

Ute Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
August 12, 2026

Meeting No. 1,022 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 at the meeting included Pat Brennan, Carl Conner, Dan Cronk, Tammy Eret, Robert Foster, Greg Green, Ken Henry, Ben Miller, Bruce Talbott, Bob Thome, and Bob Wilson. Sally Huddle and Troy Water attended remotely. Briana Board was absent.

Ute Water employees at the meeting included Justin Bates, Nick Bierman, Sam Briscoe, Ashlee Duffy, John Eklund, Jamie George, Ben Hoffman, Tony Ibarra, Joe Isley, Jenna Kelley, Andrea Lopez, Mandi Lovato, Jeremy Lyon, Natalee Machuca, Justin Marchun, Tim Moore, Brett Murphy, Scott Olsen, Pat Orient, Dave Payne, Dave Priske, Rick Stengel, and Greg Williams. Jayton Brach and Jesse Klingler attended remotely. Ute Water's general counsel, Chris Geiger, was also in attendance, and Sara Dunn attended remotely.

Guests in attendance included Jim Brach, Jax Brach, Greg Lopez, Angelo Raftoloulous, Adam Roy, and Janie VanWinkle.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

District customer Janie VanWinkle presented on behalf of VanWinkle Ranch and other community agriculture producers regarding the District's drought rates and their impacts on agriculture. She discussed the economic importance of agriculture to Mesa County and highlighted the financial challenges facing local agricultural producers, including increasing operational costs and declining cattle numbers. She stated that agriculture supports approximately 3,520 jobs in Mesa County and a total GDP of \$98 million. She also stated that cattle numbers have declined by 40% since 2017. Mrs. VanWinkle asked the board to consider reinstituting a dedicated agricultural water rate and separating agricultural rates from commercial rates to better reflect the unique needs and economic circumstances of agricultural water users. Mrs. VanWinkle emphasized the importance of maintaining the agricultural industry in Mesa County and the role that water costs play in the sustainability of local agricultural operations.

Mrs. VanWinkle also invited members of the board and District staff to tour VanWinkle Ranch to learn more about the ranch's operations, agricultural practices, and water use firsthand.

Director Conner asked about the impact of drought rates on future beef costs for consumers. Mrs. VanWinkle explained that agricultural producers are "price takers," meaning they cannot set market prices and must sell their products at the prices the market will bear. Mrs. VanWinkle stated that this market structure is the primary reason for requesting that agricultural water rates be separated from commercial rates, as producers have limited ability to pass increased water costs on to the cost of beef.

Treasurer Wilson asked about using irrigation water for livestock, as was done several years ago, and Mrs. VanWinkle stated that they use domestic water for animal welfare and biosecurity reasons.

During the General Information/Discussion agenda item, President Miller agreed to offer an Agriculture Enterprises Tour to the board members to learn more about the agriculture industry's use of domestic water supply, and directed staff and Mrs. VanWinkle to coordinate.

There being no further public comment, the public comment portion of the meeting concluded, and no action was taken.

MINUTES

Director Henry made a motion to approve the July board meeting minutes No. 1,021. Director Foster seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the July board meeting minutes.

BILLS

Director Wilson made a motion to approve the July bills. Director Conner seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the July bills.

CITY OF FRUITA TAP REQUEST – 805 WEST OTTLEY

General Manager Greg Williams explained that the District and the City of Fruita have continued discussions regarding tap fees associated with the redevelopment occurring at 805 West Ottley Avenue. The current proposal is for the District to defer collection of the applicable tap fees until no later than December 31, 2027. This extension would allow Fruita time to identify, secure, or allocate sources for payment of the tap fees applicable to the redevelopment at 805 West Ottley Avenue. In the event that funding sources are insufficient or unavailable, approval of any deferral will include acceptable safeguards and instruments to ensure payment of the tap fees in full no later than December 31, 2027.

President Miller made a motion to defer payment until December 31, 2027, conditional upon the General Manager and General Counsel negotiating and finalizing an agreement with adequate security for payment of the tap fee by that date. Director Green seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

WATER & CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Director Brennan to approve the Water and Construction Committee minutes. Director Foster seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the Water and Construction Committee minutes.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REPORT

District Engineer Dave Priske gave the board an update on upcoming water line replacement projects. Mr. Priske also provided an update on the Four Canyons Parkway Project, which is near completion.

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Superintendent Tim Moore reported that crews will be installing an 8-inch water line on 14 Road between M Road and N Road in September.

TREATMENT & SOURCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Manager Dave Payne informed the board that, prior to the meeting, a small fire had been reported south of Cottonwood No. 1. This was the third fire to occur within the District's watershed. The U.S. Forest Service requested approval to use Cottonwood No. 1 for aerial firefighting operations. Mr. Payne also noted that the U.S. Forest Service had made a similar request on July 23rd regarding Jerry Creek No. 1 in support of firefighting efforts for the Hawkhurst Fire.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Scott Olsen updated the board that the August Finance Committee meeting will be moved to August 25th due to the Summer Colorado Water Congress Conference.

Director Conner asked about the water savings from the drought rates. Mr. Olsen reported that, when comparing July 2025 to 2026, residential water consumption decreased across all tiers. Tier Five decreased by 38.2%, Tier Four decreased by 50.1%, Tier Three decreased by 13.0%, Tier Two decreased by 16.9%, Tier One decreased by 7.0%, and the Base Tier decreased by 0.2%.

General Manager Greg Williams added that, when comparing June and July 2026 to the same period in 2025, the District saved approximately 217 acre-feet of water.

Director Foster asked about water savings among commercial and agricultural customers. Mr. Olsen explained that while commercial consumption showed some savings, agricultural consumption increased overall during the period.

HUMAN RESOURCES/RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT

Human Resources/Risk Manager Jamie George stated that CEBT anticipated a 16% increase in medical insurance renewal.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT REPORT

External Affairs Manager Andrea Lopez reported that it has been a year since the District's website transitioned to Streamline for website management, which has allowed the District to be ADA-compliant.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Greg Williams recognized the customer service team for their work implementing drought rates. Mr. Williams also reminded the board about the Summer Colorado Water Congress Conference, August 18th through 20th.

Director Brennan asked what specific factors should be considered to remove drought rates. Mr. Williams stated that it will be the board's decision. Mr. Williams added that once staff feels metrics are in place to maintain adequate water storage, the District will discuss how to proceed with rates.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

Director Conner asked for an update on Case No. 25CW3177 regarding Shoshone water rights. General Counsel Chris Geiger stated that applicants are preparing their expert witness reports, which must be served on all parties by October 30th.

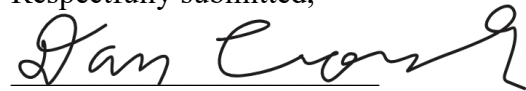
GENERAL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

President Miller highlighted that the drought rates are encouraging water conservation and changing consumer behavior in a positive way. Mr. Miller also acknowledged Mrs. VanWinkle's concerns presented to the board and, after consideration, would like to begin conversations about alternatives for agricultural rates. Mr. Miller requested that General Counsel Chris Geiger investigate the feasibility and present the legal implications at a future board meeting.

There was no additional information or discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Cronk", written over a horizontal line.

Dan Cronk, Secretary