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**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO  
WATER CONSERVANCY  
DISTRICT MINUTES  
August 28, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) was held on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 9:35 a.m., at the District office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado. The ZOOM platform was also made available for Board members and Visitors.

**Attendance:**

Board Members Present:

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

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

Seth Clayton

**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; Finance Manager, Stephanie Shipley; Administrative Manager, Misty Bellino; Administrative Support Specialist Patty Rivas; H2O Consultant, Roy Vaughan; Jewell, Jimmerson Natural Resources Law, April Hendricks and Pete Jaacks; and Wilson Water Group, Mitch Frischmeyer (remote).

**PRESENT VISITORS:**

Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Andy Neinas, Bob Hamel and Travis Hochard; USGS, Andy Klakulak and Krystal Brown; Fremont County, Dwayne McFall; and USBR, Mike Holmberg.

**VISITORS CONNECTED VIA ZOOM:**

None

**CONSENT ITEM:**

President Long said the minutes from the July 17, 2025, District Board meeting were posted to OnBoard and the Website for review and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Mr. Karney moved, seconded by Mr. Hamel, to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

**PRESENTATION ITEMS:**

**ARKANSAS RIVER OUTFITTERS**

Mr. Bob Hamel spoke to the Board and thanked them for the 7,000 acre-feet of additional Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) Water, beyond the originally allocated 10,000 acre-feet, to support the Voluntary Flow Management Program (VFMP) for both boating and fish habitat flows for the remainder of calendar year 2025. He was joined by other team members, Mr. Andy Neinas and Travis Hochard, who also spoke to the Board.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION IN THE APPLICATION OF CITY OF AURORA CASE NO. 25CW3036. WATER DIVISION 2**

Mrs. April Hendrix presented to the Board an action item recommending the Board authorize Special Water Counsel to file a Statement of Opposition to the Application of the City of Aurora in Case No. 25CW3036 (Water Division 2).

In April 2024, the City of Aurora ("Aurora") purchased 4,095.178 shares of stock in the Catlin Canal Company and 622.5 shares of stock in the Otero Ditch Company ("Shares") from C&A Holding Company, with the intent of using these shares as part of its municipal water supply within its boundaries. Aurora's municipal boundaries are located entirely outside of the Arkansas River Basin. To use this water supply within its municipal system, Aurora must rely on the conditional rights of exchange that are the subject of Case No. 25CW3036 to move the water attributable to the Shares to Pueblo Reservoir. Following storage in Pueblo Reservoir, Aurora can then transfer the water out of the Arkansas basin and into its municipal service area.

In this case, Aurora proposes to use the Shares for municipal purposes in three out of ten years, either through an interruptible water supply agreement ("IWSA") or if such use is authorized by a future Water Court decree or other administrative approval (such as an SWSP). During the remaining seven years, the water will remain in the Arkansas basin and be used for irrigation. At this time, Aurora is not seeking to change the use of these Shares; this application only allows the exchange of the Shares to Pueblo Reservoir. The water may be exchanged directly to Pueblo Reservoir, or the water may be stored in various intervening storage locations (including Lake Meredith, Holbrook Reservoir, and the future Haynes Creek Reservoir) for subsequent exchange to Pueblo Reservoir.

Staff and counsel recommend filing a statement of opposition in Case No. 25CW3015 to ensure that (1) the proposed decree contains appropriate Standard Language terms and conditions for the use of Pueblo Reservoir; (2) the proposed decree includes appropriate terms and conditions to address the transfer of additional water outside of the Arkansas River Basin, including terms consistent with any existing or to-be-negotiated agreement between Aurora and the District; (3) the proposed decree is consistent with Aurora's obligations under the May 27, 2004 IGA among Aurora, the District, and others, and includes appropriate Standard Language terms to protect the Pueblo Flow Management Program; (4) Aurora's proposed exchange will not cause injury to the WWSP by including appropriate Standard Language terms in the proposed decree; (5) Aurora's proposed decree includes terms and conditions to

protect releases of stored Project water from Pueblo Reservoir for decreed purposes (including hydropower) from impairment by exchange; (6) Aurora's exchanges of water under the

Colorado Canal/Lake Meredith exchange decree (Consolidated Case Nos. 84CW62, 84CW63, and 84CW64) are subject to all terms and conditions of that decree and of all related stipulations and agreements between Aurora and the District; and (7) an appropriate agreement is reached with the ROY Parties for Aurora's use of storage space in the future Haynes Creek Reservoir.

Mr. May moved, seconded by Mr. Goodwin, that the District Board authorize Special Water Counsel to file a Statement of Opposition to the Application of the City of Aurora in Case No. 25CW3036. Motion carried unanimously.

#### VOLUNTARY FLOW MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2025 REQUEST

Mr. Robert Banham presented to the Board an action item to affirm the Executive Committee decision to support the use of up to 7,000 acre-feet of additional Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) Water, beyond the originally allocated 10,000 acre-feet, to support the Voluntary Flow Management Program (VFMP) for both boating and fish habitat flows for the remainder of calendar year 2025.

Current hydrologic conditions suggest that this year's allocation of 10,000 acre-feet will be insufficient to meet the 700 cfs flow target. Projections indicate that even if the flow target is reduced to 650 or 600 cfs, the available water volume will still not support sustained flows at those levels.

In response, CPW submitted a formal request for an additional 5,000 to 7,000 acre-feet of water in addition to the 10,000 acre-feet already released or planned to be released. CPW has confirmed that, per the VFMP Agreement, it has sufficient water resources to cover any additional evaporation losses associated with the requested volume increase.

The Executive Committee reviewed the request of CPW in detail at its July 24, 2025 meeting.

Mt. Goodwin moved, seconded by Mr. Edelmann, to affirm the Executive Committee decision to support the use of up to 7,000 acre-feet of additional Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) Water, beyond the originally allocated 10,000 acre-feet, to support the Voluntary Flow Management Program (VFMP) for both boating and fish habitat flows for the remainder of calendar year 2025. Mr. Dallas May recused himself from the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 2025 PAYROLL TRANSITION PLAN

Mrs. Leann presented to the Board an item recommend that the Board of Directors ratify the approval by the Executive Committee at the July 24, 2025, meeting regarding the 2025 payroll transition plan as outlined below.

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Current structure prepays employees in advance for two weeks of work. Currently employees are paid monthly on the 15th for the full pay period spanning the 1st through the last day of the month.

This means employees receive payment for two weeks already worked, as well as an advance for the final two weeks of the month that have not yet been worked at the time of payment. This approach does not align with standard payroll practices and creates a financial liability for the District.

#### Current vs. Future Pay Structure

- Current: Employees and Board are paid on the 15th for the full current month (prepaid from the
- 15th onward).
- New: Paid on the last business day of each month (Move employee pay date two weeks)

#### Transition Target

- First new Payroll date for Employees and Board: September 30, 2025
- Covers work period: September 1–30, 2025

#### Timeline:

- July 31: Official District written notice to employees and Board regarding payroll adjustment
  - July 22 and anytime after: Offer individual meetings to employees for estimations of gap period impacts.
- August 15: Final “prepaid” paycheck — covers August 1–31 (full month, as usual).
- September 15: “Gap Period” - See proposal below to address two-week gap period
- September 30: last business day of the month pay date for the period of September 1 - 30

#### Proposal to address 2-week Gap Period:

- September 15: Provide a one-time supplemental transition payment to all exempt and nonexempt full-time employees in the amount of \$1,500
- September 15: Offer a one-time payout of accrued vacation or sick leave up to 80 hours

Staff were informed in May 2025 that there would be an adjustment to the payroll date and that a plan would be communicated with employees prior to any adjustments. The plan listed above has been shared with employees, with an understanding that the proposal to address the gap period is subject to adjustment and approval of the Executive Committee.

A survey of each employee was taken as to whether they would like this payroll transition plan to take place in September 2025 or wait until the first quarter of 2026. It was unanimously agreed upon by employees to move forward with the payroll transition plan in September 2025.

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Mr. Hamel moved, seconded by Mr. Colosimo, that the Board of Directors ratify the approval of Executive Committee approving the payroll transition plan as described with a new pay date for employees and Board of Directors to the last business day of the month starting on September 30, 2025. To provide a one-time supplemental transition payment to all exempt and non-exempt full-time employees in the amount of \$1,500 and offer employees a one-time payout of their accrued vacation or sick leave up to 80 hours.

**MONTHLY/QUARTERLY REPORTS:**

**UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

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

As of August 24, 2025:

- 199,239 acre-feet stored in Pueblo Reservoir
- 141,366 acre-feet of Project Water
- 50,109 acre-feet of Excess Capacity Water
- 8,645 acre-feet of Winter Water
- 104,007 acre-feet of Project Water Space Available in Pueblo
- 30,346 acre-feet of Project Space in Twin & Turquoise Lake

July 31, 2025, Total M&I PW in the system = 134,948 AF

- EAST = 26,210
- WEST = 11,988
- PUEBLO = 18,329
- OTHER = 4,618
- FVA = 73,803
- CSU = 53,534
- FOUNTAIN = 6,521
- SECURITY = 6,065
- STRATMOOR = 2,076
- WIDEFIELD = 5,605

First Use Project + PCO Municipal Water

Update on the Cunningham Tunnel Repair

- A. Contract is to repair 10 scour holes
  - 1. 3 left to fix this season
- B. One Additional damaged section found
  - 1. Goal is to include before contract completion date of 10/15

Questions were asked of Mr. Holmberg.

**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

Mr. Andy Klakulak provided a presentation to the Board. The information that was provided is Confidential Information, not yet ready to be published at this time.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

- Water Court Resume
- State Legislative Update

President Long asked if there were any other matters to come before the District Board. Hearing no other matters, Mr. Long recessed the District meeting at 10:35 a.m.

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**Respectfully submitted,**

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**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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**Matt Heimerich**

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**Alan Hamel**

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**Mike Bartolo**

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**Andy Colosimo**

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**Pat Edelman**

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**Dallas May**

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**Tom Goodwin**