

**UPPER ARKANSAS WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

**March 13, 2025
1:30 PM**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District was held Thursday, March 13, 2025, 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 March 12, 2025, at the offices of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, 339 East Hwy 50, Salida, Colorado.

DIRECTORS PRESENT (IN PERSON)

Timothy C. Canterbury	Robert B. (Bill) Donley	Warren Diesslin
Tom E. French	Tim Payne	Albert Eggleston
Thomas Goodwin	Tony Telck	Albert Eggleston
Richard Hilderbrand	Brett A. McMurry	Ben Lenth

DIRECTORS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)

None

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Mannie Colon
Mike Shields

DISTRICT OFFICIALS/STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Gregory W. Felt, General Manager	Gracy Goodwin, Projects Manager
Ralph L. (Terry) Scanga, District Advisor	Jennifer A. Scanga, Administrative Assistant
Jord Gertson, Hydrologist	

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

Denise Sanchez, Office Manager

DISTRICT OFFICIALS ABSENT

Chris Manera, Engineer
Richard Brown, Legislative Consultant

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT

Dan Henrichs, Water Commissioner, District 12
Allen Keeling, Water Commissioner, District 13
Robert Canda, Deputy Water Commissioner, District 12

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)

Will Scott, Water Commissioner, District 11

STATE OFFICIALS ABSENT

Rachel Zancanella, Division Engineer
Tanner Camper, Augmentation Coordinator
Talon Canterbury, Deputy Water Commissioner, District 11

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Bill Canda, Custer County Commissioner

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

Dwayne McFall, Fremont County Commissioner
Sean Kelly, Town of Poncha Springs

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Shawn Williams, Buena Vista Public Works Director
Christy Doon, City of Salida Administrator
Travis Payne, Canon City Water Superintendent
Dave Schneider, Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District Manager

GUESTS PRESENT

Joe Stone, Heart of the Rockies Radio News
John Kuhlman, City of Colorado Springs

GUESTS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERRING)

Cathy Garcia, Office of U.S. Representative Jeff Hurd
Christopher Olney, Colorado Springs Utilities

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 February 13, 2025

The minutes of the meeting on February 13, 2025, were approved upon motion by Director French with a second by Director Telck.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon motion by Director Goodwin with a second by Director Eggleston, the Board approved the monthly financial reports dated February 28, 2025.

PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Mine Pool Monitoring Near Leadville, Colorado - Tommyknocker Heaven

Hydrologist Gertson, from Source Water Consulting, presented on the Mine Pool Monitoring project near Leadville, Colorado.

He began his presentation by explaining the location and history of the mine.

The presentation "Tommyknocker Heaven" provides a timeline overview of the Leadville Mining District, discussing the historical development of mine working infrastructure, water body pumping, recovery, water elevations, inflow, and discharge as springs. It illustrates the present pumping and monitoring of water elevations, inflow, and discharge in the district. The presentation also discusses future monitoring, uncertainties, and solutions related to water body pumping, recovery, water elevations, water treatment, and discharge as springs.

He also provided a brief explanation of "Tommyknockers" (mythical mine spirits) and a timeline of mining activities in the Leadville area, including the types and scale of mining operations. The presentation began with the discovery of gold in 1859 and the establishment of Oro City and Leadville in 1860 and 1877, respectively. It detailed the growth of the mining industry, including the construction of infrastructure like the Colorado Midland Rail and the Yak Mining Milling and Tunnel Co. The presentation also noted significant events such as the Silver Market Crash of 1893, the construction of the Ice Palace, and various dewatering efforts in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Key historical points included the discovery of gold in 1859, the establishment of Oro City and Leadville, and the development of mining operations and infrastructure, including the Yak Tunnel. The Leadville Drainage Tunnel (LMDT) construction by the US Bureau of Mines from 1943-1956, and subsequent treatment plant operations.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

Hydrologist Gertson detailed the significant role of the Yak Tunnel, the largest silver-producing district, and the primary production of ore and lead between 1800 and 1923, providing the amount of material collected.

The historical significance of Leadville as a major silver-producing district was emphasized, along with the production of gold, lead, zinc, and copper. The presentation highlighted the geological context, including the fault systems that influenced groundwater flow.

Proposed solutions included continued monitoring and maintenance, ongoing treatment operations, upgrades to water treatment facilities, tunnel bulkhead improvements, and measures to enhance tunnel stability and prevent sulfide ore oxidation.

The importance of managing mine pool water levels to maximize underground storage capacity, increase groundwater residence time, and minimize water level fluctuations was discussed.

Manager Felt initiated discussion about the risks to fish populations in the Arkansas river in the 1980's due to elevated metal levels in the water. He stated that the fish didn't live long, nor did they grow as large, and the population was less because of the bioconcentration of metal. He further noted that subsequent improvements in water quality have resulted in observable improvements in fish health.

Director Eggleston noted that the reduced heavy metal levels in the water have improved fish food availability, enabling fish to grow and thrive.

Hydrologist Gertson reported that significant mine waste and alluvial tailings from the California Gulch confluence, irrigated into the 11-mile reach of the Arkansas River, contributed to water contamination. This irrigation created barren landscapes and unconsolidated mine tailings, which eroded into the river during high flows, further impacting water quality.

Hydrologist Gertson explained to Advisor Scanga that after capping, waste piles ceased and the collected water was treated. He clarified this action was necessary to manage water runoff from the piles, as isolating the water-rock sulfite mineral was not feasible.

Manager Scanga inquired whether water treatment would have been necessary if the waste piles had continued to be capped. Hydrologist Gertson replied that continuing the capping would have substantially decreased the amount of water treatment required.

Water Commissioner Canda inquired about the funding sources for water treatment and data collection. Hydrologist Gertson mentioned past involvement from Colorado Mountain College

Mr. Gertson emphasized for Commissioner Canda the severe risk of a chemical "blow out" due to the mixing of sodium hydroxide and sulfuric acid, which would have devastating consequences. He said to mitigate this risk, an alert system with a loudspeaker is installed at the Leadville Mine tunnel entrance to provide warnings.

Director Goodwin suggested exploring increased underground storage and an outlet tunnel for settled water, building on the information provided by Gertson. Hydrologist Gertson responded that while this is a possible solution, its effectiveness is not guaranteed. Mr. Gertson suggested using the underground storage as a reservoir, allowing for controlled water exchange to minimize evaporation and potentially reduce treatment costs.

Advisor Scanga suggested constructing a dam on the mainstem of the Arkansas River as a potential solution to mitigate the problem. He suggested storing the water allowing it to settle before releasing. Mr. Gertson agreed that this would be a good solution, and gave the Pueblo Reservoir as an example of a location where this is already being done.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

None

CONSULTANT REPORT – Richard Brown

A written report from Legislative Consultant Brown was made available for Board Members to review prior to the meeting. No presentation.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT- Gracy Goodwin

No Project Update for the March 2025 meeting.

ENGINEERING REPORT – Colorado River Engineering, Chris Manera

No March Engineering Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

RESUME REVIEW COMMITTEE

Nothing of significance in the February 2025 resume.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Greg Felt

Manager Felt presented the Board with an overview of District activities for the past month. He reported a period of high activity in the office, primarily focused on managing customer care and processing annual Storage and Maintenance fee payments and meter readings. Manager Felt also detailed his involvement in the State Affairs Committee, including ongoing legislative tracking and participation in weekly Pueblo Spill meetings. He noted his and Advisor Scanga's attendance at the well-attended memorial service for Dick Bratton, where his professional contributions were thoroughly recognized. Finally, he reported on the District's strong participation in the recent Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF).

DISTRICT ADVISOR REPORT- Terry Scanga

Advisor Scanga briefed the Board on the recent IBCC meeting, noting it was exceptionally productive. He discussed the dredge and fill bill and the development of related regulations through a CDPHE rulemaking, presented by Mark Shea from Colorado Springs Utilities.

Advisor Scanga reported on the IBCC's development of a drought resiliency plan, which draws upon the C9 Summit meeting held in Crested Butte several months ago. He said discussion in the meeting concerned the 2013 'No Low Regrets Action Plan, emphasizing its focus on bridging the gap between water demand and supply in the Arkansas Basin.

Mr. Scanga expressed surprise at Western Slope's resistance to further trans-mountain diversions to the Eastern Slope, stating their preference to allocate surplus water to California. He advocated for the 'No Low Regrets Action Plan' during the IBCC meeting, suggesting alternative strategies such as alternative agricultural transfers, lease fallowing, conservation through storage, and municipal water reuse to augment supply without further impacting agricultural lands. He proposed renaming the plan 'Water Supply Resiliency Plan' to better reflect its objectives.

He noted that a subcommittee has been formed to review the 'No Low Regrets Action Plan' and the C9 Summit outcomes, and will report its findings to the IBCC. Mr. Scanga also highlighted key planning goals including a 2029 Phase One evaluation of the water plan's analysis and technical updates, a Phase Two basin implementation plan from 2029-2031, and a Phase Three comprehensive water plan update from 2031-2033.

Commissioner Becky Mitchell declared that Colorado is different than all other Western States in that the State's water plan is not a top down but more of a grass roots, bottom up process. Mr. Scanga said that IBCC is engaged in the bottom up process through the round tables.

Mr. Scanga briefed the Board on discussion regarding the Colorado River. He stated that prior adopted rules are being worked on and a new plan must be developed after 2026 for operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. He said Colorado offered some alternatives for the operational plan for the Colorado River. He explained that right now it operates like a bathtub and when Lake Mead needs more water, water is released out of Lake Powell and the upstream reservoirs and it all flows down to the bottom end. He added that Colorado does not believe it should be operated that way. He stated Colorado's position that Lakes Mead and Powell should operate in parallel, balancing reservoir management with evaporation and hydrology considerations reducing the amount of water that is delivered based on the 1.5 acre-feet reality and the hydrology of a given year.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

Director Goodwin inquired about the calibration of evaporation loss at a higher elevation. Advisor Scanga stated that there is a difference in the rate of evaporation and also a surface area difference that affects that rate. He emphasized that evaporation rates are influenced by elevation and the ratio of surface area to storage.

Water Conservation Program:

Advisor Scanga brought attention to the Water Conservation Program, stating that Maverick Ranch has expressed interest in joining.

He informed the group that program details and applications are available on the District's website.

LEGAL REPORT – Law of the Rockies, Kendall Burgemeister

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

CHAIRMAN & DIRECTOR REPORTS

None

NOTICES & MEETINGS

- **March 19-20, Colorado Water Conservation Board Meeting in Greeley**
- **March 20, SECWCD Board Meeting in Pueblo**
- **April 9, Arkansas Basin Round Table in Salida**

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board or Enterprise and upon motion by Director Donley and approval of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:27pm.

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RECORD OF PROCEEDING

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory W. Felt, General Manager

approved Remotely - no signi

Tom Goodwin, Treasurer

absent - no signature

Timothy C. Canterbury

absent - no signature

Richard Hilderbrand

absent - no signature

Mannie Colon



Albert Eggleston

Robert B. Donley


Robert B. Donley

Warren Diesslin

Warren Diesslin

Ben Lenth

Ben Lenth



Tim Payne

Tom E. French

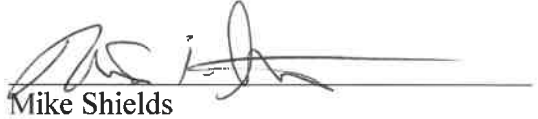
Tom E. French

Tony Telok

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Brett A. McMurry

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Mike Shields