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

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 9:32 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 | Justin DiSanti  | Seth Clayton |
| Ann Nichols   | Kevin Karney    | Tom Goodwin  |
| Bill Long     | Matt Heimerich  |              |

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

Greg Felt

**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; Administrative Manager, Misty Bellino; Administrative Support Specialist Patty Rivas; Finance Manager: Stephanie Shipley; Accountants, Meg Scarlett, and Karen Muniz; H2O Consultant, Roy Vaughan; Jewell, Jimmerson Natural Resources Law, April Hendricks; Wilson Water Group, Mitch Frischmeyer (remote); and Kogovsek & Associates, Christine Arbogast.

**PRESENT VISITORS:**

Aurora Water, Isreal Ortega; Pueblo West Metro District, Elissa Velasquez; USGS, Andy Klakulak; USBR, Mike Holmberg; and Colorado Springs Utilities, Scott Lorenz.

**VISITORS CONNECTED VIA ZOOM:**

Cathy Garcia-Widner, Representative Jeff Hurds Office; Jeffery DeHerrera, Pueblo West Metro District.

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

Mr. Mitchell moved, seconded by Mr. DiSanti, to approve:

- The minutes of the October 16<sup>th</sup> District Board meeting
- Treasurer report for October 2025
- Inclusions of Land Annexed by Colorado Springs:
  1. PTAA No.1
  2. Peach Ranch 1

Motion carried unanimously

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**SUPPORT FOR SNOW WATER DATA BILL**

Mr. Levish presented to the Board an action item regarding the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act is an Act that continues the program on activities that will maintain, establish, expand, or advance snowpack measurement and integrated modeling, with an emphasis on enhancing activities to achieve improved snow and water supply forecasting results that are more responsive to changing weather and watershed conditions.

The program also focuses on activities in river basins where activities relate to snowpack Measuring and water supply forecasting can inform water management decisions or models at a multi-water user, multi-basin, or multi-State scale, including interstate water management decisions. Finally, the program also seeks to build capacity of program partners to implement and adapt to the new measurement and forecasting capabilities enabled under this program.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:**

Mr. Hamel moved, seconded by Mr. Colosimo, that the Board of Directors support the Reauthorization of the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program of 2025. 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 November 14, 2025:
  - 185,954 acre-feet stored in Pueblo
  - 134,126 acre-feet of Project Water
  - 46,752 acre-feet of Excess Capacity Water
  - 5,480 acre-feet of Winter Water
  - 11,247 acre-feet of Project Space Available in Pueblo
  - 31,365 acre-feet of Project Space in Twin & Turquoise
- Graphs 2024-2026 projections:
  - Turquoise Lake
  - Twin Lakes
  - Pueblo Reservoir
- October 31, 2025:

Total M&I PW in system = 131,469 AF

  1. EAST = 25,598

2. WEST = 11,645
3. PUEBLO = 17,918
4. OTHER = 4,153
5. FVA = 72,155
  - A. CSU – 52,432
  - B. FOUNTAIN = 6,377
  - C. SECURITY = 5,934
  - D. STRATMOOR = 1,922
  - E. WIDFIELD = 5,489
- Other News:
  1. Bessemer Ditch Closed on 11/15 at 00:00
  2. Pueblo Reservoir release set to 80 cfs
  3. Turquoise 3 cfs of Project Water + Account Releases
  4. Twin 15 cfs of Project Water + Account Releases
  5. FIRO Update

Questions were asked of Mr. Holmberg.

President Long convened the Enterprise meeting @ 9:45 a.m. to be held in conjunction with the District meeting.

**PRESENTATION ITEMS:**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Mrs. Noga presented a PowerPoint that reviewed the following:

**Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Fund**

1. 2025 Mill Levy Tax Revenues
2. 2026 Fry-Ark Project Budget
3. 2026 Fry-Ark Extraordinary Maintenance
4. Fry-Ark Project 2025 Vs. 2026 Budgets
5. 2026 District Operation and Capital Budget
6. 2026 District Operation Planning and Development
7. 2026 District Capital Outlay
8. District Operation 2025 Vs 2026 Budget
9. District General Funds Estimated Fund Balance

**Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise Fund**

1. 2026 Water Sales & Storage Rate Recommendation
2. Water and Storage Rate Revenues
3. 2026 Enterprise Operations
  - a. Enterprise Operations, to include the Enlargement Budget of \$109,241 & Excess Capacity Project Budget of \$107,187
4. Enterprise Operation 2025 Vs 2026 Budgets
5. 2026 Arkansas Valley Conduit
6. 2026 Hydroelectric Power
7. Enterprise Estimated Net Position

8. District General Fund 2026 Budget Resolution
9. Enterprise Proprietary Fund 2026 Budget Resolutions
10. Enterprise 2026 Water Sales and Storage Rate

Questions were asked of Mrs. Noga.

President Long recessed the Enterprise meeting at 10:19 a.m.

#### **MONTHLY/QUARTERLY REPORTS (CON'T):**

##### **COLORADO RIVER ISSUES**

Mr. Lee Miller updated the Board with the following:

On September 17-18, 2025, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) held a formal hearing regarding the River District's request that the CWCB accept the donation of the Shoshone Power Plant water rights for instream flow purposes. The CWCB will hold deliberations at the November 19, 2025, CWCB meeting to decide on accepting the donation. The District was not a party in the proceedings, but District staff will report on any results from the CWCB meeting during the Board meeting. 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.

Acting Commissioner (formerly 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. On November 11, 2025, after a final two days of negotiations to reach the deadline, the seven basin states' officials — along with officials from Interior and its Bureau of Reclamation — collectively released a statement.

The statement acknowledged that no seven-state agreement had been reached by Tuesday's deadline for a water-saving plan, which had been set by Interior, and committed to continuing the discussions, with no end date given. "While more work needs to be done, collective progress has been made that warrants continued efforts to define and approve details for a finalized agreement. Through continued cooperation and coordinated action, there is a shared commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability and resilience of the Colorado River system," the statement said. "The seven Colorado River Basin states together with The Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation recognize the serious and ongoing challenges facing the Colorado River. Prolonged drought and low reservoir conditions have placed extraordinary pressure on this critical water resource that supports forty million people, tribal nations, agriculture, and industry."

After completion of the joint statement, but before it was released, Gov. Katie Hobbs and Arizona legislative leaders from both parties asked the U.S. Interior Department Tuesday to step in and ensure any agreement to curb overuse of Colorado River water requires the river's Upper Basin states to limit their use.

By calling Tuesday for stronger federal intervention in the dispute, Gov. Hobbs went a step beyond her comments on November 5, 2025, when she told a at the National Water Resources Association meeting

in Tucson that the Upper Basin states, led by Colorado, were taking an "extreme negotiating position" by refusing to offer any cuts in their river water use.

Mr. Miller reminded the Board that the Colorado River Committee would be meeting ½ hour after the Board Meeting adjourns.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

- Water Court Resume
- 2026 Budget Message
- District Vehicles
- Board Meeting information and Website login

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 10:30 a.m.

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**Respectfully submitted,**

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

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**Seth Clayton – Secretary**

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**Bill Long – President**

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**Greg Felt**

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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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**Abby Ortega**

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**Matt Heimerich**

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**Alan Hamel**

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**Mike Bartolo**

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**Andy Colosimo**

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**Pat Edelman**

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**Dallas May**

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**Tom Goodwin**