
**SOUTHEASTERN
COLORADO WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
MINUTES
February 19, 2026**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) was held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 9:33 a.m., at the District office, 31717 United Ave, Pueblo, Colorado. The ZOOM platform was also made available for Board Members and Visitors.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Abby Ortega	Curtis Mitchell	Mike Bartolo
Alan Hamel	Dallas May	Pat Edelmann
Andy Colosimo	Greg Felt	Seth Clayton
Ann Nichols	Justin DiSanti	Tom Goodwin
Bill Long	Matt Heimerich	

DIRECTOR(S) ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Kevin Karney

DISTRICT OFFICIALS:

Executive Director Leann Noga; Staff Attorney Peter Levish; Senior Policy and Issues Manager Chris Woodka; Engineering Manager, Gordon Dillon; Project Engineer, Trevor Singleton; Water Resources Engineer, Robert Banham; Administrative Manager, Misty Bellino; Administrative Support Specialist Patty Rivas; Accountant, Meg Scarlett; H2O Consultant, Roy Vaughan; Jewell, Jimmerson Natural Resources Law, April Hendricks; Wilson Water Group, Lisa Brown (remote); and Kogovsek & Associates, Christine Arbogast(remote).

PRESENT VISITORS:

USGS, Brandon Forbes and Krystal Brown; Colorado Springs Utilities, Dan Tucker; USBR, Derek Mickle and Mike Holmberg; Pueblo West Metro, Elissa Velasquez and Jeffery DeHerrera; Aurora Water, Rick Kienitz.

VISITORS CONNECTED THRU ZOOM:

Colorado Springs Utilities, Scott Lorenz. (logged on @ 9:40)

CONSENT ITEMS:

Mr. Hamel moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortega, to approve:

- The minutes of the January 15, 2026, District Board meeting
- Treasurer Report for January 2026

Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION ITEM:

DISTRICT SECURE LOGIN WEBSITE REVISION UPDATE

Mrs. Leann Noga presented to the board and update to the secure portion of the SECWCD Website.

The presentation provided an update on revisions made to the **District Secure Login website**, including a reference to the login site at:

 <https://app.secwcd.com/login/>

Screenshots were provided, illustrating the revised login interface and related user experience screens. Mrs. Noga walked the Board through the experience:

- The new or updated login page layout
- Changes to user interface elements
- Steps in the login process
- Workflows, security improvements, navigation updates
- Mrs. Noga thanked Misty Bellino, Administrative Manager, for her work on this project, including meeting with the Board Members individually to ensure their understanding of the changes.

Questions were asked of Mrs. Noga.

ACTION ITEMS:

2026 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FACILITATION CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

Mrs. Noga presented an action recommending the Board approve moving forward contracting with The Langdon Group.

Mrs. Noga and Mrs. MacIlroy, of The Langdon Group, began working together on the strategic planning effort in December 2025. The initial goal was to complete one-on-one interviews with each member of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, and Kelsea MacIlroy. Upon completion of the interviews, Mrs. MacIlroy will compile a report identifying common themes to inform the first strategic planning workshop, scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

The timeline was designed to ensure that current members of the Board of Directors have the opportunity to participate in the strategic planning process, recognizing the potential for new Board appointments in April 2026.

The creation and facilitation of the strategic planning process were not included in the 2026 Adopted Budget. The motion presented in this action report requests a 2026 budget amendment in the amount of \$32,730 to support the attached Strategic Planning scope for the development and facilitation of the strategic planning process.

A copy of the agreement was provided to the Board Members.

Mr. Clayton moved, seconded by Mr. Edlmann, that the Board of Directors approve the consulting with The Langdon Group for services for the creation and facilitation of strategic planning for the SE District and authorized the Executive Director to execute contract for services with a not to exceed \$32,730. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 LEE MILLER CONSULTATION (LARADISE LAW AND POLICY) CONTRACT

Mrs. Noga presented to the Board an action item recommending the Board of Directors approve a 2026 support services contract with Laradise Law and Policy.

Mr. Lee Miller retired from the District as of January 2026 with over 20 years of inside and outside council with the District. Mrs. Noga asked if he would be willing to continue with the District regarding a few main subjects, **Federal Reclamation Law and Policy, Colorado River Issues**, as an Advisor and to educate District Staff on history, policy, and other contextual information.

Mr. Hamel moved, seconded by Mr. Colosimo, to approve a 2026 support services contract with Laradise Law and Policy, Lee Miller, in the form of a substantially complete contract to that of attachment 1 of the report (this was provided to the Board) Motion carried unanimously.

STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION IN THE APPLICATION OF TITAN AU, INC. CASE NO. 25CW3012, WATER DIVISION 2.

Mr. Levish presented to the Board an action item recommending that the District Board authorize Special Water Counsel to file a Statement of Opposition to Titan AU, Inc.'s (Titan's) Amended Application in Case No. 25CW3012 (Water Division 2).

In Case No. 25CW3012, Titan originally filed an application in April 2025 seeking a groundwater right for the Box Creek Placer Mine, to be operated under an augmentation plan relying on 37 acre-feet of water leased from the Pueblo Board of Water Works. That application was amended in December 2025 to include a water exchange project to replace depletions at the mine, upstream from the confluence of Lake Creek and the Arkansas River. The operating season for the mine extends from April 1 through October 31 of each year, during which time consumptive uses from the mine will vary. Titan's augmentation plan and exchange will replace depletions caused by evaporation from various ponds at the mine, dust suppression, and processing losses.

Mr. May moved, seconded by Mr. Goodwin, the District Board authorizes Special Water Counsel to file a Statement of Opposition to Titan Au, Inc.'s Amended Application in Case No. 25CW3012. Mr. Seth Clayton abstained from the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION IN THE APPLICATION OF TOWN OF BUENA VISTA CASE NO. 25CW3069, WATER DIVISION 2.

Mr. Levish presented an action item, recommending that the District Board authorize Special Water Counsel to file a Statement of Opposition to the Town of Buena Vista's (Buena Vista) Application in Case No. 25CW3069 (Water Division 2).

In Case No. 25CW3069, Buena Vista filed an application in December 2025 seeking, in addition to several other claims, a change of water right for the Bray Ditch and Allen Extension (“Bray-Allen Ditch”). Buena Vista proposes to change the Bray-Allen Ditch from irrigation use to augmentation and municipal uses. Buena Vista’s application further seeks to quantify the Bray-Allen Ditch’s lawful historical consumptive use so it may replace its historical return flows and ditch losses to prevent any injury from its requested change. The application proposes using portions of the changed Bray-Allen Ditch water right and any other water right owned or controlled by Buena Vista to replace historical return flows, including Buena Vista’s allocation of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Water.

Staff and counsel recommend filing a statement of opposition in Case No. 25CW3069 to ensure Buena Vista does not use Project Water to replace historical return flows from a water right that has been changed from irrigation to municipal uses.

Mr. Edelman moved, seconded by Mr. DiSanti, the District Board authorize Special Water Counsel to file a Statement of Opposition to the Town of Buena Vista’s Application in Case No. 25CW3069. Mr. Seth Clayton abstained from the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY REPORTS:

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mr. Mike Holmberg presented a PowerPoint to the Board that reviewed the following topics.

As of February 12, 2026:

- 214,498 acre-feet stored in Pueblo
- 132,606 acre-feet of Project Water
- 43,692 acre-feet of Excess Capacity Water
- 27,125 acre-feet of Winter Water
- 5,180 acre-feet of Winter Water Carryover
- 112,767 acre-feet of Project Space Available in Pueblo
- 38,347 acre-feet of Project Space in Twin & Turquoise

Graphs 2024-2026 projections:

- Turquoise Lake
- Twin Lakes
- Pueblo Reservoir

River Storage Comparison:

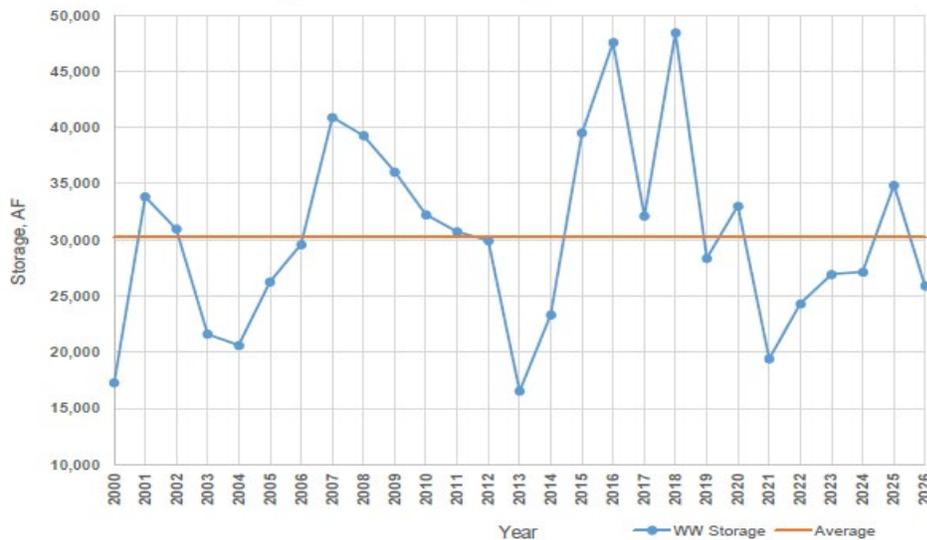
- Ruedi Reservoir - 93% of average, 86% of 2025
- Turquoise Lake - 96% of average, 94% of 2025
- Twin Lakes - 101% of average, 92% of 2025
- Pueblo Reservoir - 102% of average, 86% of 2025

System Total: 101% of average, 89% of 2025

Master Contract Storage 2/12/2026	
Account	Content (AF)
CANON CITY	-
FLORENCE	-
FOUNTAIN I&W	135.95
LA JUNTA IW	13.99
LAVWCD	1,673.79
OLNEY SPRINGS IW	-
PUEBLO WEST	571.94
PENROSE IW	64.55
PONCHA IW	49.76
ROCKY FORD	34.82
SALIDA I&W	620.23
SECURITY I&W	29.95
ST. CHARLES I&W	0.24
STRATMOOR HILLS	220.46
UAWCD I&W	442.19
WIDEFIELD	236.14

This Day in History – Winter Water Storage

WW Storage on February 12, 2000 to 2026



January 31, 2026:

Total M&I PW in system = 129,953 AF

1. EAST = 25,280
2. WEST = 11,496
3. PUEBLO = 17,804
4. OTHER = 4,125
5. FVA = 71,248
 - A. CSU – 51,751
 - B. FOUNTAIN = 6,342
 - C. SECURITY = 5,876
 - D. STRATMOOR = 1,822
 - E. WIDFIELD = 5,456

- Daily Average Temperature/ Snowpack in Upper Arkansas Headwaters
- Daily Average Temperature/ Snowpack in Roaring Fork

February 1 Forecast: 23,000 AF

Questions were asked of Mr. Holmberg.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

The Board was provided written material on the following topics, which were posted to the Board website(new & old) and OnBoard.

- Water Court Resume
- Report from the Executive Director
- Arkansas River Basin water Forum – April 22 & 23, 2026, Salida CO

Pat Edelman and Alan Hamel expressed their appreciation for the new information item: **Report from the Executive Director**, the rest of the Board as well. President Long asked if there were any other matters to come before the District Board. Hearing no other matters, Mr. Long adjourned the District meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Rivas
Administrative Support Specialist

Seth Clayton – Secretary

Bill Long – President

Greg Felt

Curtis Mitchell – Vice President

Justin DiSanti

Ann Nichols – Treasurer

Kevin Karney

Abby Ortega

Matt Heimerich

Alan Hamel

Mike Bartolo

Andy Colosimo

Pat Edelman

Dallas May

Tom Goodwin