

**Minutes of the Third 2025 Quarterly Board Meeting of the
Board of Directors of the
Republican River Water Conservation District
August 19,2025**

offered virtually and in person
Phillips County Events Center – Biesemeier Meeting Room,
22505 U.S. Highway 385 Holyoke, CO 80734

- A. The board of Directors of the Republican River Water Conservation District convened their board meeting August 19, 2025 pursuant to notice required by statute and the District's by-laws. President Rod Lenz opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.
- a. Lenz led the group in the pledge of allegiance and Lenz led the group in prayer.
 - b. Secretary Kristen Schneider conducted a roll call of Directors. Board members present for roll call were:
 - i. Rod Lenz, president
 - ii. Steve Kramer, vice president
 - iii. Aaron Sprague, treasurer
 - iv. Kristen Schneider, secretary
 - v. Don Brown
 - vi. Brooke Campbell
 - vii. Tim Fetzer
 - viii. James Harlow, excused
 - ix. Greg Larson, excused
 - x. Josh Lechman
 - xi. Trent Leoffler
 - xii. Robin Liming
 - xiii. Steven Meakins
 - xiv. Tim Pautler
 - xv. Kevin Penny
 - xvi. Roger Seedorf
 - xvii. Dennis Wieser
 - xviii. A quorum of the board was declared with 15 members present for roll call and James Harlow and Greg Larson were excused.
 - xix. Staff/consultants present: Deb Daniel, Reon McBride, Payton Liming, David Robbins, Pete Ampe, Randy Hendrix, Stuart Dykstra present via Zoom.
 - c. Introduction of guests/staff present
 - i. Greg Stultz, Pete Wilson, via Zoom: Chris Grimes, Dan Betts, and Jason Ullmann
 - d. Approve the agenda
 - i. **There was a motion to approve the agenda as presented. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
 - e. Approve the minutes
 - i. May 20, 2025 – Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
 1. **There was a motion to approve the May 20, 2025 Board meeting minutes. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
 - ii. May 20, 2025 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes
 1. **There was a motion to approve the May 20, 2025 executive session meeting minutes. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
 - iii. June 20, 2025 – Special Board Meeting Minutes
 1. **There was a motion to approve the June 20, 2025 Special meeting minutes. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**

A. Report from State Engineer Jason Ullmann

- a. Ullmann discussed the issues for all of the Basins around the state. Ullmann discussed the Perkins County canal and Nebraska's complaint against Colorado which has been submitted to the Supreme Court. Ullmann discussed a hearing for updates to the model used in Water Division No. 3. Ullmann discussed making the trip to attend some of the public meetings to be held in the upcoming months by the District. Ullmann thanked the district for continuing to work with the state and being diligent anticipating the expansion of the pipeline.
 - i. Brown asked if the Perkins County canal issue has strained relations for the District? Ullmann discussed there is not a strain, but there has been additional scrutiny on documentation submitted to provide evidence of the South Fork dry-up, but communication has been open.

B. Administration Reports

- a. President's Report – Rod Lenz, Board President
 - i. Lenz discussed working with the planning group and their discussions for how they can best serve the District and the public. Lenz discussed the District is at a place where all the important decisions are being made.
- b. General Manager's Report – Deb Daniel, General Manager
 - i. Daniel discussed an uptick in interest for conservation programs, but without a Farm Bill there has been hesitation from producers. Daniel discussed the presenters for the afternoon of the Quarterly meeting including Willem Schreuder and Amber Pacheco. Daniel discussed working with the Planning group to build the public presentation and scheduling the public meeting spaces for the 6 meetings in local communities. Daniel discussed traveling to Water Congress and the upcoming RRCA Annual meeting.
- c. Financial Report – Reon McBride, Finance and Office Manager
 - i. McBride discussed the completion of the 2024 single and federal audit and how there were no issues completing the audit. McBride discussed the preparation to make EQIP payments to landowners in June and the upcoming preparation for the CREP payments. McBride will be completing the insurance renewal and the staff have been busy attending trainings.
 - 1. **There was a motion to approve the financial report as presented. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
- d. SFFZ Acre Report – Payton Liming, Administrative Assistant
 - i. There are currently 17,120.65 acres retired in the SFFZ. The district is working with landowners to retire an additional 870 acres by the end of the year.
- e. Podcasts report - Payton Liming, Administrative Assistant
 - i. Liming discussed the podcast available for the board members to listen to and also discussed setting meetings with folks for a PTAC podcast and a budget discussion podcast.
- f. CCP Operation Report – Tracy Travis, CCP Operator
 - i. Pumping season is coming up quickly. Quality Irrigation has been completing maintenance on the pipeline, putting pumps and motors back. Travis is ready for the start date of Sept. 20, 2025.
- g. Policy Review Report – Kristen Schneider, Board Secretary
 - i. **There was a motion and second to approve the Banking and Accounting Section of the Board Manual, there was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
 - ii. **There was a motion to automate board member compensation for all meetings, board members will be required to opt out of the automation. There was a second. The vote was unanimous. (Payments will be distributed quarterly). There was a motion to approve the Board of Directors, Section B, portion of the Board Manual with the earlier change. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
 - iii. **Roger Seedorf moved to table the C-Budget portion for language corrections. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**

C. RRWCD Committee Reports

- a. Budget Committee – Aaron Sprague, chairperson
 - i. Budget preparation will begin soon.
- b. Conservation Committee – Steve Kramer, chairperson
 - i. Anticipates things will heat up soon.

- c. Fee Evaluation Committee – Kevin Penny, chairperson
 - i. Penny stated it has been a busy quarter and discussed upcoming plans for the committee.
- d. Innovation/Technology Committee – Steven Meakins, chairperson
 - i. Nothing to report.
- e. Legislative Committee – Brooke Campbell, chairperson
 - i. No committee meetings, have been meeting bi-weekly with lobbyists, there has been discussion about going back to Washington, D.C. next spring. Daniel stated Amanda Monk is no longer with Rep. Boebert’s office.
- f. Negotiating Committee – Roger Seedorf, chairperson
 - i. There will be discussion during the executive session to instruct negotiators.
- g. Nominating Committee – Steven Meakins, chairperson
 - i. Nominations will occur during the next quarterly meeting.
- h. Personnel Committee – Brooke Campbell, chairperson
 - i. During the executive session the General Manager’s review will occur. The committee has also submitted the Employee Improvement Plan to be discussed during the Executive Session.
- i. PTAC Committee – Tim Pautler, chairperson
 - i. Rehab is full steam ahead and almost completed. More will be discussed in presentations to be seen in the afternoon.

D. Associated Organizations Reports

- a. Colorado Groundwater Commission –Tim Pautler
 - i. The meeting began with Mt. Elbert Generation Plant, the public can no longer tour the plant but it is incredibly impressive because of the size of the turbine. It takes 178,000 horsepower to turn the turbine 168 rpm. Pautler ended up chairing the meeting because the Chair and Vice Chair were not present. The commission is doing housekeeping for documentation and clerical issues. There have been issues with objectors who are not necessarily injured by the change request making objections.
- b. Colorado Water Congress – Greg Larson/Steve Kramer
 - i. Larson is currently attending Colorado Water Congress and Daniel will drive to Steamboat tonight after the District meeting is over.
- c. South Fork Republican Restoration Coalition – Stuart Dykstra/Noah Nemmers
 - i. Nemmers updated the board on the high success of the herbicide treatment and the second round of herbicide treatment for continued maintenance. There will be a third round application. CPW has expressed gratitude for those efforts. The WSRF grant has been released. There will be bore holes drilled for soil composition testing. There was discussion on the location of the monitoring wells. The wells will be dependent on where the drill rig can get to. There will also be monitoring used from current Ogallala wells and also the bed rock aquifer. There was an additional question about the grazing project and if that project was still active. Daniel discussed attending meetings where the Yuma County Soil Conservation District discussed issues with fencing in the less accessible portions of the property.
- d. South Platte Basin Roundtable – Deb Daniel
 - i. Daniel discussed frustrations with the technology attending the meeting via Zoom. The SPBRT is following the Perkins County Canal issue. Daniel discussed the upcoming meeting dates and locations.
- e. Yuma County Water Authority – Mike Leerar
 - i. YCWA reached out to Brandi Baquera with Colorado Master Irrigator program to offer to subsidize participation. YCWA is working with the irrigation research farm for test plots for next year and some ditch maintenance has been conducted.

E. Professional Reports

- a. Lobbyist Reports
 - i. Federal Lobbyists – Patrick Firth/Denise Bode, Constitution Partners, LLC
 - 1. The legislation is in August recess. There is renewed interest in getting a Farm Bill across the line. Key conservation program issues were not passed in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act,

such as the CREP Improvement Act. Firth discussed the September deadline to fund the government.

2. Bode discussed the odds of getting a Farm Bill completed this year and believes that is approximately 60/40 odds.
- ii. State Lobbyists – Landon Gates/Brock Herzberg, Capitol Focus, LLC
 1. Gates is traveling to Steamboat shortly. Gates will be meeting Larson and the interim water committee this evening. The legislature is going into a special legislation session, because of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passage. There will be significant impacts to the state of Colorado's budget. The governor set the call and discussed the items which could be brought up during the special session. Gates anticipates the session will last longer than 3 days, which is the minimum number of days for a special session. The interim water and ag committee will be meeting on August 20, 2025 and Gates will be monitoring the meeting.
- b. Engineer's Report – Randy Hendrix, water engineer, Hendrix Wai Engineering, Inc.
 - i. Hendrix discussed working with Hahn and McGrane on ranking the wells for the well field expansion. Hendrix discussed working through the SEO's and the pipeline run season. Hendrix stated the start date should be Sept. 15 and run through May 31, 2025 pumping 11,900 acre feet.
- c. Attorney's Report – David Robbins/Pete Ampe, legal counsel, Hill and Robbins P.C.
 - i. The Arikaree change case will be done through Division 1 water court, Ampe stated the District got a few comments back, but Ampe spoke with CWCB and SEO office about their concerns. Ampe spoke with the Ruff family's attorney and the family wanted to double check their portion of the wells would not be impacted. The YCWA is there to monitor the issue. Ampe discussed the South Platte complaint, and has been working with the District staff to update contracts per the SEO's requests.
 - ii. Robbins stated that Hill and Robbins, P.C. has been retained by landowners in the area of the South Platte on the Perkins Canal issue and discussed wanting acknowledgement that was not an issue for the RRWCD.

11:54 PM – LUNCH – provided for everyone in attendance

F. 12:56 PM – Public Comment

- a. Alex Rock, President of Central Yuma Groundwater Management District, and Brent Deterding handed out letters to the members of the District's board. To see the letter, refer to Exhibit B.
- b. Greg Terrell
- c. Jim Michal, Arikaree Groundwater Management District
- d. **Public Comment closed at approximately 1:30 PM.**

G. Legislative reports

- a. Federal Legislators or staff members
 - i. James Thompson, local representative for Senator Bennett, Thompson discussed local folks reaching out to their office because of issues with lack of funding through NRCS and FSA. Thompson requested input from the board and Sprague discussed the importance of the funding for the programs to get the acres retired to meet the 2016 Resolution.
 - ii. Dan Betts, local representative for Congresswoman Boebert's office, discussed the loss of Monk to the team and how Betts and Finegan will be the contact for the time being. Betts discussed the Community Project Funding and how that may be a difficult process through the appropriations issue.
- b. State Legislators or staff members
 - i. None present for commentary.

H. Presentations/Reports

- a. Status of Economic Impact study – Jordan Suter & Dale Manning CSU Professors and Karen Schlatter, Director of CO Water Center
 - i. Suter discussed distributing a draft report during the May 2025 meeting. Suter discussed working with Emmett Jordan to improve the report's visual quality and make final changes to the report. Suter gave an overview of the report funded by HB 23-1220. The study utilizes input-output

modeling estimating primary and secondary economic impacts of curtailing groundwater on 526,000 irrigated acres. One of the challenges of the study was figuring out the scenarios if irrigation was curtailed.

- b. Sandhills Ground Water Management District Retained Jurisdictional Authority hearing rescheduled – Steve Kramer, RRWCD Vice President
 - i. The Hearing has been scheduled for September 25, 2025 at 1:00 PM at the RRWCD office.
- c. Water Use Fee Administration in the Rio Grande Water Conservation District – Amber Pacheco, Deputy General Manager
 - i. Pacheco discussed the different fees charged by Subdistricts throughout the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. Pacheco discussed the challenges assessing over 14,000 wells throughout the Rio Grande Basin. Subdistrict No. 1 charges a fee for net pumping, that is groundwater withdrawals in excess of managed recharge, with an additional administration fee figured per irrigable acre. Subdistrict 1 is the only district which figures the administration fee based on irrigated acres from the county assessors office. Pacheco clarified that the RGWCD staff only use the records from the county offices. All other district administration charges are figured by well, Pacheco clarified if there is more than one well per parcel but there is only one meter, there is only one administration fee charged. Pacheco discussed Subdistrict 2 does not have a requirement to sustain their alluvial aquifer, whereas Subdistricts 3-6 have a sustainability requirement for the confined aquifer. Pacheco discussed a county failed to certify the fees from 2 subdistricts in the past, so the district had to self-collect those funds. Pacheco discussed the difficulties invoicing those members of those Subdistricts during 2020 and how there are still some outstanding fees from that time. Pacheco stated the collection is easier to predict and accomplish under the county timelines instead of through self-invoicing. Pacheco discussed the local counties only receive 1 percent of the funds collected.
 - 1. Meakins asked if the per acre foot fee has impacted pumping behavior. Pacheco stated that she believes pumping fees have impacted pumping behavior, but it is hard to know just what that impact is, as there are other things impacting pumping as well.
 - 2. There was discussion on the setup of the RGWCD itself and the 6 Subdistricts and how staffing occurs.
- d. Compact Compliance Update – Willem Schreüder, Principia Mathematica Inc.
 - i. Schreüder gave a presentation on what a water short year means, and how it impacts the RRWCD and how much the District will have to deliver through the CCP. There was discussion about what is calculated in the model, Schreüder clarified the purpose of the model is to determine the depletions to the streams caused by groundwater pumping.

There was a break taken at 3:12 PM. And the meeting reconvened at 3:21 PM.

- e. Update on Compact Compliance Pipeline expansion project – Tim Pautler, PTAC Chairperson & Randy Hendrix, RRWCD water engineer
 - i. Pautler discussed how the pipeline was created with future expansion in mind based upon the pipe size. Pautler discussed why it is important to expand the footprint of the wellfield to prevent extensive depletion of the physical water level. The PTAC recommendation is to expand the well field to include wells B1, B3, C3, and C4.
 - 1. There was extensive discussion on the capability of the wells, why it is important to expand area of impacts of the wells, and why it is important to have a plan for the future.
- f. Public Information presentation including Water Use Fee Options – Planning Group members
 - i. There was a presentation of the public information presentation including the potential changes to the water use fee options done by the planning group members.

I. Board Discussion & Action Items

- a. Discuss and vote on 2024 annual audit & 2024 single audit – Aaron Sprague, Budget Chairperson
 - i. There was a motion to approve the 2024 annual audit and the 2024 single audit. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
- b. Discuss and vote on Arikaree GWMD grant application – Reon McBride, Office and Finance Manager
 - i. There was a motion to fund the Arikaree GWMD grant application requesting \$6,000.00. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**

- c. Discuss and vote on CCP expansion project – Tim Pautler, PTAC Chairperson
 - i. There was extensive discussion about how the wells for the recommendation were selected with differing views from multiple board members.
 - ii. **There was a recommendation from the PTAC committee to put to bid to the five companies the design of the expansion of the pipeline to wells B1, B3, C3 and C4. There was a second.**
 - iii. There was extensive discussion about the cost of the expansion of the pipeline.
 - iv. **There was a request for a roll call vote.**
 - v. **There was a motion to amend the original motion to add the potential to include wells A1 and B2. There was second. There was a roll call vote for the motion including the amendment, the results are as follows:**
 - 1. Yes Votes: Rod Lenz, Steve Kramer, Aaron Sprague, Kristen Schneider, Don Brown, Brooke Campbell, Tim Fetzer, Josh Lechman, Trent Leoffler, Robin Liming, Steven Meakins, Tim Pautler, Kevin Penny, Roger Seedorf
 - 2. No Votes: Dennis Wieser
 - d. Discuss and vote on Public Information presentation – Planning Group members
 - i. **There was a motion to proceed with the public presentation and the 6 public meetings. There was a second.**
 - ii. There was discussion from the board members about questions which could potentially come up.
 - iii. There was discussion about the time for the meetings being scheduled is not a good time for the constituency.
 - iv. **The vote was unanimous.**
- J. **Old Business**
- a. **No new business.**
- K. **New Business**
- a. **No new business.**
- L. **6:13 PM – Executive Session** to receive legal advice on legal questions and litigation concerning South Fork water rights; to discuss and determine positions, develop strategies, and instruct negotiators concerning the purchase or lease of water rights; determine positions and instruct negotiators concerning water supply acquisition, receive legal advice on legal questions related to such agreements, contracts and easements, discuss program applications; Compact Compliance and discussions with Kansas (to the extent subject to privilege), and the Compact Compliance Pipeline and Bonny Reservoir, and to discuss personnel matters
- a. **There was a motion to go into executive session at 6:14 PM for personnel and also for the discussion of the purchase of property in the SFFZ.**
 - b. **There was a motion to exit executive session at 6:45 pm.**
- M. **PM – Adjourn Meeting**
- a. **At 6:50 PM there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.**



Secretary



Date

RRWCD Board Meeting Sign-in Sheet

August

Name	Address	Representing	Phone	Email
Nate Mivcage	Cy for MS 5A	Gwmd		
Kyle Spouso		Arikaree/WY		
Mike Leerer		YCWA		
Pete Whelan		WSB		
Goold Roberts	28501 CR 41	Phillips County	970-520-7602	gooldroberts@ymail.com
John M. Juhl	Floyd	AGWMD		
Rob Bond	Genoa	AGWMD		
Greg Trank	Krus	AGWMD		
Jim Michal	Flagler	AGWMD		
Alex Back	Wray	CYGMMD		