

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

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**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO WATER  
ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE  
MINUTES**

**August 19, 2021**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) was held on Thursday, August 19, 2021, at 9:32 a.m., at the District office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado. The ZOOM platform was also made available for Board members and visitors. Mr. Long asked Patty Rivas for a roll call of individuals connected remotely.

President Long established that a Quorum was present.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Alan Hamel	Dallas May (remote)	Pat Edelmann
Ann Nichols	Greg Felt (remote)	Patrick Garcia
Bill Long	Howard "Bub" Miller (remote)	Seth Clayton
Carl McClure	Mark Pifher (remote)	Tom Goodwin
Curtis Mitchell		

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

Kevin Karney, and Andy Colosimo

**ENTERPRISE OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Executive Director James Broderick; General Counsel Lee Miller; Senior Policy and Issues Manager Chris Woodka; Water Resource Engineer Garrett Markus; Administrator of Finance and Administration Leann Noga; Administrative Support Specialist Margie Medina; Accountant Stephanie Shipley; Accounting Specialist Support Lynette Holt; Administrative Support Associate Patty Rivas; and Kogovsek and Associates Christine Arbogast.

**VISITORS PRESENT:**

Barbara Crockett (remote) Jacobs Engineering; Bill Tyner (remote) Colorado Division of Water Resources; Brett Graceley (remote) LRE Water; Jeffery Deherrera Pueblo West Metro; Jenny Bishop Colorado Springs Utilities; Jerry Pena (remote) Kennedy Jenks; Kevin Salter and Rachel Duran (remote) Kansas Department of Agriculture; Rick Kienitz (remote) Aurora Water; Ryan Banta USGS; Terry Dawson (remote) USBR; Toni Gonzales (remote); Ralph Williams, Marlene Breeger, Jerry Pacheco, and Cherish Deeg Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

President Long said the minutes of the July 15, 2021, Board meeting were posted to the Board website for review and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Mr. Pifher moved, seconded by Mr. Hamel, to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

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**TREASURER REPORT:**

Treasurer Nichols reported the financial statements for July 2021, were posted to the Board website for review. Ms. Nichols moved, seconded by Mr. Clayton, for acceptance of the July 2021 financial statements and payment of the August 2021 bills. Motion unanimously carried.

**PRESENTATION ITEMS:**

**FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE**

Ms. Arbogast presented an update to the Board as follows: The Senate passed the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill and the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation resolution, which provides a roadmap for spending over the next 10 years.

The infrastructure bill includes \$8.3 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation, which does not sound like an enormous amount of money, but for the BoR, it is.

It includes \$1 billion for rural water projects, over \$1 billion for storage and conveyance, over \$3 billion for aging infrastructure, funding for the endangered fish recovery programs, recycle/reuse projects, WaterSMART and more.

The reconciliation package is a roadmap and does not contain specific spending for specific projects. That will be done by the authorizing committees if the resolution passes.

Both the bill and the resolution go to the House next week, where members are returning early from the August recess. It is unknown if either will pass, given the very small majority the Democrats have .

In addition, the annual appropriations process is underway. The House passed the energy and water bill and the Senate bill has been passed by the Appropriations Committee. Staff is in informal conference to iron out differences.

Both bills include \$10 million for the Arkansas Valley Conduit. They also plus up the BoR budget to \$1.9 billion, and the Senate adds an additional \$450 million for emergency drought assistance in the West. It is possible the bill could pass before Thanksgiving.

The confirmation process for Camille Touton to be Commissioner of Reclamation is pending, and there is hope for a hearing in September. Mike Connor, nominee to head the Corps of Engineers, is moving through that process as well with hearings already held.

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ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT UPDATE

Mrs. Leann Noga Provided and update to the Board which highlighted the following:

- AVC Update
  - July – August outreach visits to:
  - Counties: Pueblo, Otero, Crowley, Bent, Prowers
  - Big 8: Fowler, Rocky Ford, La Junta, Ordway, Crowley County Water Association, Las Animas, May Valley and Lamar
  - Discussed 3 elements of the AVC
    - Trunk – Funding
    - Spur and Delivery lines – Funding
    - System Improvements – Funding
  
- American Rescue Plan of 2021
  - allocated to Counties and Municipalities to be spent on Water & Infrastructure
  - Pueblo County usage:
    - Delivery Line and Spurs Design and Construction
      - 2022 & 2024
  
  - Other Counties and Municipalities
    - Steps ahead for the Trunk line (design)
    - Delivery line or Spur engineering design costs only
    - All meeting have been well received
  
  - Goal total
    - Total \$7.2M
    - Total requested this far \$5.7M
    - Gaps to fill
  
  - Board action for Commitment this far \$371,000
    - Las Animas \$193,000
    - Bent County \$178,000

A question was asked of Mrs. Noga about the AVC Finance Model. This will be presented by Kevin Meador in the September Finance Committee meeting. The invitation was extended to all that would like to attend.

President Long thanked Jim, Leann, and Jason with GMS Consulting for all their efforts on this project, the extensive hours and travel that has been put in by the team, is greatly appreciated.

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**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

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

- AVC Update
- JWBHP Update
- Excess Capacity Master Contract Update

Mr. Long asked if there were any other business matters to come before the Enterprise Board. Mr. Lee Miller directed attention to the publication that was distributed to the Board, "Citizen's guide to Colorado's Interstate Water Compacts" published by Water Education Colorado, in which the District was a sponsor. Recommended all to be sure to read, and those that were not in attendance, staff would ensure a copy would get to them. Hearing no other matters to be brought before the Enterprise Board, Mr. Long adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Rivas  
Administrative Support Associate

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Secretary

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