



S O U T H E A S T E R N C O L O R A D O

Water Conservancy District

"Your investment in water"

April 21, 2022
For Immediate Release
Contact: Chris Woodka
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Bill Long



Curtis Mitchell



Ann Nichols



Alan Hamel



Tom Goodwin



Matt Heimerich

Southeastern District Board Appointments announced

One newcomer is joining five returning members on the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board of Directors. The appointments were made by a panel of District Judges in early April, and all six members were sworn into office Thursday, April 21, 2022.

Joining the Board is Matt Heimerich, 64, of Olney Springs, representing Crowley County. He will fill the four-year term of Carl McClure, who served for 17 years before retiring in 2022. The term will expire in 2025.

Heimerich is following in the footsteps of his father-in-law, Orville Tomky, who served on the Southeastern Board from 1988-2005.

Heimerich praised both McClure and Tomky at his first Board meeting for their contributions to Crowley County in dealing with the aftermath of water transfers of water from Crowley County that threatened to devastate the small rural county.

"Trying to bring a transmountain water diversion to the Arkansas Valley started in the 1920s and 1930s, and the need is as strong or stronger today," Heimerich said. "What else can the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project deliver to meet the challenges faced by the people who live here? On the municipal side of the Project, what a difference it will make when the Arkansas Valley Conduit is completed."

A New York native, Heimerich married Tomky's daughter Karen in 1985, and began working in the family's farming operation in 1987. The family continued farming after water from many of their

neighbors' farms had been sold to municipalities. He is a member of the Colorado Canal and Lake Meredith boards. He plans to make agricultural a priority while on the Southeastern Board.

Heimerich served from 1999-2011 as a Crowley County Commissioner, was on the Arkansas River Compact Administration board from 2007-2013, worked for the Palmer Land Trust in the Arkansas Valley office from 2014-2021, and is a member of the Water Education Colorado advisory board.

Reappointed, and serving four-year terms that expire in 2026 are:

- Bill Long, President, a businessman from Las Animas, representing Bent County, first appointed in 2002.
- Curtis Mitchell, Vice President, retired Fountain Utilities Director, representing El Paso County, first appointed in 2014.
- Ann Nichols, Treasurer, retired General Manager of Finance for Colorado Springs Utilities, representing El Paso County, first appointed in 2006.
- Alan Hamel, retired Executive Director of Pueblo Water, representing Pueblo County, first appointed in 1988.
- Tom Goodwin, retired from the Forest Service and USDA, representing Fremont County, first appointed in 2011.

The Southeastern District was formed in 1958 to administer the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, which was approved by Congress in 1962. The District includes parts of nine counties in the Arkansas River basin and brings water into the basin from the Fryingpan River basin on the western slope. There are a total of 15 Directors on the Board.