Clayton moved, seconded by Mr. Hamel, that the Board of Directors adopt Resolution and Order No. 2024-01DF for the 2025 Proposed Budget as presented and authorize the Budget Officer to make any necessary adjustments to the stated mill levies and budgeted amounts by December 15, 2024. Motion unanimously carried.

**SERVICES TO DEVELOP A FEE STRUCTURE FOR USE OF FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT FACILITIES FOR ENTITIES THAT ARE OUTSIDE OF THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.**

Mrs. Noga reported:

The District is the project sponsor for the Bureau of Reclamation's Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Fry-Ark Project). The District is issuing this request for proposal (RFP) to develop a fee structure for the use of Project facilities by entities geographically and legally outside of the District's boundaries, since they do not contribute tax revenue to the District. The District's concern is that there is inequity with regard to the use of the Project between those that are in the District boundaries and those that are outside.

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Beneficiaries of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project are those who reside within the District's boundaries and are assessed a property tax mill levy. This mill levy is assessed for the repayment of the Project as well as operations, maintenance and replacement costs of the Project. The Arkansas River Basin, like many other water short basins in the west, is challenged with the purchase of agricultural farms and water rights with the water being temporarily or permanently transferred to municipal use and most often outside of the District's boundaries.

The District is seeking to develop an approach and fee structure of calculating compensation to the District for use of Project facilities by out-of-District entities. RFP's should include an approach to develop an equitable fee structure for the use of Project facilities by entities outside of the District and do not pay taxes to the District, yet utilize Project facilities for their benefit for a minimal fee.

The District will serve as the lead for the project. The project will focus on the following main task areas. Proposed scope of work for services shall include:

- Develop an approach of calculating compensation to the District for use of Fry-Ark Project facilities.
- Establish a fee structure for the District compensation.
- Prepare a report summarizing the approach and recommendations for the project.
- Present findings to the District.

*Request for Proposal (RFP) Results:*

The following RFP's were received to provide services for the out-of-District fee development. Harvey Economics declined to participate in the RFP. The study period will start January through March 2025.

- Summit Economics: \$55,000
- RPI Consulting: \$30,360
- Harvey Economics: \$0.00

\*Declined participation in the RFP due to conflict of interest with past performed work.

- ArkaHR: \$0.00\*

RFP was not applicable to services requested.

After reviewing the two qualifying RFP's reviewed by staff (Leann Noga, Chris Woodka and Lee Miller) Summit Economics was determined to provide better approach and scope of work.

Staff recommends moving forward with Summit Economics in a formal contract to provide services to develop a fee for the use of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project facilities for entities that are outside of the District boundaries. The scope of work will be performed in the first quarter of 2025, with a final timeline to be developed at the first study meeting.

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The Board was provided with a copy of the proposed contract with Summit Economics and scope of work.

Mr. Clayton moved, seconded by Mr. Karney, that the Board of Directors approve a contract with Summit Economics substantially similar to that of the Proposed Contract with Summit Economics, to provide services to develop a fee for the use of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project facilities for entities that are outside of the District Boundaries.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

- Water Court Resume
- 2025 Proposed Budget
- Colorado Water Congress conference January 29-31, January 2025.

President Long asked if there were any other matters to come before the Board, hearing none, Mr. Long adjourned the District Meeting at 10:18 a.m.

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**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patty Rivas**  
**Administrative Support Specialist**

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**Seth Clayton – Secretary**

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**Bill Long – President**

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**Howard “Bub” Miller**

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**Curtis Mitchell – Vice President**

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**Justin DiSanti**

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**Ann Nichols – Treasurer**

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**Kevin Karney**

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**Alan Hamel**

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**Mark Pifher**

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**Andy Colosimo**

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**Matt Heimerich**

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**Dallas May**

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**Pat Edelmann**

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**Greg Felt**

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**Tom Goodwin**