

Ute Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
January 14, 2026

Meeting No. 1,015 of the Ute Water Conservancy District's Board of Directors and the Ute Water Activity Enterprise was called to order by President Ben Miller at 5:30 p.m. at the District office.

ROLL CALL

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

Ute Water employees at the meeting included Justin Bates, Nick Bierman, Jayton Brach, Sam Briscoe, Gary Coup, Jamie George, Natalee Hall, Ben Hoffman, Tony Ibarra, Joe Isley, Jesse Klingler, Dusty Kriegshauser, Andrea Lopez, Jeremy Lyon, Justin Marchun, Tim Moore, Brett Murphy, Scott Olsen, Pat Orient, Dave Payne, Dave Priske, Rick Stengel, and Greg Williams. Ute Water's general counsel, Chris Geiger, was also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

MINUTES

Director Foster made a motion to approve the December board meeting minutes, No. 1,014. Director Brennan seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the December board meeting minutes.

BILLS

Director Foster asked whether the Suncore Construction & Materials bill is entirely for the Southside Transmission Project and whether the project is estimated to remain within budget.

District Engineer Dave Priske stated that the \$828,821.45 progress bill is the December invoice for the Southside Transmission Schedule H project. Mr. Priske explained that, at the end of 2025, the initial contract would be nearly complete. Through a change order to the contract, the District added 1,300 feet of 30-inch pipeline and estimates the additional cost at approximately \$685,000, to be paid through the 2026 budget.

Director Huddle made a motion to approve the December bills. Director Foster seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the December bills.

DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE POSTING LOCATIONS

General Manager Greg Williams 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, and on the District's website, utewater.org/public-notice. Director Cronk made a motion to accept the designated locations for public notice posting. Director Henry seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the motion.

WATER & CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Water and Construction Committee recommended that the Board deny the property owner's variance request for the property at 2244 Colex Drive, and that the Board's consideration and decision on the request be provided to the property owner through a final denial letter.

Directors Board, Brennan, Cronk, Foster, Henry, Huddle, Talbott, Thome, Waters, and Wilson approved the Water and Construction Committee's recommendation. President Miller abstained.

A motion was made by Director Brennan to approve the Water and Construction Committee minutes. Treasurer Wilson seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the Water and Construction Committee minutes.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REPORT

District Engineer Dave Priske highlighted the addition of the current development review section in the engineering board report.

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Distribution Superintendent Tim Moore provided an update on the 10 ½ Road and Q ¾ Road pipeline project, noting that the 10 Road to 10 ½ Road pipeline is installed and chlorinated, and that they are now installing the pipeline at R Road, heading towards Highline Lake.

TREATMENT & SOURCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Manager Dave Payne noted the lowest snowpack conditions on record in Colorado.

Mr. Payne reported that the District was awarded the 2024 Colorado Water Fluoridation Excellence Award and the 2024 CDC Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the Colorado Department of Public Health Oral Health Unit. In 2024, 22 of Colorado's 871 water treatment plants received the Colorado Excellence Award, and 25 were recommended to receive the CDC Quality Award. The District has achieved these awards for over a decade.

Mr. Payne added that the Colorado Water Congress has successfully negotiated an inaugural Water Day at the State Capitol in March, and Mr. Payne will be representing the District at the event.

Mr. Payne reminded the board of the Union Pacific Railroad accident on the Gunnison River, including two locomotives and three railcars hauling coal, derailing into the river. Mr. Payne stated that this incident is a reminder of the potential risk to the Colorado River if the Uintah Basin Railway Lawsuit is not successful.

Mr. Payne announced that an Aquatic Nuisance Species workshop will be held at the Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Scott Olsen reminded the board of the Finance Committee meeting on January 20th.

Mr. Olsen noted changes to the 2025 budget-to-actual. Mr. Olsen stated that investment income was \$215,925, bringing the year-to-date total to \$926,810, a variance of 160% relative to the 2025 budget. Mr. Olsen also noted that contract work has not yet been finalized for the year and will be updated in the budget-to-actual once finalized.

HUMAN RESOURCES/RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT

Human Resources/Risk Manager Jamie George noted that, at the Christmas Employee Luncheon, degrees and certificates earned were recognized, along with service awards for 2025.

Mrs. George made a correction to the Human Resources/ Risk Management report, correcting Jason Loma to Jason Luoma.

Director Foster asked about the leak on Apex Avenue and whether the District is liable. Mr. Williams explained that a 12-inch waterline leak occurred on Christmas Day and that the cause may be excavation work as part of the City of Grand Junction's Four Canyons Parkway project, but this is undetermined.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT REPORT

External Affairs Manager Andrea Lopez reported that the External Affairs department, along with Purchasing Agent Joe Isley, reviewed the contract for the new marketing agency for the Drought Response Information Project. Ms. Lopez highlighted the importance of consistent drought messaging this upcoming year.

Ms. Lopez also gave an update that planning for the 2026 Western Colorado Children's Water Festival has begun.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Greg Williams stated that the Federal Funding Legislation for the Arkansas Valley Conduit Project, designed to serve Southeast Colorado, was passed by both the House and Senate but vetoed by President Trump. Mr. Williams stated that a similar situation may occur with the release of the Shoshone Permanency Funds.

Mr. Williams confirmed that Directors Brennan, Henry, Waters, Thome, and Talbott are registered for the Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention, and Director Foster will attend virtually.

Mr. Williams added that the May Board Meeting will conflict with the Western Colorado Children's Water Festival, so the District will bring a resolution to the board to move the May Board Meeting to May 6th.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Chris Geiger provided the board with an update that the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) submitted its instream flow water right application on Coon Creek in December. The District intends to participate as a party in the case.

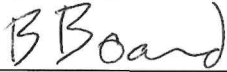
CWCB filed an application to add instream flow to the Shoshone water right. The Colorado River District has encouraged all supporters of Shoshone Permanency to obtain party status in the case to support the Colorado River District and to protect interests in permanency.

GENERAL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

President Miller presented the schedule for board member feedback and additions to the bylaws to clarify roles and set expectations for current and future board members. He stated that General Counsel Chris Geiger will draft the amendments, which will be presented at the February board meeting. A final draft of the amendment is tentatively scheduled to be presented and voted on at the May board meeting, with changes anticipated to take effect in June.

President Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Briana Board, Secretary