

Ute Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
December 11, 2024

Meeting No. 1,002 of the Ute Water Conservancy District's Board of Directors and the Ute Water Activity Enterprise was called to order by President Greg Green at 5:30 p.m. at the District office.

ROLL CALL

Board Members: Briana Board, Pat Brennan, Newt Burkhalter, Carl Conner, Dan Cronk, Tammy Eret, Robert Foster, Greg Green, Ken Henry, Sally Huddle, Ben Miller, Bruce Talbott, and Bob Wilson were present. Troy Waters was absent.

Ute Water employees at the meeting included Justin Bates, Sam Briscoe, Larry Clever, Gary Coup, Tanner DeGuire, John Eklund, Jamie George, Ben Hoffman, Joe Isley, Jesse Klingler, Andrea Lopez, Jeremy Lyon, Tim Moore, Brian Ogan-Wood, Scott Olsen, Pat Orient, Dave Payne, Dave Priske, Rick Stengel, and Greg Williams. Brett Murphy attended remotely. Ute Water's general counsel, Chris Geiger, was also in attendance.

Guests in attendance included RiversEdge West Executive Director Rusty Lloyd and Eureka Science Museum Executive Director Jenn Moore.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

RiversEdge West Executive Director Rusty Lloyd and Eureka Science Museum Executive Director Jenn Moore gave a brief presentation about the Confluence Center of Colorado development project. The project is a collaboration of six nonprofit organizations that will provide office and shared meeting space for each organization in a building to be constructed in the Dos Rios Development Project near downtown Grand Junction. The nonprofit organizations include the Colorado Canyons Association, Colorado National Monument Association, Colorado West Land Trust, Eureka Science Museum, One Riverfront, and RiversEdge West. Mr. Lloyd provided an update on the Confluence Center of Colorado's fundraising efforts, which totaled just shy of 4.3 million dollars of the 7.5-million-dollar project costs at the time of the presentation. Mr. Lloyd also detailed the pending requests for grant funding. Mrs. Moore presented the designs of the educational signage that the Confluence Center of Colorado plans to put in the lobby of the educational building. The signage will include a 3D relief map about the Colorado River watershed, detailing the seven states in the Colorado River Basin and the importance of Colorado as the headwaters for the Colorado River. At the second entrance to the center, there will be a second graphic that details the history of the Colorado River, told through streamflow and demonstrated through dendrology.

President Green thanked Mr. Lloyd and Mrs. Moore for sharing an update on the progress and efforts of the Confluence Center of Colorado and congratulated them on their progress in securing funding.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Newt Burkhalter to approve the November board meeting minutes, No.

1,001. Tammy Eret seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the November board meeting minutes.

BILLS

A motion was made by Sally Huddle to approve the November bills. The motion to approve the bills was seconded by Newt Burkhalter. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the November bills.

RESOLUTION UW 24-05 ADOPT 2025 BUDGET

The Public Notice regarding the adoption of the District's 2025 Budget was published in the Daily Sentinel on October 9, 2024, and posted in the District's lobby and website. The notice specified that a hearing on the proposed budget would be held at the December 11, 2024, board meeting. The District's budget was advertised to the public in accordance with the law. There were no requests for copies of the proposed 2025 budget or filed objections. President Green opened the hearing on the proposed budget. Hearing no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

Ben Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution UW 24-05, a resolution summarizing expenditures and revenues and adopting the budget for Ute Water Conservancy District. Bob Wilson seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION UW 24-06 APPROPRIATE SUMS OF MONEY

Ben Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution UW 24-06, a resolution appropriating sums of money for 2025 in the amount of \$29,271,889 for the Ute Water Conservancy District. The motion was seconded by Robert Foster. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION UW 24-07 SET THE MILL LEVY

Ben Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution UW 24-07, which will set the 2025 mill levy to zero. Pat Brennan seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Briana Board to approve the Executive Committee minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Sally Huddle. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the Executive Committee minutes.

MONUMENT RESERVOIR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Ben Miller to approve the Monument Reservoir Committee minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Newt Burkhalter. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the Monument Reservoir Committee minutes.

Vice President Miller announced that the efforts of the Monument Reservoir Committee are complete for the time being. The consensus of the committee was to keep moving forward with the design and permitting of the Monument Reservoir Enlargement Project, to which budget dollars have been allocated in the 2025 approved budget.

WATER & CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Pat Brennan to approve the Water and Construction Committee minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Briana Board. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the Water & Construction Committee minutes.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REPORT

District Engineer Dave Priske updated the board on the Jerry Creek Reservoir outlet inspections. Mr. Priske plans to present the video results at the January Water and Construction Committee meeting.

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT REPORT

No additional questions were asked of the Distribution department.

TREATMENT & SOURCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Dave Payne, Assistant Manager, informed the board that the Bureau of Reclamation has shut down the Molina Power Plant for annual maintenance. In the past, the shutdown has lasted two weeks, which is consistent with this year's operations, but the Bureau of Reclamation has decided not to generate power until after the new year. According to Mr. Payne, the District should anticipate a drop in the Jerry Creek Reservoirs due to this change in operations at the Molina Power Plant.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Scott Olsen announced that the District received its 26th consecutive Award for Excellence in Finance Reporting from the Government Finance Officer's Association.

HUMAN RESOURCES/RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT

No additional questions were asked of the Human Resources/Risk Management department.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT REPORT

No additional questions were asked of the External Affairs department.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Clever, General Manager, informed the board that the database for the levels on Lake Powell and Lake Mead was having issues. However, Mr. Clever provided an update on both lakes: Lake Powell is 36.32 percent full, and Lake Mead is 32.95 percent full.

Mr. Clever also reminded the board to contact Ms. Lopez if they want to attend the Colorado Water Congress Winter Convention from January 29th through January 31st.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

Chris Geiger, General Counsel, updated the board on the Fontanari matters.

GENERAL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

President Green and Treasurer Wilson asked the board about all the possibilities for conserving water, such as creating a rule or regulation regarding swamp cooler installation or using domestic water for outdoor watering purposes. After attending the Monument Reservoir Committee

workshop focused on water conservation, Treasurer Wilson wondered if the District was doing all it could to reduce water consumption.

Assistant Manager Greg Williams informed the board that the District has taken steps over the past several years to reduce domestic water used for outdoor purposes, including removing irrigation-only water tap options in 2020. Staff also provides comments during the review period for new development to ensure that landscaping plans do not rely on domestic water as a water source. Additionally, when the Rules and Regulations were last revised in 2020, the agricultural water rates were aligned with the commercial water rates, and the District has not allowed the City of Grand Junction or other like-entities to purchase water taps to provide water to roundabouts or medians within the District's service area. Mr. Williams added that in the state of an emergency or due to drought conditions, the District could further limit outdoor water use by targeting customers with a backflow preventer device, who currently use an estimated 95 million gallons annually for outdoor water use.

Mr. Williams cautioned the board against developing a rule or regulation regarding swamp coolers due to the health and human safety aspects when combined with the affordability of alternatives. According to Mr. Williams, the District's tiered rate structure helps reduce water consumption for all customers. No action was taken, and no further discussion was had.

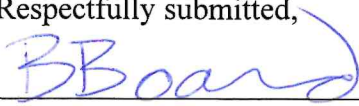
Mr. Williams stated that staff is currently working on proposed updates and changes to present to the board regarding the District's Rules and Regulations and that those changes would be presented early next year.

Vice President Miller proposed that based on the Confluence Center of Colorado's presentation, the District should consider contributing toward the educational signage planned for the two entrances of the Confluence Center of Colorado. Vice President Miller presented that education about Colorado's water, water conservation, and drought are important values and topics for the District's outreach and education.

A motion was made by Ben Miller to direct staff to contribute \$10,000 for the educational signage at the entrances of the Confluence Center of Colorado. The motion to contribute \$10,000 for the educational signage at the entrances of the Confluence Center of Colorado was seconded by Carl Conner. Pat Brennan, Carl Conner, Dan Cronk, Robert Foster, Sally Huddle, Ben Miller, and Bruce Talbott voted in favor of the motion. Newt Burkhalter and Ken Henry voted against the motion. Briana Board, Tammy Eret, and Bob Wilson abstained. The motion carried.

President Green adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Briana Board, Secretary