

Ute Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
January 10, 2024

Meeting No. 991 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, Dan Cronk, Tammy Eret, Robert Foster, Greg Green, Ken Henry, Sally Huddle, Bruce Talbott, Troy Waters, and Bob Wilson were present. Carl Conner and Ben Miller were absent.

Ute Water employees at the meeting included: Justin Bates, Nick Bierman, Sam Briscoe, Larry Clever, Tanner DeGuire, John Eklund, Jamie George, Shaun Herrera, Ben Hoffman, Tony Ibarra, Jesse Klingler, Andrea Lopez, Jeremy Lyon, Justin Marchun, Tim Moore, Scott Olsen, Pat Orient, Dave Payne, Dave Priske, Logan Wagner, and Greg Williams. Ute Water's general counselors, Chris Geiger and Sara Dunn, attended remotely. Ute Water's lobbyist, Kathleen Curry, attended remotely.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

Larry Clever, General Manager, announced that the Government Finance Officers Association has awarded the District a Certificate of Achievement for the 2022 fiscal year. This year marks the 25th consecutive year the District has received the award.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Newt Burkhalter to approve the December board meeting minutes, No. 990. Sally Huddle seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the December board meeting minutes.

BILLS

A motion was made by Robert Foster to approve the December bills. The motion to approve the bills was seconded by Pat Brennan. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the December bills.

DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE POSTING LOCATIONS

General Manager, Larry Clever, proposed that the public notices be posted at the front entrance of the Ute Water office building at 2190 H ¼ Road in Grand Junction, Colorado. Mr. Clever also proposed that the public notices also be posted on the District's website, utewater.org/public-notices. Bob Wilson made a motion to accept the designated locations for public notice posting. Briana Board seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the motion.

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 Bruce Talbott. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the Water & Construction Committee minutes.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REPORT

No additional questions were asked of the Engineering department.

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Tim Moore, Distribution Superintendent, gave an update on the progress of the potholing to inspect service lines for their material type, in compliance with the revised Lead and Copper Rule. The Lead and Copper Crew inspected 63 service lines in December. No lead has been found. Since efforts began, 6,196 service lines have been inspected.

Mr. Moore reported that in response to a second breakage of an aging endcap and waterline within a few weeks, the District has prioritized the replacement of 500 feet of eight-inch AC waterline on 26 ½ Road, north of G Road.

TREATMENT & SOURCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Dave Payne, Assistant Manager, announced the retirement of Water Treatment Plant Operator, Larry Edders. Mr. Edders served as a mentor for many employees in his 29 years of service to the District.

Robert Foster, board member, asked about the utilization of Mesa Creek as a secondary source water supplement and its role in increasing alkalinity before treatment, while other nearby sources, such as Bull Creek and Plateau Creek, contain higher alkalinity levels. According to Mr. Payne, Bull Creek does not currently have infrastructure connectivity to the system. Coon Creek is accessible by the District, but it requires pumping and an associated fee when utilized. Mesa Creek water rights are senior to those in Coon Creek, and the water source provides the necessary characteristics of alkalinity that meet the quality requirement for total organic reduction in regulations. Supplemental water sources are routinely evaluated and utilized to achieve the best possible water quality.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Scott Olsen, Finance Director, reported that the District's audit will begin on March 11th. Squire & Company, PC, will perform the audit.

At the request of board member Bob Wilson, Mr. Olsen presented a document outlining the District's estimated operating surplus and deficit for 2023. The document distinguishes operating revenues and expenditures from non-operating revenues and capital expenditures. The document aims to inform the Board of Directors of the income and expenses incurred to provide water to District customers. Mr. Wilson said he hopes the document will assist the board in future fiscal decisions, including setting water rates and tap fees to maintain operating stability.

HUMAN RESOURCES/RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jamie George, Human Resources/Risk Manager, informed the board that the District is recruiting to fill four summer intern positions.

Board member Briana Board thanked Mrs. George for including a list of accomplishments and service awards in the Human Resources/Risk Management department report. Mrs. Board commended the staff for the impressive accolades and longevity of service.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT REPORT

No additional questions were asked of the External Affairs department.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Clever, General Manager, provided an update on Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Lake Powell is 34 percent full. Lake Mead is 35.34 percent full.

Mr. Clever offered a final invitation to the board to attend the Colorado Water Congress Winter Convention in Aurora from January 31st to February 2nd. The board was also invited to participate in the Water Education Foundation's Lower Colorado River Tour, scheduled for March 12th to March 15th.

Mr. Clever announced that representatives of the Colorado River District plan to attend the February 14th board meeting to discuss the Shoshone Purchase and Sale Agreement.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

A motion was made by Ken Henry to authorize the Board President to execute the Settlement Agreement Concerning Water Rights related to case No. 15CW3019, Statement of Opposition to Diligence Application for City of Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) Continental-Hoosier Project, as presented by staff and general counsel, or any revision thereof that counsel and management believe is materially equivalent. The motion was seconded by Sally Huddle. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the motion.

GENERAL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Greg Green, President, announced to the board that the Legislative Committee will be disbanded in 2024. The decision results from the legislative session's quick pace. This change will not affect the work and guidance of the District's General Counsel. Staff and counsel will continue to provide the board with monthly updates, or when guidance is necessary. President Green asked board members interested in attending the Colorado Water Congress State Affairs meetings to contact External Affairs Manager, Andrea Lopez, one week in advance.

There was no additional information or discussion.

President, Greg Green, adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

BBoard
Briana Board, Secretary