

**UPPER ARKANSAS WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
November 13, 2025
1:30 PM**

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT (IN PERSON)

Tom E. French (acting Chair)	Tony Telck	Ben Lenth
Richard Hilderbrand	Brett A. McMurry	Kristie Nackord
Robert B. (Bill) Donley	Mike Shields	
Tim Payne		

DIRECTORS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)

None

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Mannie Colon	Timothy C. Canterbury	Albert Eggleston
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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, Project's Manager
Kendall Burgemeister, Attorney	Britt Searles, Administrative Asst.
Jennifer A. Scanga, Office Manager	

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

Richard Brown, Legislative Consultant

DISTRICT OFFICIALS ABSENT

Chris Manera, Engineer

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT

Talon Canterbury, Water Commissioner, District 11
Robert Canda, Deputy Water Commissioner, District 12

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)

None

STATE OFFICIALS ABSENT

Rachel Zancanella, Division Engineer
Nate Huffman, Deputy Water Commissioner, District 11
Allen Keeling, Water Commissioner, District 13
Dan Henrichs, Water Commissioner, District 12
Joe Crabb, Municipal Operations and Litigation Engineer and Augmentation Coordinator

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

None

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

DeWayne McFall, Fremont County Commissioner
Travis Payne, Canon City Water Superintendent

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

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
DeWayne McFall, Fremont County Commissioner
Travis Payne, Canon City Water Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT

Joe Stone, Heart of the Rockies Radio News
Christopher Olney, Colorado Springs Utilities
Gina Lucrezi, Chaffee County Commissioner
Erik Young, Stotler and Young PC

GUESTS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERNING)

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman French led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were asked to introduce themselves.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF October 9, 2025

The minutes of the meeting on October 9, 2025, were approved upon motion by Director Donley with a second by Director Telck.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon motion by Director Lenth with a second by Director Nackord, the Board approved the monthly financial reports dated October 31, 2025

PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Budget Hearing: At 2:00 pm Vice-Chairman French opened the public hearing and asked Erik Young of Stotler and Young PC to provide information on the proposed 2026 budget. He said the mill levy is set at a rate of .0478, temporarily reduced to .372 mills. Mr. Young stated that assessed valuations and certifications will be significantly less, however the district is still subject to compliance with the Tabor Limit which is the most restrictive for year 2026. Mr. Young added that it will not affect the bottom dollar amount of the budget revenue. There were no questions from the public.

Upon motion by Director Payne, seconded by Director Telck, the Board approved the 2026 Budget Resolution.

Budget Hearing closed at 2:11pm

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

None

PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT- Gracy Goodwin

PM Goodwin presented the project update for November 2025. Her presentation revolved around the DeWeese Dam Enlargement Feasibility Investigation. . Advisor Scanga explained that the if and when space generated through the enlargement will be important for partner entities that need additional storage space.

PM Goodwin clarified for Director Payne that the Dam is very stable, and it is unnecessary to replace the entire dam.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

Advisor Scanga provided a historical overview of the DeWeese Feasibility Study, noting that it was initiated by former District Engineer Ivan Walters. He reported that, on average, 25,000 acre-feet (AF) of water flows through the DeWeese Reservoir. After accounting for DeWeese decrees, approximately 20,000 AF remains available for potential exchange.

Mr. Scanga explained that the District has contingent access ("if and when") to water in both existing and new spaces. Specifically, if DeWeese does not utilize their 40% allocation of the enlargement space, that space becomes available to the District. He emphasized that this availability is strategic for potential partnerships with other entities.

Director Hilderbrand made a motion to approve moving forward with the CWCB grant application for the DeWeese Phase Two Feasibility Study. Director Shields seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion.

ENGINEERING REPORT – Colorado River Engineering, Chris Manera

Engineer Manera provided a written review for Board members. Mr. Manera was absent from the meeting.

HYDROLOGY REPORT- Jord Gertson, Hydrologist

None

LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT REPORT – Richard Brown

Legislative Consultant Brown gave a brief update on legislative matters concerning the District. He updated the Board on the status of several bills. He stated that the Governor gave his presentation to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and Colorado is again facing over an \$800 million shortfall for the next fiscal year. He said this makes it the third one billion dollar range shortfall. Mr. Brown stated that the concern is that JBC is already saying that they plan to sweep all the cash funds and fee income. He noted the new severance tax task force organized by the Department of Natural Resources and they have had one organizational meeting with two objectives in mind. One is to see if there are other sources of revenue that can insulate the severance tax from periodic raids and the second is whether or not there is a way to develop a payback to the severance tax fund from years of depletions. He added that there has been approximately \$100 million that has been swept by the JBC.

Mr. Brown talked about the Governor resurrecting his proposal to sell Pinnacol Insurance, the State workers compensation fund with about 46 thousand insured entities. He stated that he reached out to see how many public sector governmental entities are covered by Pinnacol and received no response. He said he also spent some time with the Department of Natural Resources regarding their proposal for legislation for next year that would allow them to take over primacy from the EPA for injection wells for geothermal. Legislative Consultant Brown said they should have a draft soon.

Mr. Brown also briefed the Board on revegetation legislation that the Lower Ark District is contemplating. He said there were approximately 100 attendees and a lot of discussion but not much interest from anyone else outside the Arkansas River Basin. Those attendees often are concerned about corrections to decreed revegetation plans that have not proven effective.

Legislative Consultant Brown concluded his update with information concerning his discussion with Kathleen Curry about the infestation of zebra mussels that have been discovered in the Colorado River. He said that presentation was given by the Parks and Wildlife through the Water Resources interim committee which indicated the infestation might be higher than what was originally thought. There are operations underway to control this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

RESUME REVIEW COMMITTEE

Nothing of significance in the September and October Resumes.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Greg Felt

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

Water Lease Agreement: Silver Heels Reservoir

Manager Felt explained that the Silver Heels Water Lease Agreement is a 30 year contract for temporary supply of replacement water to meet out of priority depletions. Water will be exchanged up Bear Creek and Silver Heels Creek to Silver Heels Reservoir.

Upon motion by Director Payne, seconded by Director Nackord, the Board approved the 30 year water lease with Silver Heels Ranch.

Water Education Attendance Policy:

Manager Felt led a discussion regarding revisions to the Water Education Attendance Policy. Key updates include streamlined language and the removal of the annual expenditure limit for individual Directors. It was noted that the fundamental attendance requirements remain the same.

Upon motion by Director Payne, with a second on Director Hilderbrand, the Board approved the Water Education Attendance Policy.

ARBWF Sponsorship: Local leaders Dinner Share Cost

Upon motion by Director Nackord, seconded by Director Lenth, the Board approved a \$5000 Sponsorship for the Local Leaders Dinner as part of the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum for 2026.

DISTRICT ADVISOR REPORT- Terry Scanga

Advisor Scanga gave an update on the latest Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) meeting regarding the No & Low Regrets Action Plan. Mr. Scanga stated that during the meeting it was decided to look back on its development in September of 2013. Mr. Scanga explained that at the February 2025 meeting the created a subcommittee to focus on key topics discussed at the October 2024 C9 Summit in Crested Butte related to the Drought Resilience Action Plan (DRAP). This subcommittee's mission was to crosswalk the DRAP topics with the IBCC's 2013 No & Low Regrets Action Plan.

Advisor Scanga said members of this subcommittee individually analyzed specific DRAP topics then collectively outlined future recommendations for IBCC consideration. The committee conducted a crosswalk exercise which consisted of each member of the committee starting with a topic from the C9 DRAP exercise and reviewing the 2013 NO & Low Regrets strategy (NLR) to find if and /;or when the C9 topics are referenced in the NLR strategy where there are conceptual linkages between the two documents. The crosswalk exercise revealed that the 2013 No & Low Regrets memorandum and the 2024 DRAP share a strong philosophical foundation in meeting the goals of statewide water planning , and help set statewide priorities with Basin input. Both prioritize developing approaches to Colorado's water challenges that are innovative and applicable to all basins.

Mr. Scanga concluded that the next step for IBCC will be to decide whether to adopt the subcommittee's recommendations to begin developing a new NLR framework. He added that this will be discussed at the next Roundtable meeting. He referenced the No & Low Regrets Action Plan schedule which extends to February of 2029.

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.

He walked the board through two actions related to the Intra-Ditch Exchange on the Trout Creek Company Ditch. One is a request to approve a change application to allow use of more than one well for the replacement water and to also reduce the minimum amount of the permitted exchange from 0.5 cfs to 0.25 cfs. The second action was to authorize filing of the periodic diligence application, which is due at the end of December.

Upon motion by Director Donley, seconded by Director Telck, the Board approved moving forward with both applications. .

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

General Manager Contract:

Upon motion by Director Donley, with a second by Director Telck, the Board approved a three year contract with Manager Greg Felt.

CHAIRMAN & DIRECTOR REPORTS

Director McMurry asked about the impacts to the Upper Basin due to water use for the power plant purchased by Xcel and inquired about historic use impacts and quantification.

NOTICES & MEETINGS

- **SECWCD, November 20, Pueblo**
- **SECWCD, December 4, Pueblo**
- **Arkansas Basin Round Table, December 10, Pueblo**
- **UAWCD Holiday Party, December 11, Salida**

ADJOURN

There being no further business coming before the Board or Enterprise and upon motion by Director Donley, the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:02pm.

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RECORD OF PROCEEDING

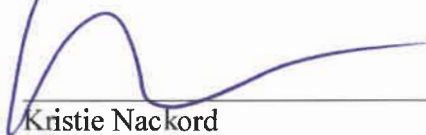
Respectfully submitted,



Gregory W. Felt, General Manager

Absent

Timothy C. Canterbury



Kristie Nackord

absent- no signature

Mannie Colon

approved Remotely- no sign.

Robert B. Donley

absent- no signature

Ben Lenth

Tom French

Tom E. French

Brett A. McMurry

Brett A. McMurry

Richard Hilderbrand

Richard Hilderbrand

Albert Eggleston

Albert Eggleston

Vacant

approved Remotely- no sign.

Tim Payne

approved Remotely- no sign.

Tony Telck

approved Remotely- no sign.

Mike Shields