UPPER ARKANSAS WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 9, 2026
1:30 PM

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District was held Thursday April 9, 2026, commencing at 1:00 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 April 8, 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	Ben Lenth
Richard Hilderbrand	Tony Telck	Kristie Nackord
Tom French	Mike Shields	Tom Murphy
Tim Payne	Albert Eggleston	

DIRECTORS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)
None

DIRECTORS ABSENT
Robert B. (Bill) Donley
Mannie Colon

DISTRICT OFFICIALS/STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Gregory W. Felt, General Manager	Ralph L. (Terry) Scanga, District Advisor
Jord Gertson, Hydrologist	Gracy Goodwin, Project's Manager
Kendall Burgemeister, Attorney	Chris Manera, Engineer
Jennifer A. Scanga, Office Manager	Britt Searles, Administrative Assistant

DISTRICT OFFICIALS/STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)
Richard Brown, Legislative Consultant

DISTRICT OFFICIALS ABSENT
None

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT
Robert Canda, Deputy Water Commissioner, District 12
Talon Canterbury, Water Commissioner, District 11
Nate Huffman, Deputy Water Commissioner, District 11

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)
Dan Henrichs, Water Commissioner, District 12

STATE OFFICIALS ABSENT
Rachel Zancanella, Division Engineer
Allen Keeling, Water Commissioner, District 13
Joe Crabb, Municipal Operations and Litigation Engineer and Augmentation Coordinator

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT
Dwayne McFall, Fremont County Commissioner

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)
None

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT
Shawn Williams, Buena Vista Public Works Director

Christy Doon, City of Salida Administrator
Sean Kelly, Town of Poncha Springs
Dave Schneider, Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District Manager
Gina Lucrezi, Chaffee County Commissioner
Bill Canda, Custer County Commissioner
Travis Payne, Canon City Water Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT
Joe Stone, Heart of the Rockies Radio News
Christopher Olney, Colorado Springs Utilities
Katie Garrett, Colorado Springs Utilities
Jackson Sharp, United States Geological Study (USGS)
Mark Perry, DWR Dam Safety Engineer

GUESTS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERNCING)
Lucas Epp, Custer County Commissioner
Meghan Bell, United States Geological Study (USGS)
Robert Sander

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 March 12, 2026
The minutes of the meeting on March 12, 2026, were approved upon motion by Director Nackord with a second by Director Payne.

FINANCIAL REPORTS
Upon motion by Director Lenth with a second by Director French the Board approved the monthly financial reports dated March 31, 2026. The Quarterly report was available for review.

PROGRAM PRESENTATION
Program Presentation: District Structures and Dam Safety
Engineer Chris Manera and Dam Safety Inspector Mark Perry provided a joint presentation regarding the District's infrastructure and safety protocols. Engineer Manera began by presenting a map of the District boundaries, detailing the structures and reservoirs located within the decreed area. He specifically highlighted storage structures and dams within the District's "blue line" jurisdiction, including Cottonwood, Rainbow Lake, Ice Lake, Conquistador, DeWeese-Dye, Wenke, and the South Arkansas reservoirs, as well as the future Round Mountain site.

Dam Safety Regulations and Risk Management
Mark Perry of the Colorado Dam Safety Program provided an overview of the rules and statutes governing dam infrastructure. Using the 2013 Meadow Lake Dam failure as a case study, he addressed the challenges of managing aging dams and provided a breakdown of dam construction by decade. Mr. Perry emphasized the statutory responsibility of dam owners to maintain their structures; if an owner fails to act, the State Engineer has the authority to take control and remove the dam to ensure public safety.

The presentation included an overview of dam nomenclature, terminology, and the specific characteristics of embankment dams (earth or rock fill). Mr. Perry explained the hazard classification system, which rates dams based on the potential impact of a failure, and discussed risk assessment regarding the likelihood of foundation failure. He concluded by reviewing the essential responsibilities of dam owners, noting that all Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) were successfully updated in 2025.

Hydrologist Gertson concluded the discussion by addressing specific concerns at Boss Lake. He noted that the reservoir is currently experiencing a low threshold, which may require further monitoring or

operational adjustments.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS
None

HYDROLOGY REPORT- Jord Gertson, Hydrologist
None

PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT- Gracy Goodwin
Project Manager Goodwin presented the project updates for April 2026, which covered the DeWeese Enlargement Feasibility Phase 2, the Intraditch Exchange Project, Round Mountain Reservoir, the USGS Chaffee County Groundwater Study, and the Cottonwood Dam Project.

During the discussion, Jackson Sharp of the USGS provided additional context regarding current water level data. Manager Felt also reported on the successful acquisition of a 30-year Special Use Permit (SUP) for Cottonwood Lake, expressing his appreciation for the cooperation and efficiency shown by the U.S. Forest Service in securing the long-term permit.

ENGINEERING REPORT – Colorado River Engineering, Chris Manera
Engineer Manera provided an update regarding the inclusion request for the Town of Buena Vista, noting that an agreement for an additional 50 acre feet is currently being finalized for presentation to the Division Engineer's office. He detailed a joint effort to develop a tracking plan for water usage and river return flows, stating that the team is now comfortable submitting this plan to the State. Regarding the water rights case involving over 90 acre-feet, Engineer Manera reported that while they are still awaiting final approval on specific comments, progress remains steady. Following this update, Advisor Scanga clarified for the record that the matter discussed regarding Buena Vista is a full Standard Augmentation Plan rather than a lease agreement.

LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT REPORT – Richard Brown
Legislative Consultant Brown provided a comprehensive update on the current session, referencing the written report previously distributed to the Board. He highlighted that the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) is currently addressing an anticipated $1.5 billion shortfall, following a $1 billion deficit from the previous fiscal year; a secondary forecast review revealed an additional $700 million gap. Consultant Brown noted the paradox of continuing budget increases despite significant cuts, which has a direct impact on the funding of water projects. He reported that while the CWC construction bill is moving forward, approximately 64 supplemental bills are facing monetary challenges. Additionally, a hearing for the revegetation bill is scheduled for April 20th.

During the ensuing discussion, Hydrologist Gertson sought clarification on the shortfall relative to the total state budget. It was noted that while the budget is often cited at $86 billion, the actual operating budget is closer to $43 billion due to internal accounting. The discussion touched on partisan disagreements regarding underperforming revenues, with Democrats attributing the deficit to TABOR restrictions and federal funding cuts, while Republicans cited budget management concerns. In response to an inquiry from Director French regarding Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) surpluses, it was clarified that the state is not expected to issue TABOR refunds in the coming year, as those funds may be utilized to address the current deficit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
None

RESUME REVIEW COMMITTEE
Nothing of significance in the February 2026 Resume.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Greg Felt
Manager Felt shared a positive update with the Board regarding the Water Education Colorado (WECO) Water Leaders Mentoring Program. He announced that Office Manager Scanga has been accepted into the prestigious program. The leadership training is scheduled to begin with its first session at the end of

this month. Manager Felt elaborated on the WECO Water Leaders Program, noting that the seven-month training focuses on developing leadership specifically within the water sector and fostering collaboration among water entities throughout the State of Colorado.

In regional updates, he discussed the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project and the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (SECWCD), noting that 2,500 acre-feet of sediment allocation is being utilized as an offset within the system.

Manager Felt presented a series of maps and data points regarding current drought conditions in Colorado and the Southwest. Reports from late March through early April indicate areas of extreme to exceptional drought. Reviewing the SNOTEL sites in the Arkansas River Basin, it was noted that only 19% of the original snowpack remains. To manage these conditions, officials are currently calculating necessary water movements and exchanges to ensure delivery requirements are met.

Finally, it was reported that the USDA has designated 33 counties as disaster areas, making loans and other assistance available to those affected by the ongoing drought.

DISTRICT ADVISOR REPORT- Terry Scanga
Advisor Scanga had nothing of significance to report.

LEGAL REPORT – Law of the Rockies, Kendall Burgemeister
Attorney Burgemeister presented a brief oral update of the Law of the Rockies report, providing an overview of opposition matters, transactional items, and pending water applications.

CHAIRMAN & DIRECTOR REPORTS
None

NOTICES & MEETINGS

- **April 16, 2026 – SECWCD Board Meeting**
- **April 21, 2026 – Local Leaders Dinner, Salida Steamplant, 5:00-8:00 PM**
- **April 22-23, 2026 – Arkansas River Basin Water Forum, Salida Steamplant**
- **May 13, 2026 – Arkansas Basin Roundtable, CSU - Pueblo**

ADJOURN
There being no further business coming before the Board or Enterprise and upon motion by Director McMurry, the meeting adjourned at 2:59 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Gregory W. Felt, General Manager

Timothy C. Canterbury

Kristie Nackord

Richard Hilderbrand

Absent - no signature
Mannie Colon

Albert Eggleston

Robert B. Donley

Tom Murphy

Virtual - no signature
Ben Lenth

Tim Payne

Tom E. French

Tony Telck

Brett A. McMurry

Absent - no signature
Mike Shields