

**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO  
WATER CONSERVANCY  
DISTRICT MINUTES  
January 16, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) was held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 9:38 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:

Alan Hamel	Dallas May	Tom Goodwin
Andy Colosimo	Greg Felt	
Ann Nichols	Howard "Bub" Miller(remote)	
Bill Long	Pat Edelmann	
Curtis Mitchell	Seth Clayton	

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

Justin DiSanti, Kevin Karney, and 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; Administrative Support Specialist's Margie Medina and Patty Rivas; Administrative Manager Michelle Tocydlowski; H2O Consultant, Roy Vaughan; Kogovsek & Associates, Christine Arbogast; and attending remotely - Kennedy Jenks, Jerry Pena; and AECOM, Curtis Thompson.

**VISITORS PRESENT:**

Aurora Water, Abba Ahmed; USBR, Mike Holmberg; Brian Bell and Jeremy Baker, Pate Construction.

**VISITORS CONNECTED VIA ZOOM:**

Wilson Water Group, Angie Alvarado; Otero County Administrator, Amy White-Oquist; Otero County Commissioner, Tim Knabenshue; Aurora Water, Rick Kienitz; Senator Bennetts Office, Jacob Topping; Kansas Department of Agriculture, Rachel Duran; Colorado Springs Utilities, Christopher Olney; Colorado Dept. of Ag, Robert Sakata; and Security Water and Sanitation, Roy Heald.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

President Long said the minutes from the December 12, 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. Goodwin moved, seconded by Mr. Hamel, to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

**CONSENT ITEM: TREASURER REPORT:**

Ms. Nichols moved, seconded by Mr. Clayton, for acceptance of the November 2024 and the DRAFT December 2024 financial statements and payment of the January 2025 bills. Motion unanimously carried.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**OPEN METING RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01D**

Mrs. Leann Noga presented to the Board an action item recommending the Board approve a resolution relating to the compliance by the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District with the Colorado Open Meeting Law at the first Board meeting of the year.

A resolution relating to the compliance by the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District with the Colorado Open Meeting Law is required under Colorado Revised Statute §37-45-101 *et seq.* This resolution defines where the public notice of each meeting will be posted at least 24 hours prior to a meeting. After the approval of the resolution, notice will be sent to the County Clerk and Recorder of each of the nine counties within the District boundaries.

A copy of the resolution as well as the memorandum to the County Clerk and Recorders was provided to the Board.

Mr. Clayton moved, seconded by Mr. Goodwin, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-01D, a resolution relating to the compliance by the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District with the Colorado Open Meeting Law. Motion unanimously carried.

**AUTHORIZATION OF STIPULATION IN THE APPLICATION OF TRIVIEW METROPOLITAN DISTRICT, CASE NO. 24CW3008, WATER DIVISION 2**

Mr. Peter Levish presented an action item recommending the Board of Directors authorize Special Water Counsel to execute a stipulation with Triview Metropolitan District (“Triview”) in Case No. 24CW3008, Water Division 2, consenting to entry of a decree that is no less restrictive on Triview and no less protective of the District’s water rights and interests than the proposed decree dated November 18, 2024.

Triview’s application seeks approval to store its fully consumable water rights and return flows therefrom (decreed in Case No. 18CW3016) in Stonewall Springs Reservoir Complex, Big Johnson Reservoir, and Pueblo Reservoir. The water rights to be stored in these structures include water attributable to 500 of Triview’s shares in Fountain Mutual Irrigation Company (“FMIC”) and Triview’s fully consumable and reusable effluent delivered to Fountain Creek. Triview intends to store this water in Pueblo Reservoir using the exchange decreed in Case

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No. 21CW3058. Triview has entered into a long-term excess capacity contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to store 999 acre-feet in Pueblo Reservoir, for use outside of the District's boundaries. Following storage in Pueblo Reservoir, Triview will use this water for all municipal purposes within its service area, consistent with the decrees for the water rights so stored. This application does not seek approval for new or additional water storage rights and is only intended to identify additional sources of water that may be legally stored in the subject reservoirs.

The District's objectives in Case No. 24CW3008 are to: (1) ensure that the proposed decree includes appropriate Standard Language terms for Triview's use of Project facilities; and (2) ensure that Triview's operation of the exchange pursuant to Case No. 21CW3058 to store water in Pueblo Reservoir complies with the terms and condition of the final decree entered in that case.

Copies of the proposed decree as well as the Draft Stipulation were provided to the Board.

Mr. Hamel moved, seconded by Mr. Clayton, to authorize Special Water Counsel to enter a stipulation with Triview consenting to entry of a decree in Case No. 24CW3008 that is no less restrictive on Triview and no less protective of the District's water rights than the proposed decree dated November 18, 2024. Motion unanimously carried.

#### WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING SUPPORT CONTRACT

Mrs. Leann Noga presented an action item recommending approval to contract with Tyner Engineering and Science, LLC. for 2025 Water Resource Engineering support.

As a result of the loss of the District's Water Resource Engineer, plans have been made to complete all Water Resource elements and activity for the District, Enterprise and Fry-Ark Project. The District is currently contracted with Wilson Water and H2O&M Consulting both of which will be contributing to the Water Resource role in 2025.

Wilson Water will be conducting the 2025 Fry-Ark allocation process as well as technical opinion regarding legal water court resume. H2O&M Consulting, Roy Vaughn, will be providing support on all items involving the Fry-Ark Project.

The Water Resource Engineer recruitment began on January 7, 2025, and will be open until the position is filled. The District hopes to fill the position by April 2025.

Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) compliance requires an individual with knowledge of the Arkansas Basin agriculture farms, ditches, and water uses. Mr. Bill Tyner has the skills that we need for the 2025 water year. Mr. Tyner will be direct support in the RRA program, commingling plans, rule 10 plan, rule 14 plan, and general assistance if needed on the Fry-Ark allocation process. Based on an estimate for per hour billing charges, the contract shall be written not to exceed \$40,000 for the year 2025.

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Mr. Tyner is a retired Division 2 Water Resource Engineer and has been consulting since that point. A review has been conducted, and no conflict of interest was determined. This contract will service the needs of the District as well as provide valuable training and guidance to the next Water Resource Engineer.

Mr. May moved, seconded by Mr. Colosimo, that the Board of Directors approve a 2025 Engineering services contract with Tyner Engineering and Science, LLC substantially similar to attachment 1 of this report.

**MONTHLY/QUARTERLY REPORTS:**  
UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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

- As of January 9, 2025 :
  - 234,280 acre-feet stored in Pueblo Reservoir
  - 139,159 acre-feet of Project Water
  - 54,538 acre-feet of Excess Capacity Water
  - 33,340 acre-feet of Winter Water
  - 106,214 acre-feet of Project Water Space Available in Pueblo
  - 28,168 acre-feet of Project Space in Twin & Turquoise Lake
- Teacup Diagrams with statistics as of January 13, 2025 :
  - Ruedi 75% full
  - Turquoise 60% full
  - Mt. Elbert 54% full
  - Twin lakes 89% full
- Graphs 2023-2025:
  - Turquoise Lake
  - Twin Lakes
  - Pueblo Reservoir
  - Still under clearance to repair coatings inside cone
- December 31, 2024, Total M&I PW in the system = 132,967 AF
  - EAST = 23,137
  - WEST = 10,959
  - PUEBLO = 19,184
  - OTHER = 3,971
  - FVA = 72,221
    - CSU = 51,747
    - FOUNTAIN = 7,096
    - SECURITY = 5,927
    - STRATMOOR = 1,945
    - WIDFIELD = 5,505
- First Use Project + PCO Municipal Water
- Snow Water Equivalent in Roaring Fork

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- Snow Water Equivalent in Upper Arkansas Headwaters
- Winter Operations:
  - 150 cfs out of Twin Lakes
    - 1. Reduce to ~ 50 once out of the power tool
  - Mt. Elbert Unit 1
    - 1. Down for annual inspections/maintenance until mid-March
  - Mt. Elbert Unit 2
    - 1. Rotor removed on 12/13
  - Roughly 34,000 AF of Project space available in Turquoise
    - 1. Goal is 60,000 AF of space by May 1
    - 2. Will plan to resume drafting in March after U1 Annuals
    - 3. Plan to avoid using Lake Fork Creek to draft unless necessary (large snowpack increase, delay in Annuals, etc.)
  - Projecting Pueblo reservoir will be above top of the Active Conservation
    - 1. WW Carryover and Project Ag out of May 1

Questions were asked of Mr. Holmberg.

#### COLORADO RIVER ISSUES

Mr. Lee Miller gave an update to the Board. At the December CRWUA Conference, attendees had the opportunity to see at least two competing visions of post-2026 operations, with the separate upper and lower division states panels.

After CRWUA, the Reclamation Commissioner challenged the states to provide additional refinement to proposals that would be helpful in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis supporting post-2026 operations decisions. In response, the Upper Division States (UDS) worked collaboratively to refine the UDS alternative. The attached UDS Alternative Refinements documentation was provided to Reclamation on December 30, 2024.

Refinements include:

- A modified Powell release curve that expands the scope of potential releases on both the high and low ends, with releases between 12 MAF - 5 MAF. Releases are still based on the contents of Powell, as an indicator for hydrologic conditions.
- Additional details regarding Parallel Activities - specifically, a reasonable range of water to be conserved, provided from Upstream Initial Units, or through Tribal forbearance.

Copies of the following were provided to the Board:

1. Upper Division States Alternative Refinements dated December 30, 2024
2. Letter to the Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton dated November 18, 2024

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The Colorado River and Water Supply Committee meeting that was to follow the Board Meeting has been cancelled.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

- Water Court Resume
- Director Appointment
- 2025 Annual Conference Calendar
- 2025 Board Meeting Schedule
- 2025 Committee Meeting Schedule
- Special Water Counsel Legal Report
- Other Business Matters:
  1. Colorado Water Congress – Jan 29-31, 2025, Aurora

President Long asked if there were any other matters to come before the District Board,

Mrs. Leann Noga announced:

1. Gordon Dillon is now “Engineering Manager”
2. Water Resource Engineer and Project Engineer positions are currently open, until filled in at the District
3. Pointed out the Director Appointment report, all Board Members that are up for renewal, to please get their applications turned in.
4. The 2025 Workplan is still in the works and will have that published as soon as it is complete.
5. The Organization Chart is posted and advised the Board to review
6. Robert Sakata wanted to thank the Board on their Letter of Support, Mike Bartolo will receive the 2025 Agriculture Hall of Fame award
7. At the Colorado Water Congress Conference, there will be a dinner held on Wednesday, Jan 29<sup>th</sup>. This will include Northern Water and SECWCD, on discussions on Agriculture & Water. All Board members are invited.
8. The June 2025 Board meeting falls on a Federal Holiday, wanted to know if anyone had any objections to keeping the date as is, all were in favor.

Hearing no other matters, Mr. Long adjourned the District meeting at 10:53 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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**Matt Heimerich**

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**Andy Colosimo**

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**Pat Edelmann**

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**Dallas May**

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**Tom Goodwin**

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**Greg Felt**

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