

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

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**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO  
WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE  
MINUTES  
June 19, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise (Enterprise) was held on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 10:31 a.m., at the District office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo,

**Attendance:**

Board Members Present:

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

**DIRECTOR(S) ABSENT AND EXCUSED:**

Curtis Mitchell, and Justin DiSanti.

**DISTRICT OFFICIALS:**

Executive Director Leann Noga; General Counsel Lee Miller; Staff Attorney Peter Levish; Senior Policy and Issues Manager Chris Woodka; Engineering Manager Gordon Dillon; Administrative Support Specialist's Margie Medina and Patty Rivas; H2O Consultant, Roy Vaughan; Kogovsek & Associates, Christine Arbogast (remote); AECOM, Curtis Thompson; Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resources Law, April Hendricks and Pete Jaacks; and Wilson Water Group, Mitch Frischmeyer(remote).

**VISITORS PRESENT:**

Pueblo West Metro District, Jeffery DeHerrera and Elissa Velasquez.

**VISITORS CONNECTED VIA ZOOM:**

Aurora Water, Rick Kienitz.

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

Mr. Hamel moved, seconded by Mr. Edelmann, to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2025 District Board Meeting, and the May 2025 Treasurer Reports. Motion carried unanimously.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

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**PRESENTATION ITEMS:**

**FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE**

Ms. Christine Arbogast updated the Board.

Topics of discussion:

- Ted Cooke, former general manager of the Central Arizona Project, has been nominated to serve as Commissioner of Reclamation. There are some concerns being voiced on this nomination given his recent retirement from CAP in 2023 and the ongoing negotiations between the Upper and Lower Basin States.
- Andrea Tranvnicek's nomination for Assistant Secretary for Water has not yet been approved by the Senate.
- Congress continues to be consumed by the reconciliation bill. The item of interest to us in this is the \$2.5 billion the House included in its version for the Bureau of Reclamation, which the Senate did not. The Senate included \$500 million for conveyance projects already in existence.
- The appropriations process has begun in the House but Energy and Water and Interior subcommittees have not yet scheduled markups. I am watching carefully to see how the Congress responds to the proposed \$600 million cut to the Water Smart program; the 89 percent cut to the State Revolving Funds and substantial cuts to the Forest Service. I am also carefully watching the proposal to move fire suppression duties from the Forest Service to a new agency at Interior.

Questions were asked of Ms. Arbogast

**2025 FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS WATER IMPORTS STATUS**

Mr. Woodka presented to the Board via a PowerPoint reviewing:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) makes a forecast on May 1 that serves as the basis for Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) Water available for allocation by the Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise (Enterprise).

This year, the May 1 forecast by Reclamation was for imports of 42,300 acre-feet. Based on the anticipated available Project Water, the Enterprise Board on May 15 approved 37,063 acre-feet (AF) of allocations: 13,437 AF for municipal, and 23,626 AF for irrigation.

Given the projected hot, dry conditions over the next three months, the Enterprise Board approved an initial allocation of 70 percent, or 26,783 AF of Project Water. Imports will be reviewed on July 1 to determine whether the remaining 30 percent will be released.

Staff will review the amount of Project Water imported so far and expected conditions prior to July 1 to update the Board.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

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ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT UPDATE

Mr. Dillon updated the Board on the progress of the AVC:

- Pace Construction began work this month on the Boone vault that will connect the AVC Trunk Line being built by the Bureau of Reclamation with the Boone delivery line completed by the Enterprise in late 2023.
- The vault will be the first constructed along the AVC route.
- Pate will also finish the pipeline that will connect to the six-mile reach being built by WCA Construction, which is nearly complete.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

The Board was provided written material on the following topics, which was posted to the Board website:

- Arkansas Valley Conduit Newsletter
- JWBHP Update
- Excess Capacity Master Contract Update
- Other Business Matters

President Long adjourned the Enterprise Board Meeting @ 10:59 a.m. and reconvened the District Board Meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Lee Miller announced a request has been made for the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District to enter Executive Session for the purpose of:

**Discussion with legal counsel on the following matter:**

Auora Water Purchase

Pursuant to:

“ **C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b)**: (Conferences with an attorney for the local public body for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions)

“ **C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e)**: (Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators)

**The presence of the following individuals are requested at this Executive Session:**

1. Non-Excused Board members, (state for the record any who are excused)
2. Executive Director
3. Staff Attorney
4. Outside Special Legal Counsel
5. Senior Policy and Issues Manager
6. [Minute taker]

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

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**MINUTES WILL BE ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED AS REQUIRED BY THE COLORADO OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

Mr. Colosimo moved, seconded by Mr. Karney, that the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District will enter into Executive Session at 10:59 a.m. The vote was unanimous.

At 11:41 a.m. coming out of Executive session, Mr. Lee Miller advised that there was discussion with legal counsel instructing, and that no action was needed for Executive Session Item:

**Aurora Water Purchase**

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 11:41 a.m.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

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Respectfully submitted,

**Patty Rivas**  
**Administrative Support Specialist**

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***Seth Clayton – Secretary***

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***Bill Long – President***

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**Greg Felt**

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***Curtis Mitchell – Vice President***

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**Justin DiSanti**

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***Ann Nichols- Treasurer***

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**Kevin Karney**

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**Abby Ortega**

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**Tom Goodwin**