

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO
WATER CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT MINUTES
August 15, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) was held on Thursday, August 15, 2024, 9:34 a.m., at the District office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado. The ZOOM platform was also made available for Board members and visitors.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Andy Colosimo	Greg Felt	Matt Heimerich
Ann Nichols	Howard "Bub" Miller	Pat Edelman
Bill Long	Justin DiSanti	Seth Clayton
Curtis Mitchell	Kevin Karney	Tom Goodwin
Dallas May	Mark Pifher (remote)	

DIRECTOR(S) ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Alan Hamel

DISTRICT OFFICIALS:

Executive Director Leann Noga; General Counsel Lee Miller; Staff Attorney Peter Levish; Senior Policy and Issues Manager Chris Woodka; Principal Engineer Kevin Meador; Principal Engineer/Operations Coordinator Gordon Dillon; Water Resources Principal Engineer Garrett Markus; Finance Manager Stephanie Shipley (remote); Administrative Support Specialist's Margie Medina and Patty Rivas; H2O Consultant Roy Vaughan; Kogovsek & Associates Christine Arbogast, AECOM Curtis Thompson; and McDonald Water Policy Bill McDonald (remote).

VISITORS PRESENT:

Aurora Water, Abba Ahmed; Pueblo West Metro, Bobby Banham; USGS, Krystal Brown; USBR, Mike Holmberg; and Colorado Department of Agriculture, Robert Sakata.

VISITORS CONNECTED VIA ZOOM:

Wilson Water Group, Angie Alvarado; Otero County Commissioners, Rob O'Quist and Tim Knabenshue, and Otero County Administrator, Amy White-Oquist; Colorado Springs Utilities, Chris Olney and Scott Lorenz; Aurora Water, Rick Kienitz; Security Water and Sanitation, Roy Heald; and L.P Water Logic, Lowell Pimley.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Long said the minutes from the July 18, 2024, District Board meeting was posted to OnBoard and the Website for review and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Mr. DiSanti moved, seconded by Mr. Howard “Bub” Miller, to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

Ms. Ann Nichols reported the financial statements for July 2024, were posted to OnBoard and the Website for review. Ms. Nichols moved, seconded by Mr. Clayton, for acceptance of the July 2024 financial statements and payment of the August 2024 bills. Motion unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

None

ACTION ITEMS:

INCLUSION OF LAND BY COLORADO SPRINGS

Mr. Markus presented an action item to the Board, recommending approval of the inclusion of the annexation to the City of Colorado Springs into the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) with the standard terms and conditions. Once approved by the Board of Directors, staff will send the annexation to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for assent. The District will submit the inclusion to the District Court for final decree.

There are three methods of including lands into the District:

1. Annexation by a town or city located in the District.
2. Petition of the property owners.
3. Vote of the property owners.

All three of these methods require assent from the Secretary of Interior, for which Reclamation requires a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the lands to be included in the District boundaries. Once the Board approves the inclusion by Resolution, then Secretarial Assent by Reclamation is requested. The inclusion is submitted to the District Court for a decree including the lands within the District.

The Application of Assent has been submitted to the District and will be forwarded to Reclamation for the property.

RESOLUTION NO.	More Commonly Known As	Legal	Acres	County
2024-05D INCL-AX	Lot 15, Block 20, Park Vista Estates Addition	Section 23 T13SR66	.57	El Paso

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Mr. Clayton moved, seconded by Mr. Edelmann, that the Board approve, by Resolution, the inclusion of the Lot 15, Block 20, Park Vista Estates Addition annexed by Colorado Springs subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Approval of these inclusions into the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District will not increase the amount of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water available to the city. Any Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water used on these included lands will need to come from the water allocated to the city through Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water allocations made pursuant to the District's Allocation Principles and Policies; and
2. Any use of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water on the included lands is subject to the decrees for the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, and to all lawful rules, regulations, principles, policies, and contractual obligations of the District; and
3. The annexed lands will be subject to ad valorem taxes levied by the District as any other similarly situated lands in the District at the time of this inclusion; and
4. Prior to the District filing a petition for District Court approval of this inclusion, the Municipality, and/or owner(s) of the annexed lands shall have paid all the costs charged by the United States in connection with the contracting officer's assent to this inclusion. Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Resolution was provided to the Board.

PALMER LAND CONSERVANCY – MIRASOL SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

Mrs. Leann Noga presented to the Board that the District received a sponsorship letter request from Palmer Land Conservancy on June 13, 2024. The sponsorship request is to support multiple Mirasol film showings in the Northern Colorado area to increase awareness about water, agriculture, conservation, and what happens when land and water is taken out of agriculture production and the effect on rural agricultural communities.

The goal is for a minimum of 10,000 people to see the film through in-person events within the first year of its release and to ensure key policymakers, elected officials, business, civic, and community leaders, and decision-makers are in attendance and a part of these conversations.

Mrs. Noga spoke to Northern Water, as of the end of July 2024 they have not allocated any funding to Palmer Land Conservancy. Northern has met and continues to meet with Ms. Kristie Nackord of Palmer and acknowledges that Palmer's strategic plan has a good approach.

Mrs. Noga has acknowledged that the District does not have a strategic direction from the Board regarding outreach. She suggests that we include this discussion in the upcoming Business plan and Strategic Plan for future planning. Mrs. Noga has touched base with Ms. Nackord, Palmer is willing to work with the District in the same capacity of Northern Water.

The 2024 Adopted Budget for sponsorship is \$25,525 as of the end of July, \$7,500 has been expended. At this point in the year most of the sponsorship items have been expended. This is a typical picture for the past two years regarding sponsorship. The overall general fund, District

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revenues over expenditures, are expected to experience a fund balance increase. This is mainly due to interest earnings exceeding budgeted amounts and a few capital expenditure projects that will be pushed to next year due to staff workload.

With the most recent Aurora Water purchase in the Arkansas Valley and the targeted areas of the film showing such as Arapahoe, Adams and Douglas Counties in which Aurora resides, the Board could entertain a discussion and possible action in the form of a sponsorship.

Seth Clayton moved, second by Andy Colosimo that the Board of Directors approve a one-time sponsorship to Palmer Land Conservancy in the amount of \$ 10,000.00 to support in the promotion and education of the Marisol film in the areas of Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Boulder, Denver, Larimer and Weld Counties. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board also requested an accounting of the sponsored funds by the Palmer Land Conservancy, as an incentive for possible future sponsorships. Ms. Kristie Nackford from the Palmer Land Conservancy will be invited to present this information to the Board in January or February of 2025.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY REPORTS:

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mr. Mike Holmberg presented a PowerPoint to the Board that reviewed the following topics.

As of August 11, 2024:

- 217,240 acre-feet stored in Pueblo Reservoir
- 151,439 acre-feet of Project Water
- 49,923 acre-feet of Excess Capacity Water
- 22,647 acre-feet of Winter Water
- 93,934 acre-feet of Project Water Space Available in Pueblo
- 8,244 acre-feet of Project Space in Twin & Turquoise Lake

Frying Pan-Arkansas Project as of 8/12/2024

- a. Turquoise 96% full
- b. Ruedi 95% full
- c. Mt. Elbert 76% full
- d. Twin Lakes 85% full
- e. Pueblo 70% full

Collection System Update:

Cunningham Tunnel Repair

- Shut down North Collection System on 7/23 for clearances
- Work as long as weather allows
- Re-mobilize next year

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Hunter Tunnel Facility Review

- Shut down South Collection System on 7/23
- Scheduled to be back on 8/10
- Crews to begin winterizing

As of July 31, 2024:

- Total M&I PW in the system = 134,660 AF
- EAST = 23,870
- WEST = 11,642
- PUEBLO = 19,755
- OTHER = 4,020
- FVA = 75,373
- CSU = 53,860
- Fountain = 7,542
- Security = 6,136
- Stratmoor = 2,186
- Widefield = 5,649

Questions were asked of Mr. Holmberg.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

The Board was provided written material on the following topics, which were posted to OnBoard and the Board website:

- Water Court Resume
- Inclusion Resolution No. 2024-04D INCL-AX
- Colorado Water Congress Summer Conference – August 19-22

President Long adjourned the District Board Meeting at 10:12 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Patty Rivas
Administrative Support Specialist

Seth Clayton – Secretary

Bill Long – President

Howard “Bub” Miller

Curtis Mitchell – Vice President

Justin Disanti

Ann Nichols – Treasurer

Kevin Karney

Alan Hamel

Mark Pifher

Andy Colosimo

Matt Heimerich

Dallas May

Pat Edelmann

Greg Felt

Tom Goodwin