

**UPPER ARKANSAS WATER  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
January 8, 2026  
1:30 PM**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District was held Thursday January 8, 2026, commencing at 1:30 pm at the District offices, 339 East Hwy 50, Salida, Colorado, following the Water Activity Enterprise committee meeting, notice having been given by posting of Notice and Agenda on January 7, 2026, at the offices of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, 339 East Hwy 50, Salida, Colorado.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT (IN PERSON)**

Timothy C. Canterbury	Brett A. McMurry	Kristie Nackord
Richard Hilderbrand	Albert Eggleston	
Tom French		

**DIRECTORS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)**

Robert B. (Bill) Donley	Tim Payne	Mike Shields
Tony Telck		

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Mannie Colon	Ben Lenth
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**DISTRICT OFFICIALS/STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gregory W. Felt, General Manager	Ralph L. (Terry) Scanga, District Advisor
Jord Gertson, Hydrologist	Gracy Goodwin, Projects Manager
Kendall Burgemeister, Attorney	Chris Manera, Engineer
Jennifer A. Scanga, Office Manager	

**DISTRICT OFFICIALS/STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)**

Britt Searles, Administrative Assistant

**DISTRICT OFFICIALS ABSENT**

Richard Brown, Legislative Consultant

**STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Talon Canterbury, Water Commissioner, District 11  
Nate Huffman, Deputy Water Commissioner, District 11  
Dan Henrichs, Water Commissioner, District 12  
Joe Crabb, Municipal Operations and Litigation Engineer and Augmentation Coordinator

**STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)**

None

**STATE OFFICIALS ABSENT**

Rachel Zancanella, Division Engineer  
Allen Keeling, Water Commissioner, District 13  
Robert Canda, Deputy Water Commissioner, District 12

**EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT**

None

**EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)**

DeWayne McFall, Fremont County Commissioner  
Gina Lucrezi, Chaffee County Commissioner

## RECORD OF PROCEEDING

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### **EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT**

Shawn Williams, Buena Vista Public Works Director  
Christy Doon, City of Salida Administrator  
Dave Schneider, Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District Manager  
Sean Kelly, Town of Poncha Springs  
Bill Canda, Custer County Commissioner  
Travis Payne, Canon City Water Superintendent

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Joe Stone, Heart of the Rockies Radio News

### **GUESTS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERNING)**

None

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Canterbury led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Guests were asked to introduce themselves.

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF November 13, 2025**

The minutes of the meeting on November 13, 2025, were approved upon motion by Director Donley with a second by Director Nackord.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Upon motion by Director French with a second by Director Telck the Board approved the monthly financial reports dated November 30, 2025

Upon motion by Director Payne with a second by Director Hilderbrand, the Board approved the monthly financial reports dated December 31, 2025

The Quarterly Financial Report was made available for review. There were no questions or comments

### **PROGRAM PRESENTATION**

None

### **Adoption of an official posting place:**

Upon motion by Director Nackord with a second by Director Hilderbrand, the Board approved keeping the official posting places for the District to include the front lobby of the Ken Baker Water Enterprise Building and the District website as official posting places.

### **EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

None

### **HYDROLOGY REPORT- Jord Gertson, Hydrologist**

Hydrologist Gertson presented a comprehensive hydrology report focused on water replacements and allocation. The presentation covered key technical areas, including stream and reservoir gaging, data management, water accounting, the Augmentation Permit Database, and augmentation replacements.

Mr. Gertson concluded by noting upcoming meetings of interest to the District. Following the presentation, Manager Felt expressed his appreciation for the report, emphasizing the value of quarterly updates in providing the Board with current data and a clear understanding of the accounting systems. He explicitly acknowledged the effective teamwork and coordination between Project Manager Goodwin and Hydrologist Gertson in maintaining these operations.

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### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT- Gracy Goodwin**

PM Goodwin presented the project update for January 2026. Her presentation revolved around the DeWeese Enlargement Feasibility Study, Phase 2, The TCP Alluvial Storage, Intraditch Exchange Project, USGS Chaffee County Study, Round Mountain Reservoir, UAWCD DCP Upgrade and CWCB

#### **Update on USGS Chaffee County Study & County Commissioner Meeting:**

Manager Felt provided an update on a recent meeting with the County Commissioners regarding the USGS Chaffee County Study. He noted that the meeting was primarily informative, as there are new commissioners at the county and there have been staffing changes at USGS. Some of these attendees had not been previously aware of the full scope or details of the study.

Advisor Scanga and the Board discussed the nature of the USGS Groundwater Study:

Advisor Scanga explained that the study provides "high-level" information. He said that while useful for broad scenarios, it does not offer the location-specific or operational data required for day-to-day decision-making.

Advisor Scanga further explained that while the study examines the interaction between surface and groundwater (including well networks), the relationship is indirect.

It was noted that operating solely on high-level studies is difficult. To fully understand the scope, such as fully consumable water for ranchers or capturing return flow, specific, in-depth studies are required.

Advisor Scanga explained for Director Nackord that studies began in the 1970s. At that time, augmentation plans were new, and engineering tools were limited. He said it has since been proven that additional wells have a negative impact on groundwater, but quantifying this impact requires location-based data.

Advisor Scanga clarified that water for Salida is piped in and does not originate from where the town sits. He emphasized that the District's priority is to ensure no injury to existing water rights.

The study selected wells covering areas of significant growth, though the distribution was not equal. The discussion touched on how irrigation impacts groundwater, variances in geology impacting groundwater availability and recharge rates, climate scenarios, and how changes from irrigation of farmland to development can impact groundwater balances.

PM Goodwin suggested identifying what studies and data currently exist and aggregating them into a central location for easier access.

Hydrologist Gertson concluded with the sentiment that while "all models are wrong, some are useful," implying the current model still has utility despite its limitations.

### **ENGINEERING REPORT – Colorado River Engineering, Chris Manera**

#### **Cottonwood Lake Proposed Dam and Spillway Improvements:**

Engineer Manera provided an in-depth update regarding the Cottonwood Lake Proposed Dam and Spillway Improvements. He presented a visual overview of the lake and dam, including a 2016 survey and the water priority date of 1942. He detailed the cross-section of the gate function, noting an issue where the current configuration blocks off the "dead pool" from the "active pool" available to the District, a distinction necessary for determining augmentation needs versus natural conditions.

Mr. Manera outlined three design criteria, emphasizing that safety was the priority. Answering a question from Manager Felt regarding the V-shaped design, he explained that the tip is positioned to channel low flows to the outlet while allowing high flows to pass over, ensuring no reduction in spillway capacity. He displayed a 3D model of the concrete structure, confirming for Advisor Scanga that it would be poured in place. The report also included design provisions for three pools to support fish passage.

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### **LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT REPORT – Richard Brown**

Legislative Consultant Brown was unavailable to give a Legislative Update. He provided a written update for all Board members to review.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

### **RESUME REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Nothing of significance in the November 2025 Resume.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT – Greg Felt**

Manager Felt updated the Board on recent District activities. He detailed a meeting with Custer County regarding Arkansas Basin water rights, specifically noting the potential for expanding storage in Custer and the high level of service the District provides to that area. He also noted that a recent education session for real estate agents was well-attended by the water commissioners.

Advisor Scanga discussed the critical role of outreach and directed the public to the District's website for the most current information. He spoke about joint projects with Buena Vista and Poncha Springs and reminded the Board that protecting water rights is a collaborative and communicative effort. He also provided updates on the recent Colorado Water Congress Board, the initiation of the "Void list" process, and O&E reports.

Manager Felt updated the Board on the upcoming transition of representation on the Arkansas Basin Roundtable. It was announced that Chaffee County Commissioner-elect Gina Lucrezi has assumed the position previously held by Manager Felt. As Manager Felt concludes his tenure in the county representative seat, Commissioner Lucrezi will step in to fill the vacancy, ensuring that Chaffee County maintains its designated voting member and continued presence on the Roundtable.

### **DISTRICT ADVISOR REPORT- Terry Scanga**

Advisor Scanga reported that he will be presenting an educational session on augmentation at the upcoming Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF) in April. He also provided an update on committee representation, announcing that Manager Felt will be taking over his position on the Roundtable. Additionally, Advisor Scanga formally noted his resignation from the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) and stated that Manager Felt has applied to the roundtable to fill that vacancy.

### **LEGAL REPORT – Law of the Rockies, Kendall Burgemeister**

Opposition updates, transactional matters, applications, and updates were included in the Law of the Rockies report presented by Atty Burgemeister. The report was made available to all Board members.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION 3:00pm:**

A motion for consideration of executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(e)(I) was made by Director Hilderbrand, seconded by Director French to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators, with respect to UAWCD response to Aurora purchase of additional water rights in the Arkansas River Basin. The Board approved the motion.

### **OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:01pm:**

Upon motion by Director Donley, seconded by Director Eggleston, the Board approved to move out of Executive Session.

### **CHAIRMAN & DIRECTOR REPORTS**

None

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### **NOTICES & MEETINGS**

- **January 14, 2026 Arkansas Basin Roundtable, CSU Pueblo**
- **January 15, 2026 SECWCD Board Meeting, Pueblo**
- **January 26-27, 2026 CWCB, Aurora**
- **January 28-30, 2026 Colorado Water Congress, Aurora**
- **February 4, 2026 UAWCD Presentation at Fremont Conservation District, Canon City**
- **February 11, 2026 Arkansas Basin Roundtable, Pueblo Community College**

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business coming before the Board or Enterprise and upon motion by Director Donley, seconded by Director Shields, the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:04pm.

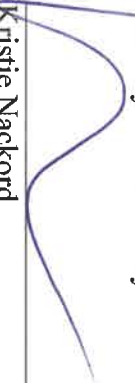
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RECORD OF PROCEEDING

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gregory W. Felt, General Manager

  
Timothy C. Canterbury

  
Kristie Nackord

absent - no signature  
Mannie Colon

  
Robert B. Donley

Ben Lenth  
(absent)

  
Tom E. French

  
Brett A. McMurry

  
Richard Hilderbrand

  
Albert Eggleston

  
Vacant

  
Tim Payne

  
Tony Telck

  
Mike Shields