Ute Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
June 10, 2026

Meeting No. 1,020 of the Ute Water Conservancy District's Board of Directors and the Ute Water Activity Enterprise was called to order by Vice President Troy Waters at 5:30 p.m. at the District office.

ROLL CALL

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

Ute Water employees at the meeting included Justin Bates, Nick Bierman, Sam Briscoe, Nikki Dalpiaz, Jamie George, Natalee Hall, Shaun Herrera, Jesse Klingler, Andrea Lopez, Jeremy Lyon, Justin Marchun, Tim Moore, Brett Murphy, Scott Olsen, Pat Orient, Dave Payne, Dave Priske, Rick Stengel, Tina Weber, and Greg Williams. Ute Water's general counsel, Chris Geiger, was also in attendance.

Guests in attendance included John Green, Cliff Grey, and Randy Stouder.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Randy Stouder, a Ute Water customer, addressed the Board regarding the implementation of drought rates. He stated that he believed the rates were excessive and explained that his property's water bill was projected to increase significantly under the drought rate structure. Mr. Stouder noted that his property does not have access to irrigation water and that he uses domestic water to maintain approximately 3,000 square feet of turf. He stated that he was aware of this limitation when he purchased the property nearly 20 years ago. Mr. Stouder expressed concern that other local water providers had not implemented similar rate increases, acknowledged the area's exceptional drought conditions and low snowpack, and stated that the rates may require him to reconsider his property's landscaping. He added that he is making efforts to conserve water and asked the Board to reconsider the drought rates.

Vice President Waters responded that the District was established to provide domestic drinking water to rural areas and was not intended to supply irrigation water. He explained that the District's tiered rate structure is designed to discourage excessive water use. Vice President Waters stated that the board had considered implementing drought rates and determined they were an appropriate response to current hydrologic conditions. He also noted that his own farming operation would be affected by the rates where domestic water is used.

Mr. Stouder commented that, while agriculture accounts for a significant portion of local water use, he believed irrigation practices could be more efficient and encouraged irrigation districts to continue promoting water conservation among their users. Vice President Waters responded that agricultural users receiving irrigation water have been subject to water restrictions since the beginning of the irrigation season.

There being no further public comment, the public comment portion of the meeting concluded.

MINUTES

Director Green made a motion to approve the May board meeting minutes, No. 1,019. Director Henry seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the May board meeting minutes.

BILLS

Director Huddle made a motion to approve the May bills. Director Board seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the May bills.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

General Counsel Chris Geiger presented a Standards of Conduct document to the board. Board members were asked to review, sign, and return the document, which is reviewed and signed by each board member in June of each year. The Standards of Conduct policy protects the District and the board from possible conflicts of interest.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Vice President Waters reported that the Executive Committee met on May 27 with General Manager Greg Williams to conduct Mr. Williams' 12-month performance review. Vice President Waters stated that, due to President Miller's absence, the Executive Committee's summary and any related recommendations will be presented to the Board for consideration at the July 8 board meeting.

WATER & CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REPORT

No additional questions were asked of the Engineering department.

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Superintendent Tim Moore announced that the electrical system for the mixer at the 19 Road tank has been installed and that the mixer is expected to be operational by mid-June. The mixer will ensure that water is adequately circulating through the 19 Road tank.

TREATMENT & SOURCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Manager Dave Payne gave the board an update on the failed pump at Colorado River Pump Station No. 1, which Treatment Plant Superintendent Ben Hoffman had informed the board of during the Water and Construction Committee meeting the day prior. Mr. Payne stated that since it was announced at the Water and Construction Committee meeting, staff have inspected the other two pumps in the pump station, and they appear to be in good condition and operating as expected. Mr. Payne stated that staff have been in communication with contractors to seek solutions to repair the pump, and staff are actively looking to resolve the issues.

Mr. Payne announced that May ended up being a good month for water supply, as the District received 76 acre-feet of tailrace water from the Bureau of Reclamation from the Lower Molina Power Plant, along with 10 to 25 cubic feet per second in Plateau Creek. Mr. Payne stated that although these sources increased water supply in May, they are expected to, and have already begun tapering off as summer approaches, and demand will increase.

Mr. Payne also informed the board that an appellate panel ruled the district court exceeded its authority in the 2024 Northern District of California case concerning fluoride regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act, overturning the lower court's directive requiring the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate fluoride in drinking water.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Scott Olsen informed the board that the District's annual financial audit was completed and that additional information, including the auditors' letter addressed to the board, can be found on the board member portal. Mr. Olsen also announced that the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report has been published on all required platforms and with additional reporting agencies for transparency.

Mr. Olsen thanked Customer Service Supervisor Rick Stengel and the Customer Service team for their work communicating the drought rates and responding to a high volume of customer calls, which has nearly doubled the department's regular call volume.

HUMAN RESOURCES/RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT

Human Resources/Risk Manager Jamie George thanked Human Resources/Risk Specialist Nikki Dalpiaz for attending the April and May board meetings in Mrs. George's absence.

Mrs. George also reminded the board of the annual summer picnic, scheduled for June 17th.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT REPORT

External Affairs Manager Andrea Lopez reviewed the External Affairs communication plan for communicating with customers about drought rates and encouraging them to conserve water to protect the District's water supply.

Ms. Lopez also reviewed highlights of the Drought Response Information Project (DRIP) committee's monthly analytics for the annual drought awareness campaign.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Greg Williams updated the board on basin-wide drought conditions, with a focus on the Grand Mesa. Mr. Williams reported that Mesa Creek Reservoir Company and its reservoirs filled to 20 percent of normal, or 80 percent below average. Due to limited water availability, Coon Creek Reservoir Company and its reservoirs will not fill any users' water shares. Bull Basin Reservoir No. 2, with a capacity of 96 acre-feet, stored 14 acre-feet, and Twin Basin Reservoir, with a capacity of 115 acre-feet, stored 18 acre-feet.

Mr. Williams also informed the board that Governor Jared Polis had recently declared a state of emergency due to Colorado's drought conditions. Mr. Williams stated that the Colorado Water

Conservation Board clarified that cities, counties, and water providers remain responsible for drought response and restrictions, just as the District had done with implementing drought rates.

Mr. Williams informed the board that Governor Polis signed House Bill 26-1272, titled Extreme Temperatures Worker Protections. While the District opposed the bill, it was heavily amended, resulting in the legislation being limited to essentially data collection.

Mr. Williams also congratulated Assistant Manager Dave Payne and the entire Treatment Plant, who were recently awarded the 2025 Colorado Water Fluoridation Excellence Award. The District is one of only 17 treatment plants in the state to receive this award and was recommended for the 2025 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Water Fluoridation Quality Award, with the District being one of 23 in the state recommended for that award.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Chris Geiger provided the board with an update on the Shoshone Permanency water rights efforts.

GENERAL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Director Connor stated that the average inflation rate over the past five months was 3.6 percent and that inflation is expected to rise this summer. He said he expects inflation to exceed the cost-of-living increase in the coming months. Director Connor also noted that an oil company projected oil prices could exceed $100 per barrel in July and that limited fertilizer availability is expected to increase food prices. He said these factors are contributing to overall inflation and requested further discussion at a future committee meeting.

Director Talbott addressed Mr. Stouder's comments during public comment. He stated that Talbott Farms, which he owns and operates, has an estimated 15 to 20 water taps that provide drinking water to several hundred people and support operations such as cider production. Director Talbott said that, in a normal water year, his operation spends approximately $30,000 to $40,000 on water; however, under this year's drought rates, the cost is expected to exceed $100,000. He assured Mr. Stouder that all directors are customers and will pay the same drought rates as other customers, and that the board understood the impact when it adopted the rates. Director Talbott stated that the primary reason for implementing drought rates was to discourage outdoor water use, as canals are expected to empty later this summer, which could strain and potentially deplete the District's water supply. He expressed understanding of Mr. Stouder's concerns and thanked him for his comments.

Director Board expressed appreciation for the Water and Construction Committee presentations, which included year-to-date monthly water usage data and comparisons to 2025 usage. She stated that the sharp increase in March usage was concerning and could indicate conditions the District may face throughout the year. She said drought rates were necessary to communicate the seriousness of the situation and encourage customers to reduce water use. Director Board also expressed support for the District's This Drought Needs Ute water conservation campaign and the DRIP Committee's How the West Stays Watered drought awareness campaign.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – GENERAL MANAGER REVIEW

Vice President Waters moved to enter executive session pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-6-402 to discuss General Manager Greg Williams' 12-month employment review, which was conducted by the Executive Committee on May 27. The subject is sustainable for executive session because it involves discussion of personnel matters related to the General Manager position, C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(f). Participating in the executive session will be present board members, General Counsel Geiger, and General Manager Williams. Director Board seconded. The board voted unanimously to enter executive session.

The executive session was held to discuss General Manager Greg Williams' 12-month employment review, pursuant to Sections 24-6-402(4)(f), 24-6-402(4)(a). During the executive session, the board discussed the 12-month employment review of General Manager Williams, which was conducted by the Executive Committee on May 27.

There was no additional information or discussion, and no action was taken.

President Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Cronk

Dan Cronk, Secretary