

RESOURCE AND ENGINEERING PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES November 6, 2025

A meeting of the Resource and Engineering Planning Committee was held on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 12:24 p.m. at the District Office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado and via Zoom virtual meeting.

Chairman Curtis Mitchell announced a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Curtis Mitchell – Chairman, Seth Clayton– Vice Chairman, Pat Edelmann, Tom Goodwin, Bill Long and Leann Noga.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Andy Colosimo

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alan Hamel, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) Board Member; Roy Vaughan, H2O Consultant; Mitch Frischmeyer, Wilson Water Group (WWP); Gordon Dillon, Trevor Singleton, Lee Miller (remote), Misty Bellino, Peter Levis (remote), Robert Banham, Margie Medina, Meg Scarlett and Karen Muniz – Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy (District) staff.

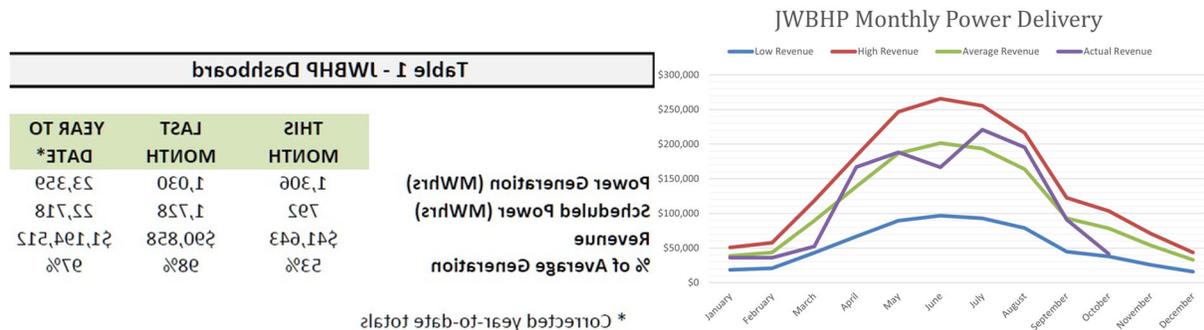
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Mitchell asked for approval of the September 4, 2025, Resource and Engineering Planning Committee minutes and if there were any corrections or additions. Tom Goodwin moved, seconded by Pat Edelmann to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

James W. Broderick Hydropower Plant (JWBHP) Update

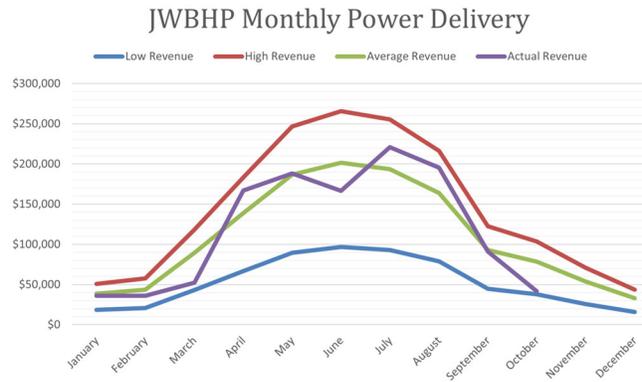
Gordon Dillon reported that electricity production was short on water this month at 53 percent, last month production was at 98 percent, at 97 percent year to date. The following information was presented:



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Work has been proceeding to resolve and complete issues that have been ongoing at the JWBHP. Through the summer various issues have been resolved and include:

- Batdorf Electric is working on PLC (Programmable Logic Center) programming upgrades.
- Training videos have been completed and uploaded to the District.
- Training with Trevor Singleton continues.
- Training program is being written.
- Mechanical Plugs
 - Obermeyer Hydro has 3D mockup constructed and a segment fabricated
 - Reclamation has approved design
 - After winter water, re-scan both bifurcations for final fabrication
 - Install mounting brackets

The mechanical plugs were required by the Bureau of Reclamation as shut-off valves. The plugs were to be built into the hydro plant but instead were cemented so a suspension approach was needed. Once letters are collected from Reclamation approving design a new contract will be negotiated. The budget has secured \$30,000 for the plugs. Photos of the mockup plugs were shown. TSC has also approved the design and Southeastern will collect a letter of approval.

2026 Proposed Budget

Robert Banham presented the proposed budget overview of 2026. Key budget priorities are

- Continued investments in infrastructure maintenance and reliability
- Support water rights protection and Fry-Ark operations
- Advance research and monitoring partnerships
- Maintain responsible fiscal management and transparency.

Gordon Dillon reported on the hydro development for 2026 with revenues at \$1,346,498; operating expenses at \$1,337,529, capital layout \$80,175 nets (71,204). In 2025, revenues were budgeted at \$1,477,820 and expenses at \$1,354,047, resulting in a net gain of \$123,773. 2026 budget includes some improvement that are needed for the hydro plant that were started in 2025. Capital overlay includes Mechanical Plugs - \$58,175 - and SCADA at \$22,000.

Robert Banham reported, since 1975 Pueblo Reservoir has lost over 25,000 AF of storage due to sedimentation. In response the district initiated a study to explore potential solutions with Mott

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MacDonald. Work continues to be under \$1,000,000 in federal funding obtained in 2022. Funding for this project is scheduled to be concluded by the end of 2025 regarding Recovery of Storage budget item.

Following the completion of the Recovery of Storage Study, sedimentation reduction was identified as the most feasible option. The District plans to issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to design alternatives to address this issue. Design budget is 250,000, and the total used from 2024-25 is approximately 612,000.

Improvement goals for the Fry-Ark Collection System is to improve system efficiency and collection yield. The current 20-year average yield is 59,602 AF/year with a limit of 69,200 AF. Currently the District works with WWG and Reclamation for these improvements. Colorado Water Congress Board (CWCB) provided a grant to support this work. The measurement structure design project on Hunter Creek design is expected to be completed by December 15th 2025. Largely funded through grants. Upon completion, staff will evaluate the results and provide recommendations for next steps, this is a 75/25 split.

Water rights protection and geographical information system (GIS) for water rights protection for the east and west slope the 2026 budget this is a decrease \$9,267 budgeted \$226,004 for 2026. GIS program updated for the District boundaries and RRA compliance is \$23,996 for 2026. The GIS budget has gone up from 2025 (\$4,507) as we continue to look at alternatives for RRA and truing up our boundaries in GIS.

Streamflow forecasting has stayed the same for 2026 at a budget of \$20,000. This includes snowpack modeling, collaboration with USGS and CASO (Climate Adaption Science Offices), and improved Fry-Ark import prediction methods.

COAgMet monitoring with Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District remains at \$2,000.

The Regional Resource Planning Group is funded by the District Enterprise under a joint funding agreement with USGS for water quality baseline. Participants are Aurora, Board of Water Works Pueblo, Colorado Springs Utilities, Lower/Upper Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District's and Southeastern. Total contract over three years is \$294,480, Southeastern initially pays \$77,710 each year for the project and then recovers funds from participating entities.

The Restoration of Yield (ROY) is a six-party IGA to recover foregone exchanges curtailed by Pueblo RICD, cost share is 4.76 percent. ROY operations cost \$1,889.

The USGS Joint Funding Agreements for flow and water quality monitory are long-term water-quality monitoring special project. Enterprise agreement projects total \$20,030, and special projects at \$209,996.

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Fountain Creek Transit Loss Program is an annual base fee of \$3,070 for PPRWA membership is \$1,030 = \$4K.

2026 budget takeaways are investments aligning with District priorities and reliability goals. To focus on collaboration, asset management, and innovation. Maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Hunter Collection System

Mitch Frischmeyer, with WWG provided an update on a field visit in the Hunter Collection System. The visit was provided by a grant awarded to the District by CWCB to fund the “Improve Measurement on the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Collection System.” Currently Reclamation measures the diversion and bypass at each collection point, but the spill is unknown. WWG and Applegate performed a site visit to the Hunter Collection System to take measurements for the design of measurement structures (for either spill or streamflow) on Midway, No Name, and Hunter Collection Points. The intent is to apply for SWEP Grant (matching grant 2/3 to 1/3, \$7,500 paid by Southeastern) to fund the construction of the measurement structures designed during this effort.

The collection system is a 7-mile tunnel, which flows to the Roaring Fork in Aspen, Hunter Tunnel capacity is 270 cfs, with three points. Hunter Creek diversion point has the ability to take 140 cfs, Miday Creek 85 cfs and No Name Creek 85 cfs. The diversions feed back into the Chapman, South Fork Tunnel then Boustead. Photos were shown of the access to the diversion points via silos.

Diversion control contains radial gates, that are closed to present flows through the main channel causing the build-up of a pool. Once the pool in the collection basin reaches a certain level, flow starts passing through the trash rack.

In the collection basin, another pool forms and flow passes through the measuring outlets. The bypass outlet is generally set to the minimum bypass for the tributary. It is positioned lowest to ensure the bypass is met before the diversion. The diversion outlet is open to divert available flow. Generally adjusted based on conditions at Thomasville to meet minimum flow requirements (see photo).

The last component is the spillway structure is identified. If the pool builds enough in the main channel, water will start flowing over a spillway structure. The spill is currently unmeasured. The pool may spill when the diversion gates are not open enough to capture diurnals, or other pulse



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increases in streamflow. Another cause of spill may be due to obstructions in the trash rack that hamper inflow to the diversion basin.

Measurement challenges since the channel above and below the diversion structures of the tributaries are not uniform, the engineers propose to measure the flow over the spillway. To measure the spill a weir will be designed for and constructed on the spillway. The accuracy of this measurement will depend on the pool's slope. If the slope is large (over a foot), measurement errors may occur.

The second measure is to focus on the spillway structure if the pool builds high enough in the main channel, water will start flowing over a spillway structure. The spill is currently unmeasured. The pool may spill when the diversion gates are not open enough to capture diurnals, or other pulse increases in streamflow. Another cause of spill may be due to obstructions in the trash rack that hamper inflow to the diversion basin. Inaccuracy in measurements are slopes in the pools of water. Since the channel above and below the diversions structures of the tributaries are not uniform, the engineers propose to measure the flow over the spillway. To measure the spill, a weir will be designed for and constructed on the spillway. The accuracy of this measurement will depend on the pool's slope. If the slope is large (over a foot), measurement errors may occur.

No Name Creek appears to have a collection basin that should be easy to design for. Midway Creek Diversion has an L shape basin the recommendation is to have the weir placed in the spillway. Hunter Creek diversion has a straight channel but not a spillway channel, a weir can still be built on it.

Photos for the baffle gates that dissipate the energy of the flow and reduce erosion were shown. The goal is to reach capacity and achieve maximum efficiency of the collection system. There was an inquiry into how much the weirs would be able to increase diversions; theoretical yields would need to be investigated.

Tom Goodwin brought up a study that WWG had done several years ago regarding efficiency of the structures the study will be inquired into.

ACTION ITEMS:

Inclusion of land annexed by the City of Colorado Springs

Two annexations by Colorado Springs known as the PTAA Addition No. 1 and Peach Ranch Addition 1, locations were shown. Robert Banham read the motion that the Committee recommend the Board approve, by Resolution, the inclusion of PTAA Addition No. 1 and the Peach Ranch Addition 1 annexed by Colorado Springs subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Approval of these inclusions into the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District will not increase the amount of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water available to the city. Any Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water used on these included lands will need to come from the water allocated to the city through Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water allocations made pursuant to the District's Allocation Principles and Policies; and

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2. Any use of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water on the included lands is subject to the decrees for the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, and to all lawful rules, regulations, principles, policies, and contractual obligations of the District; and
3. The annexed lands will be subject to ad valorem taxes levied by the District as any other similarly situated lands in the District at the time of this inclusion; and
4. Prior to the District filing a petition for District Court approval of this inclusion, the Municipality, and/or owner(s) of the annexed lands shall have paid all the costs charged by the United States in connection with the contracting officer's assent to this inclusion.

Seth Clayton moved, seconded by Pat Edelmann, motion passed unanimously. Inclusions are planned to be placed quarterly on the Committee's agenda.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

JWBHP mechanical plus update was already discussed under the presentation portion of the agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. if necessary

ADJOURN

Vice-Chairman Clayton adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Medina

Water Resources Administrative Analyst