

Ute Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
February 11, 2026

Meeting No. 1,016 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, Tammy Eret, Robert Foster, Greg Green, Ken Henry, Sally Huddle, Ben Miller, Bob Thome, Troy Waters, and Bob Wilson were present. Bruce Talbott was absent.

Ute Water employees at the meeting included Justin Bates, 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, Dave Payne, Dave Priske, Rick Stengel, and Greg Williams. Ute Water's general counsel, Chris Geiger, and the District's lobbyist, Kathleen Curry, were also in attendance.

Two online participants who refused to provide more information for the record, identified as Michael and 303-478-6019, attended remotely.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

MINUTES

Director Henry made a motion to approve the January board meeting minutes, No. 1,015. Director Foster seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the January board meeting minutes.

BILLS

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

RESOLUTION UW 26-01 MAY 2026 BOARD MEETING DATE

Director Huddle made a motion to adopt Resolution UW 26-01, a resolution modifying the date of the May 13th, 2026, regular monthly meeting of the Board due to conflicts with the annual Western Colorado Children's Water Festival scheduled for May 11th and 12th, 2026. The resolution modifies the regular monthly meeting of the District's Board of Directors to be held on May 6th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., and shall be held at the offices of the District, 2190 H ¼ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado. Director Green seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving Resolution UW 26-01.

WATER & CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Director Foster recognized Assistant Manager Dave Payne for his presentation at the Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention on zebra mussels.

Director Conner asked about the remainder of the Southside Transmission project. District Engineer Dave Priske explained that the Schedule I, budgeted for 2026, is planned to replace 11,000 feet of 24-inch pipe, leaving approximately three miles of waterline that needs to be replaced. Director Conner also inquired about waterline replacement within the rest of the District's distribution system. Mr. Priske stated that there are approximately 170 miles of AC lines of various diameters and explained that they would be replaced with PVC pipe as needed in the future. Treasurer Wilson asked what the estimated cost would be and how long it would take to replace 170 miles of pipeline. Mr. Priske estimated around \$1 million per mile, totaling \$170 million, and estimated it would take around 30 years.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REPORT

District Engineer Dave Priske highlighted that 11 years after the hydropower unit was commissioned, its revenues have totaled \$455,000, equivalent to the original investment in the unit.

Director Conner asked if the District had considered installing solar panels. Mr. Payne explained that the District has investigated the feasibility of solar energy on some of its properties, and in 2017, the board decided that the return on investment was insufficient.

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Distribution Superintendent Tim Moore reported that the pipeline installation on 10 ½ Road and Q ¾ Road is complete, and the tie-in will be completed soon.

Mr. Moore also gave the board some additional background information on Monument Valley Pump Station, explaining that in the past, there have been issues filling the Redlands tank. Mr. Moore discussed the various solutions implemented unsuccessfully, which led to the pump station project.

TREATMENT & SOURCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Manager Dave Payne provided background information and reviewed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the agency's release of the "Review of Science on Fluoride in Drinking Water: Preliminary Assessment Plan and Literature Survey".

Mr. Payne also informed the board that, under the Lead and Copper Rule improvements, the District may need to physically verify additional lead service line inventory.

Mr. Payne referenced a flyer from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) for irrigation water users to help identify zebra mussels and to expand efforts to prevent zebra mussels in the Grand Valley.

Director Henry asked about the current trend of zebra mussels. Mr. Payne stated that the primary focus is to control and contain zebra mussels and prevent their spread.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Scott Olsen informed the board that there will be no Finance Committee meeting in February in preparation for the annual audit.

HUMAN RESOURCES/RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director Conner asked if the District is fully staffed. Human Resources/Risk Manager Jamie George explained that the District is budgeted for 77 employees and currently has 72 full-time employees due to retirements and exits.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT REPORT

External Affairs Manager Andrea Lopez highlighted a new section in the External Affairs report, a website analytics page. Ms. Lopez explained that these analytics provide feedback on the most frequently viewed pages on the website.

Ms. Lopez also highlighted upcoming expiring board member terms, including Directors Talbott, Foster, Cronk, Board, and Eret. General Counsel Chris Geiger is working to finalize dates for when applications to reapply will be available.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Greg Williams provided the board with an update on the Drought Response Plan. Mr. Williams also reported that District staff are developing a new strategic plan, which will be presented to the board in the coming months.

Mr. Williams added that the legislative session has begun. He stated that the District is actively involved in 24 bills and draft bill concepts.

District Lobbyist Kathleen Curry provided the board with an overview of the bills the District is involved with.

Director Green asked for additional information regarding House Bill 25-1286. Lobbyist Curry explained that it would require employers to implement protections for workers who are exposed to extreme hot and cold temperatures at the worksite, including temperature mitigation measures, rest breaks, and temperature-related injury and illness prevention plans.

Treasurer Wilson asked about the penalty for violations and how it would be filed. Lobbyist Curry explained that it would be filed with the Division of Labor and Employment, treated as a civil infraction, and that the court could set damages based on the offending party's assets.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Chris Geiger gave the board an update on Case No. 25CW3177, The Colorado Water Conservation Board, Public Service Company of Colorado, and The Colorado River Water Conservation District, stating that the deadline to file statements of opposition expired on January 31st. 63 parties filed statements of opposition. 26 parties support the proposed change, 20 in opposition, and 17 indicate that applicants should be held to strict proof or are monitoring the proceedings.

Mr. Geiger also provided the board with an update on the Fontanari matter. The sheriff's sale against the Fontanari Trust parcels did not close in January and is now scheduled for March 5th.

GENERAL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Vice President Waters highlighted the Colorado River Abundance Act, a proposed legislative framework to address water scarcity in the Colorado River basin.

General Counsel Chris Geiger presented the draft bylaw amendments, including revisions to Articles I through IV. Director Eret suggested revising Article I, Section 4d. Director Eret stated that "staff" should be removed because it is not consistent with Section 2. Mr. Geiger stated that the revision will read "Adopt, amend, and repeal governing policies, not inconsistent with law, that set direction, define priorities, and establish parameters within which the Manager and attorney shall operate." There was no opposition to this revision.

There was general discussion of the alignment of the board's responsibilities and goals and the bylaws.

Mr. Geiger informed the board of the formal amendment process and how it will proceed.

Director Foster suggested revising Article III, Section 2e to include Co-Chairs. There was no opposition to this suggestion. President Miller advised Director Foster to send the revision to Mr. Geiger prior to the next board meeting.

President Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Briana Board, Secretary