

Ute Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
December 10, 2025

Meeting No. 1,014 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, Carl Conner, Dan Cronk, Robert Foster, Greg Green, Ken Henry, Sally Huddle, Ben Miller, Bruce Talbott, Bob Thome, Troy Waters, and Bob Wilson were present. Tammy Eret attended remotely.

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

Guests in attendance included Christa Waters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

MINUTES

Director Henry made a motion to approve the November board meeting minutes, No. 1,013. Director Huddle seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the November board meeting minutes.

BILLS

Director Huddle made a motion to approve the November bills. Director Green seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the November bills.

RESOLUTION UW 25-02 ADOPT 2026 BUDGET

The Public Notice regarding the adoption of the District's 2026 Budget was published in the Daily Sentinel on October 11, 2025, 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 10, 2025, 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 Miller opened the hearing on the proposed budget. Hearing no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

Director Wilson made a motion to adopt Resolution UW 25-02, a resolution summarizing expenditures and revenues and adopting the budget for Ute Water Conservancy District. Director Foster seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION UW 25-03 APPROPRIATE SUMS OF MONEY

Director Henry made a motion to adopt Resolution UW 25-03, a resolution appropriating sums of money for 2026 in the amount of \$32,911,823 for the Ute Water Conservancy District. The motion was seconded by Director Thome. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION UW 25-04 SET THE MILL LEVY

Secretary Board made a motion to adopt Resolution UW 25-04, which will set the 2026 mill levy to zero. Director Brennan seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Director Foster seconded the motion.

EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BONUSES

President Miller expressed appreciation for District staff for their service throughout the year. President Miller made a motion to give all District staff a \$500 gross Christmas bonus. Director Foster seconded the motion. Finance Director Scott Olsen clarified that the bonus would be subject to applicable taxes and would be included in employees' December 19th paycheck.

The board discussed the historical amount of the Christmas bonus, the differences between a gross and net bonus, and the impacts to both employees and the District.

During the discussion, Director Huddle made a motion to increase the Christmas net bonus to \$1,000. Treasurer Wilson seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the Christmas bonuses.

The prior motion to award a \$500 gross bonus was not acted upon.

GENERAL MANAGER SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Director Green made a motion to approve the General Manager Selection Committee meeting minutes. Secretary Board seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the General Manager Selection Committee minutes.

WATER & CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

Director Conner asked about the details of the assessment for the membrane conceptual plan. Assistant Manager Dave Payne stated that he would like to schedule conversations with CDPHE in the beginning stages of the membrane conceptual plan to determine feasibility and if an alternative treatment system needs to be implemented.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Treasurer Wilson to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes. Director Foster seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the Finance Committee minutes.

Director Green highlighted some of the District's upcoming capital projects along with their associated costs. Director Green encouraged the board to take the projects and costs into

consideration when discussing rate increases each year to ensure the District continues to be in a stable financial position for the future.

Director Foster referenced a prior discussion regarding the need for a formal board process to review long-term capital expenses and projects beyond the upcoming year. Director Green stated that discussion of capital expenses is appropriate and emphasized that the board's role is policy-driven, with operational decisions remaining the responsibility of District staff.

General Manager Greg Williams added that District staff are working to implement processes to present to the board for long-term capital planning as part of the District's strategic plan efforts.

President Ben Miller mentioned that he is working with General Counsel Chris Geiger to clarify the parameters of a policy-driven board.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director Conner asked what the preferred alternative is for the District's waterline aerial crossing. District Engineer Dave Priske stated that the preferred alternative would be full replacement of the aerial crossing under the Colorado River.

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Distribution Superintendent Tim Moore thanked the board for the generous Christmas bonus.

Mr. Moore reported that asphalt patching on South Camp Road is complete. Mr. Moore also provided an update on the 10 ½ Road and Q ¼ Road pipeline project, noting that 1,500 out of 5,700 feet of pipeline has been installed.

TREATMENT & SOURCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

On behalf of District staff, Assistant Manager Dave Payne thanked the board for their generosity and support regarding the Christmas bonus.

Mr. Payne stated that the Jerry Creek Reservoirs are still receiving tailrace water from the Lower Molina Power Plant, which has increased levels by 16.7% in the last two months and is estimated to keep receiving tailrace water until mid-January.

Mr. Payne informed the board that the District is helping fund \$7,000 for a second wildfire mitigation project on Brad Baldwin's property.

Mr. Payne also highlighted the improvements from 2020 to 2025 in Water Treatment Plant SCADA Network vulnerabilities.

Mr. Payne provided an update regarding recent reports of adult mussels in Rifle and Glenwood Canyon following the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) blitz. He noted that, in response to the increase in zebra mussel sightings, CPW has developed a Grand Valley Aquatic Nuisance Species management plan. Mr. Payne highlighted that water providers currently lack specific guidance on protecting water sources and stated that he will work with CPW to incorporate protective measures for water infrastructure into the plan.

Treasurer Wilson asked whether the Jerry Creek Reservoirs are at risk for zebra mussels and if the District has any prevention measures in place. Mr. Payne responded that the reservoirs are at risk and noted that mussel traps are currently in place in the Jerry Creek Reservoirs and Plateau Creek. He also indicated that Vega Reservoir is at risk and stated that the District is working with CPW to continue prevention efforts.

Director Foster inquired about the potential use of chemical treatment in the Jerry Creek Reservoirs. Mr. Payne noted that adding a chemical feed system to the tie-in structure is a possible option, but environmental impacts would need to be considered.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Scott Olsen thanked the board for their efforts during the budget season. Mr. Olsen also thanked the department heads and staff who helped with the budget process.

Mr. Olsen announced that there will be no Finance Committee meeting in December and that it will resume in January.

HUMAN RESOURCES/RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT

No additional questions were asked.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT REPORT

External Affairs Manager Andrea Lopez provided an update to the board on Unfolding Colorado. Unfolding Colorado involves a 14-foot by 21-foot map that provides students with an interactive, hands-on presentation of the state of Colorado. Students learn about the importance of Colorado's water supply, well-known landmarks, historical sites, and the state's physical landscape and its impact on the state's water supply. Ms. Lopez added that the External Affairs department participated in an interview with the University of Colorado's Geography Alliance Program about the District's outreach efforts with the map. Ms. Lopez highlighted that the District's map is one of the few still in use and stated that the External Affairs department is continuing to refine the presentation to align with students' learning needs. Director Huddle commented that the map presentation is beneficial for young learners and helps them visualize where water comes from. Ms. Lopez congratulated External Affairs Coordinator Natalee Hall on becoming a Young Professionals Network of Mesa County board member.

Ms. Lopez added that the External Affairs department is coordinating with EUREKA! Science Museum to offer two Unfolding Colorado presentations in January with a Spanish-speaking translator.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Greg Williams reported that, with the Shoshone Permanency efforts advancing to the water court process, the District is preparing to file statements of opposition to participate in the change case. He explained that the process will include a meeting with J-U-B Engineers Area Manager Luke Gingerich to discuss his potential technical representation of the District in the case. Mr. Williams noted that Mr. Gingerich has represented the irrigators throughout the

instream flow agreement process, and his expertise will help ensure that the District's operational interests as a historical user pool beneficiary are protected.

Mr. Williams also informed the board that the Grand Valley Irrigation Company auction will be held at the District's headquarters on December 11th. He requested board approval for two authorized District staff members to proceed with purchasing shares in the event the District is successful, and if the amount is in excess of the District's check signing requirements.

Director Huddle made a motion to approve two District staff members to proceed with purchasing shares at the Grand Valley Irrigation Company share auction. Treasurer Wilson seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Williams reminded the board that spots for the Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention on January 28th through January 30th are filling quickly, and December 12th is the deadline for board members to confirm attendance.

Mr. Williams also thanked the District's department heads for their assistance over the last six months as he moved into the General Manager role.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Chris Geiger provided the Board with an update on the water court case involving the Town of Eagle regarding its application for storage rights, approval of a change of water rights, and a plan for augmentation and exchanges. Mr. Geiger reported that General Manager Greg Williams authorized a settlement in the matter, in which the District is an opposer.

Mr. Geiger also provided an update on the Fontanari matter. The Fontanari Trust is under contract to sell two of its parcels in Clifton. The first parcel listing price is \$500,000, and the second parcel listing price is \$1.2 million. The combined closing purchase price will be \$1.3 million, which would be a sufficient amount to clear the District's judgment. If the properties close in the month of December, the District should receive payment at the beginning of 2026, and the total judgment proceeds, including interest, would be approximately \$850,000.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – GENERAL MANAGER REVIEW

President Miller made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing specific and suitable issues under C.R.S. § 24-6-402 to discuss the six-month employment check-in with Ute Water General Manager Greg Williams conducted by the General Manager Selection Committee on November 12th. This subject is suitable for Executive Session because it involves discussion of personnel matters as it relates to (C.R.S. 24-64-02(4)(f)). Participants in the Executive Session will include all members of the Board of Directors physically present and General Counsel Chris Geiger. Director Huddle seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

The executive session was held, and at its conclusion, the board adjourned back to the regular session. No additional action was taken.

GENERAL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

There was no additional information or discussion.

President Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

BBoard
Briana Board, Secretary