
**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO
WATER ACTIVITY
ENTERPRISE MINUTES
July 17, 2025**

A meeting of the Enterprise Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise (Enterprise) was held on Thursday, July 17, 2025 @ 10:34 a.m., at the District Office 31717 United Ave, Pueblo, Colorado. The ZOOM platform was also made available for Board Members and visitors.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Abby Ortega	Curtis Mitchell	Pat Edelmann
Alan Hamel	Justin DiSanti	Seth Clayton
Andy Colosimo	Kevin Karney	Tom Goodwin
Ann Nichols	Matt Heimerich	
Bill Long	Mike Bartolo	

DIRECTOR(S) ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Dallas May, and Greg Felt

DISTRICT OFFICIALS:

Executive Director Leann Noga; Legal Counsel, Lee Miller; Staff Attorney, Peter Levish; Senior Policy and Issues Manager, Chris Woodka; Engineering Manager, Gordon Dillon; Administrative Support Specialist Margie Medina and Patty Rivas; Finance Manager Stephanie Shipley; Water Resource Engineer, Robert Banham; Project Engineer, Trevor Singleton; Jewell, Jimmerson Natural Resources Law, April Hendricks and Pete Jaacks(remote); H2O Consultants, Roy Vaughan; Kogovsek & Associates, Christine Arbogast; and Wilson Water Group, Mitch Frischmeyer.

PRESENT VISITORS:

Aurora Water, Abba Ahmed; USBR, Mike Holmberg; USGS, Andrew Klakulak and Krystal Brown; Arkansas River Watershed Coordinator(ARWC) Yates McConnell, Pueblo West Metro District, Elissa Velasquez and Jeffery DeHerrera; Private Citizen, Kim Dillon.

VISITORS CONNECTED VIA ZOOM:

Security Water & Sanitation, Roy Heald.

CONSENT ITEMS:

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

1. Minutes from June 19, 2025, District Board Meeting
 2. The June 2025 Treasurer Reports
- Motion unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

Ms. Arbogast gave an update to the Board on Federal Legislation:

The reconciliation bill passed and it included \$1 billion for Bureau of Reclamation. The Department of Interior will be turning to the regional offices for ideas on projects that will expand conveyance or storage projects and are "shovel ready." Regional Director Brent Esplin has his team on it.

House Appropriations has marked up and includes \$3 million for the Arkansas Valley Conduit. While this is way less than expected, given the amount of infrastructure bill funding we have, it is acceptable. The Senate markup has not been scheduled.

Also marked up was the appropriations bill including funding for the state revolving funds, which we are looking to help pay for connections to the trunk line. The House reduced funding by 25 percent from last year. The Senate is scheduled to mark up in a week.

There is likely to be an extension on the farm bill rather than an agreement on a bill.

WATER RESOURCES & OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Robert Banham presented to the Board Water Year 2025 began slightly above average but declined quickly. Short-term and long-range forecasts show that dry, warm conditions will prevail in the near future.

Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) Water imports were forecast on May 1 to be 42,300 acre-feet (AF), but only 38,319 AF were brought over as of July 7, 2025. With Project Water remaining from prior years, this will be sufficient to meet the Enterprise allocations number of 37,062 AF.

The project is scheduled to shut down on July 21, 2025, to complete repairs on both the Cunningham and Hunter Tunnels. Due to the short construction window at higher elevations, some monsoon season flows will not be captured.

The Voluntary Flow Management Program on the Upper Arkansas River began the annual period in which Project Water is released from Twin Lakes and Turquoise Reservoir to support boating flows through the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. Up to 10,000 AF may be released from July 1-August 15 to maintain a level of 700 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the Wellsville gauge.

Upcoming Items:

- Budget forecasts for Project Water, Storage and Return Flows in 2026 will begin in July.
- The Winter Water Storage Program will begin on November 15, 2025. The annual Winter Water Storage meeting will be October 17, 2025 in La Junta.
- Snowpack updates will be provided as conditions develop during the 2025-2026 water year. Questions were asked of Mr. Banham.

ACTION ITEMS:

LATE PAYMENTS FOR ALLOCATION, MUNICIPAL

Mr. Chris Woodka presented an action item recommending the Board to approve late municipal payments for 2025 Municipal Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) Water allocations.

Applications mailed out on February 28, 2025 to all municipalities, irrigators and Return Flow customers that explained the Municipal deadline for payment was June 14, 2025, and the Irrigation deadline is July 15, 2025.

As is typically the case, some payments were received after the June 14, 2025 deadline for Municipal Project Water. District staff contacted all customers with overdue payments the week of June 16, 2025, by email and by telephone to confirm their intention to pay but did not suggest that the water would be withheld.

The Allocation and Storage Committee reviewed the list of those who were late in paying. The Committee recommended accepting the late payments. The Committee agreed that a change in the policy is needed to determine consequences for late payments.

As of July 7, 2025, all municipal water allocation charges were paid.

Mr. Hamel moved, seconded by Mr. Goodwin, that the Board approve late payments for 2025 Municipal Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Water allocations. Motion carried unanimously.

ALLOCATION FINAL RELEASE

Mr. Woodka presented an action item recommending the Board approve 100 percent release of the 2025 Allocation for Municipal and Agricultural Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Water, as approved by the Board at the May Board Meeting.

On July 3, 2025, the Allocation and Storage Committee met and voted to recommend the release of the full allocation based on the Bureau of Reclamation's report that sufficient Project

Water is available to meet all of the requests which were approved in the May 2025 allocation,

based on measurements at the Boustead Tunnel and the Project Water available from prior years. Imports in 2025 so far have totaled more than 38,000 AF and the Fryingpan Collection

System will shut down on July 21 in order to make repairs on the Cunningham Tunnel.

Mr. Heimerich moved, seconded by Mr. Colosimo, to approve 100 percent release of the 2025 Allocation for Municipal and Agricultural Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Water, as approved by the Board in the May Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

- Arkansas Valley Conduit Newsletter
- JWBHP Update
- Excess Capacity Master Contract Update

President Long adjourned the Enterprise Board Meeting @ 10:57 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

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