



Republican River Water Conservation District

Board meeting and Budget Hearing – November 18, 2025

offered virtually and in person
Wray Elks Lodge #2409
36355 U.S. Hwy 385, Wray, CO

- A. The board of Directors of the Republican River Water Conservation District convened their board meeting November 18, 2025 pursuant to notice required by statute and the District's by-laws. President Rod Lenz opened the meeting at 9:59 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. Greg Larson
 - ix. Josh Lechman
 - x. Trent Leoffler
 - xi. Robin Liming
 - xii. Steven Meakins
 - xiii. Tim Pautler
 - xiv. Kevin Penny
 - xv. Roger Seedorf
 - xvi. Dennis Wieser
 - xvii. A quorum was established with 16 members of the board present, while the Cheyenne County position is open.
 - c. President Lenz introduced Jason Ullmann and Tracy Kosloff as guests attending the meeting.
 - d. President Lenz then announced the re-appointments of Directors for a continuation of their terms, Greg Larson representing Logan County; and Rod Lenz representing Sandhills Groundwater Management District.
 - e. President Lenz read Resolution 25-02 honoring Robin Liming for his years of service to the RRWCD board.
 - i. **There was a motion to approve Resolution 25-02 honoring Robin Liming. There was a second and the motion was unanimous.**
 - f. Jake Barkhuizen was sworn in as the new representative for Cheyenne County.
 - g. Brad Rock was sworn in as the new representation for Yuma County.
 - h. **Don Brown requested an additional section under item D. marked as j. History of the CCP pipeline by Byron Weathers. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
 - i. Approve the minutes
 - i. **There was a motion to approve the August 19, 2025 quarterly board meeting minutes. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
 - ii. **There was a motion to approve the August 19, 2025 Executive Session minutes. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
 - iii. **There was a motion to approve the September 16, 2025 special board meeting minutes. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
- B. 10:05 AM - Administration Reports
- a. President's Report – Rod Lenz, Board President
 - i. Lenz discussed the massive size of the agenda, and requested everyone give the important details and stick with the facts. There are big decisions on the docket, including the Fee Evaluation decision. The board traveled around the basin and had some of the best attended meetings in the history of the board. President Lenz requested board members review the results for the board retreat to discuss the results of the meetings. President Lenz challenged the GWMD's to do their part in meeting compact compliance.

- b. General Manager's Report – Deb Daniel, General Manager
 - i. General Manager Daniel discussed the focus of the office staff, retiring acres in the SFFZ to meet Compact Compliance requirements. Daniel discussed the public meetings across the Basin and also discussed the expansion of the pipeline's ability to deliver water to the North Fork. Daniel discussed streamflow on the North Fork and how it continues to decrease and the importance of maintaining flow on the North Fork to continue deliveries with the pipeline. Daniel discussed the results of the public meeting surveys. Daniel also thanked the CDWR staff.
- c. Financial Report – Reon McBride, Finance and Office Manager
 - i. McBride presented the Financial report. **There was a motion to approve the financial report. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
- d. South Fork Focus Zone Acre, RRWCD podcasts update & RRWCD website report – Payton Liming, Administrative Assistant
 - i. Liming updated the board that the number of acres has increased from 17,120 acres to 17,991 acres.
- e. CCP Operation Report – Tracy Travis, CCP Operator
 - i. Travis reported the pipeline is pumping 61 ac/ft per day.

C. 10:30 AM - Hearing of the Board

- a. Budget Hearing on proposed 2026 Budget – Presented by Aaron Sprague, Budget Committee Chairperson & Justin Dodsworth, Premier Accounting, RRWCD Accountant
 - i. At 10:30 AM the Board opened a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 Budget for the RRWCD and the RRWCD Water Activities Enterprise, notice of the hearing had been published in accordance with law. Aaron Sprague, Budget Committee chairperson opened the Public Budget Hearing.
 - ii. Justin Dodsworth, RRWCD Accountant, began by informing the Board that the Budget Committee had met previously to prepare the 2026 Proposed Budget. Mr. Dodsworth gave a presentation on the 2026 Budget, going through the budget line by line.
 - iii. **At 11:11 AM Sprague asked for any public comment related to the Budget Hearing.**
 - 1. Byron Weathers and Brandi Baquera had public comments.
 - iv. **At 11:12 AM the budget hearing was closed.**

D. 11:15 AM - RRWCD Committee Reports

- a. Budget Committee – Aaron Sprague, chairperson
 - i. Sprague stated the Budget Hearing will stand as the Budget report.
- b. Conservation Committee – Steve Kramer, chairperson
 - i. The committee has not met since last quarter, Kramer will plan a meeting in the future.
- c. Fee Evaluation Committee – Kevin Penny, chairperson
 - i. Penny discussed the previous history of the fee evaluation committee and past meetings. Penny discussed the vote this afternoon will be to make a decision to hold a hearing in December.
- d. Innovation/Technology Committee – Steven Meakins, chairperson
 - i. Nothing to report at this time.
- e. Legislative Committee – Brooke Campbell, chairperson
 - i. Continue to meet with lobbyists and they will give a more detailed report this afternoon.
- f. Negotiation Committee – Roger Seedorf, chairperson
 - i. Seedorf discussed potential negotiating opportunities to be discussed during Board Retreat.
- g. Nominating Committee – Steven Meakins, chairperson
 - i. Meakins discussed reworking the bylaws to include confidential votes for board members not present in the room during elections. There was discussion on how to handle traditional votes, voice call votes and confidential votes for elections.
- h. Personnel Committee – Brooke Campbell, chairperson
 - i. Campbell discussed the committee will meet with the staff in December and will bring recommendations to the Board during retreat.
- i. PTAC Committee – Tim Pautler, chairperson

- i. Pautler discussed the previous committee meetings. Pautler discussed previous engineering consultant Dennis McGrane resigning and the committee is looking at two applicants to take his position. The design RFP is due by December 19, 2025. There was discussion about when the pipeline expansion construction could be completed. Hendrix discussed 2027 as the earliest, most optimistic date.
- j. History of the CCP Pipeline – Byron Weathers
 - i. Weathers discussed previously serving on the board for 6 years. Weathers discussed improvements of the wells and how increasing the capacity of the wells should be conducted before the board discusses expanding the wellfield outside of what it currently includes. Weathers discussed that the wells in the initial purchase around the well field were supposed to be tied into the well field in the future.

12:00 PM LUNCH – provided for everyone in attendance

E. 1:00 PM – Public Comment

- a. Leonard Hadachek, Wray CO
- b. Public comment closed at 1:04 PM**

F. Associated Organizations Reports

- a. Colorado Groundwater Commission –Tim Pautler
 - i. The commission meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM Friday morning. There are two hearings scheduled for those meetings. Pautler discussed that he and Dave Keeler both represent the Northern High Plains basin and that they have both requested to be the representative for the RRWCD. The vote for appointment to the RRWCD Board of Directors will occur on Friday.
- b. Colorado Water Congress – Greg Larson
 - i. Larson gave a quick round up of attending the August session of Colorado Water Congress. The signup for the January session is around the corner.
- c. South Fork Republican Restoration Coalition – Noah Nemmers/Stuart Dykstra
 - i. Dykstra discussed working on the WSRF grant, to establish parameters for the stream restoration project with BOR. There has been no progress in the field because of the current hunting seasons. Field work will be kicking off in early spring. Dykstra reported there is a new supervisor on the project for the state, Tyler Kersey. V3 is currently working to finalize a \$50,000 grant for stream restoration. The work being done right now is to be shovel ready. Dykstra discussed how out of the 23 options, BOR's favored option is to trench the dam for a flow through. Currently, the water entrapment has caused the excess phreatophytes to grow. Dykstra reported 100 percent kill on the phreatophyte sprays. Dykstra discussed Backcountry Horseman being a strong partner for recreational partnerships in the future.
- d. South Platte Basin Roundtable – Deb Daniel
 - i. Daniel discussed the September 14th meeting as scheduled during one of the public meetings. Daniel discussed the C9 summit and how much she enjoyed that opportunity because it was a meeting full of the roundtable representatives. Daniel will miss the November meeting because it is being held tonight.
- e. Yuma County Water Authority – Mike Leerar
 - i. Voted to cooperate with the IRF on an irrigation plot with limited irrigation. YCWA asks each incorporated municipality to cut back on their water usage at every meeting.
 - ii. The negotiating committee will follow up with YCWA authority about renewing the YCWA authority lease.

G. Professional Reports

- a. Lobbyist Reports
 - i. Federal Lobbyists – Patrick Firth/Denise Bode, Constitution Partners, LLC
 - 1. The historically longest government shutdown has ended after 43 days, the government is now funded through January 30, 2026. There is continued jostling for getting funding to important programs. Constitution Partners have been meeting with Gabe Evans to get continued support for the CREP Improvement Act. Firth discussed getting appropriations requests built early so that they could get the applications to the correct folks before decisions have to be made. FSA and NRCS are funded through their fiscal year ends.
 - ii. State Lobbyists – Landon Gates/Brock Herzberg, Capitol Focus, LLC
 - 1. The state has begun working on the state budget for fiscal years 2026-2027 and is expected to go through the spring. Medicaid spending is expected to be a big cut, Gates stated that DNR and CWCB are not expecting huge cuts because of the sports betting earnings. The report for the

Economic Impact study needs to be finalized by January 1, 2026. The first presentation needs to be completed by January 30, 2026.

- b. Engineer's Report – Randy Hendrix, water engineer, Hendrix Wai Engineering, Inc
 - i. Hendrix stated all the numbers for 2025 are either provisional or projected, the finalized 2025 numbers will be received in 2026. Hendrix extensively discussed the potential CCP pumping required to meet compact compliance pipeline requirements for pumping year 2026. Hendrix and Robbins discussed the difference between physical water able to go through the pipeline and water the District has the ability to legally pump.
- c. Attorney's Report – David Robbins/Pete Ampe, legal counsel, Hill and Robbins P.C.
 - i. Ampe discussed working heavily with staff for Section L of the Agenda.

H. Report from Colorado Division of Water Resources

- a. State Engineer, Jason Ullmann
 - i. Ullmann thanked the group for the invitation to be here and participate and listen to the discussions related to the Fee structure changes and the issue of having enough water to pump in the pipeline to maintain Compact Compliance. Ullmann discussed the current standings of the Perkins County Canal complaint at the Supreme Court and stated there will be a public meeting in Sterling and Julesburg on December 4, to discuss the South Platte.
- b. Tracy Kosloff, Asst. State Engineer did not give a report.
- c. Chris Kucera, Republican River Team Lead Commissioner
 - i. Kucera stated there is no measurable flow at the Benkleman gauge. Kucera discussed a decline in the flow through the state line gauge. Kucera then gave a summary of the wells in the basin: 3,765 structures in the basin, 3,272 active high-capacity wells. 2025 water usage is estimated to be 636,000 acre-feet for the Basin. There was discussion about there being 595 PCCs in the Basin, and Kucera stated they overestimate water usage.

I. Legislative reports

- a. Federal Legislators or staff members
 - i. None present to report
- b. State Legislators or staff members
 - i. None present to report

J. Presentations

- a. **Compact Compliance Pipeline Cost - Benefit Analysis** – Bill Hahn, Hahn Water Resources, Randy and Ayrton Hendrix, Hendrix Wai Engineering, Inc.
 - i. Hahn, Hendrix, and Hendrix, presented information regarding the potential wellfield expansion. Hahn showed the weighted-well preferences from the engineering information without regards to the potential cost.
 - ii. **There was a break taken at 3:15 PM.**

K. Reports

- a. Economic Impact study update – Jordan Suter, CSU; Dale Manning, UTK; and Karen Schlatter, Colorado Water Center
 - i. Professor Suter discussed that the District has the report in its penultimate form. Suter gave a quick overview of the study area and the overview of the results through input-output modeling observing four different scenario options if curtailment occurred. The study discusses the impacts of revenue to households by income threshold and also the loss of employment which would occur if curtailment of irrigation occurred. Professor Suter will follow up with staff to figure out when to conduct meetings around the basin and when the reports for the legislation need to be done.
- b. Review Sandhills GWMD Retained Jurisdictional Authority final report – Steve Kramer, Vice President
 - i. Kramer gave a report of the Retained Jurisdictional Authority hearing with Sandhills GWMD addressing the following concerns: all remaining wells in the well field and the date when the capping of the wells needs to be completed by, discussion of the ac/ft discrepancy in the state reports and Hendrix' WAE reports, notice of the water delivered through the pipeline to the Sandhills GWMD, static water levels of the wells, no payment in lieu of taxes, and an assessment for water pumped out of Sandhills GWMD.

1. There was discussion about the date when the landowners must have the wells capped which is Oct. 31, 2028 and the date the District must have the wells capped by, which is Oct. 31, 2029.
2. There was discussion about how the C wells should be utilized in the future for the CCP.

L. 3:20 PM – Board Discussion & Action Items

- a. Discuss and vote on GWMD Conservation Grant application from Marks Butte GWMD - Tim Fetzer
 - i. Fetzer discussed Marks Butte GWMD would like to follow Arikaree's lead and will put static level monitors in 2 wells in the District to gain data with the grant funds from the RRWCD District.
 - ii. **There was a motion to approve the grant application from Marks Butte GWMD. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- b. Discuss and vote on GWMD Conservation Grant application from Frenchman GWMD - Steven Meakins
 - i. Meakins discussed Frenchman GWMD will also purchase static level monitors for two to three wells, and Frenchman plans to match the funds.
 - ii. There was a motion to approve the Frenchman GWMD grant application. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.
- c. Vote on RAMP evaluation – Payton Liming, Administrative Assistant
 - i. Discuss and vote on offering upfront payment for RAMP contracts - Deb Daniel, General Manager
 - ii. Liming discussed the information related to the RAMP blind evaluation. **There was a motion to approve the RAMP blind evaluation. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
 - iii. Steve Kramer recused himself from the discussion and vote related to the upfront payments for the RAMP contracts.
 - iv. **There was a motion to approve upfront payments for RAMP contracts with the same 10 percent discount as the CREP and EQIP programs. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- d. Discuss and vote on response to letter received from Central Yuma GWMD, W-Y GWMD, Arikaree GWMD and Yuma county commissioners – David Robbins, District legal counsel
 - i. Robbins clarified this letter was received from a constituent, the Board of Directors is acting in accordance with the law, therefore there is no vote required to send the response letter.
- e. Discuss and vote on response to letter received from CAPA – David Robbins, District legal counsel
 - i. Robbins clarified this letter was received from a constituent, the Board of Directors is acting in accordance with the law, therefore, there is no vote required to send the response letter.
- f. Discuss and vote on application to change Hayes Creek Ditch, Hayes Creek Ditch No 3 and Rush Creek Ditch surface water rights to instream flow in the North Fork Republican River – Pete Ampe, District legal counsel
 - i. This is the second set of rights the district is moving forward with changing to instream flow, the rights were originally purchased to change to instream flow for Compact Compliance. **There was a motion to file an application to change Hayes Creek Ditch, Hayes Creek Ditch No 3 and Rush Creek Ditch surface water rights to instream flow in the North Fork Republican River. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- g. Discuss and vote on applying for Change of Use for well numbers 20013-FP/20517-FP, 20234-FP, 20894-FP, and 20895-FP for compact compliance – Pete Ampe, District legal counsel
 - i. **There was a motion to proceed with the change of use for well numbers 20013-FP/20517-FP, 20234-FP, 20894-FP, and 20895-FP for Compact Compliance. The use of the wells will be changed to compact compliance pipeline wells and also changing the point of diversions for the wells to be used in the well field. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- h. Discuss and vote on recommendation from Fee Evaluation Committee regarding change to RRWCD Water Use Fee – Kevin Penny, Fee Evaluation Committee Chairman
 - i. **Penny read an example of the motion to be considered at a hearing to be held on December 10, 2025.** "I move that beginning in FY 2027, after 2024 and 2025 trial runs and a successful 2026 trial run, the RRWCD change its fee structure and bill all high capacity irrigation wells at a rate equal of an annual proposed budget as forecasted by the RRWCD Budget Committee for the 3 year period beginning 2029-2031, the fees shall be set for the 3 year term and billable as a split fee of 50% irrigated acres and 50% acre feet pumped, and renewed every 3 years thereafter. Included in my motion, to have a seamless transition of fee structure, the 2027 water year will need to be used in calculating the upcoming change. Water use for 2027 will be certified by the State Engineers office in early 2028, to be then certified by the RRWCD for collection by local county treasurer's office in Oct/Nov 2028 and paid to the RRWCD in early to

mid-2029. Therefore, the Budget forecast, fee per irrigated acre and fee per acre foot pumped should be ratified at the November 2026 meeting for the 3-year period, so that producers can forecast their costs and RRWCD Staff has time to navigate the workload.”

- ii. **There was a second.**
 1. There was discussion on the years when the recommendation would be implemented including discussion on whether or not to involve municipalities and commercial wells.
 2. **There was an amendment to add “irrigation” after high capacity to the motion. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
 3. There was discussion based on which year to start the water use and billable dates.
 4. **There was a motion made by Seedorf to amend the motion to reflect all dates as two years later on all years presented in the language. There was a second.**
 5. **There was an amendment to the amendment reverting to the original motion made by Penny. There was a second. The vote was 10 to 6 with the yes votes winning the vote.**
 6. **Seedorf withdrew his amendment. Seedorf’s second agreed.**
 7. **The original motion vote was all yes votes except for Seedorf who voted nay.**
- i. Discuss and vote on Resolution 25-03 to change RRWCD Bylaws to require a 2/3 majority vote for any change to the RRWCD Water Use Fee and other updates – Rod Lenz, Board President
 - i. **Kevin Penny made a motion to table Resolution 25-03. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- j. Discuss and vote on Resolution 25-04 to transfer funds in FY25 - Reon McBride, Finance & Office Manager
 - i. **There was a motion to approve Resolution 25-04 to transfer funds in FY25. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- k. Discuss and vote on Resolution 25-05 to adopt the Budget for 2026 – Aaron Sprague, Budget Committee Chairman
 - i. **There was a motion to approve Resolution 25-05 to adopt the Budget for 2026. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- l. Discuss and vote on Resolution 25-06 to appropriate funds for 2026 – Aaron Sprague, Budget Committee Chairman
 - i. **There was a motion to approve Resolution 25-06 to appropriate funds for 2026. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- m. Discuss and vote on Resolution 25-07 for Approval of Certification of Special Water Use Fee Assessment - Yuma County – Reon McBride, Finance and Office Manager
 - i. **There was a motion to approve Resolution 25-07. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- n. Discuss and vote on Resolution 25-08 to identify the location of public notice of Board and Committee meetings – Reon McBride, Finance and Office Manager
 - i. **There was a motion to approve 25-08. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- o. Discuss and vote on Resolution 25-09 to allow RRWCD to have a special Board meeting outside the Basin on January 8-9, 2026 – Reon McBride, Finance and Office Manager
 - i. **There was a motion to approve Resolution 25-09. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- p. Discuss and vote on 2026 Professional Services - Reon McBride, Finance and Office Manager
 - i. **McBride presented the proposed professional rates. There was a motion to approve the rates. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- q. Discuss change to RRWCD Board manual requiring committee members elect committee chairs after the committees have been assigned each year – Rod Lenz, President
 - i. **There was a motion to add Josh Lechman to the PTAC committee. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- r. Election of Officers – Steven Meakins, Nominating Committee Chairman
 - i. The following submitted their names for officer positions.
 - ii. President-Rod Lenz
 - iii. Vice Chair-Steve Kramer and Dennis Wieser
 - iv. Treasurer-Aaron Sprague
 - v. Secretary-Kristen Schneider and Josh Lechman

- vi. **There was a motion to have a paper ballot election for the positions where multiple people were running. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- vii. **There was a motion to close elections for President and cast a unanimous ballot for Rod Lenz as President. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- viii. There was a paper ballot cast for the position of the Vice Chair. There were 8 votes for Kramer and 9 votes for Wieser. **Wieser won the election for Vice Chair.**
- ix. **There was a motion to close elections for Treasurer and cast a unanimous ballot for Aaron Sprague as Treasurer. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.**
- x. There was a paper ballot cast for the position of the Secretary. There were 9 votes for Lechman and 8 votes for Schneider. **Lechman won the election for Secretary.**

M. 4:45 PM - Old Business

- a. Wieser requested the forward RAMP contract be compiled for the upcoming special board meeting. Ampe stated it will be completed by the special meeting.

N. 4:50 PM - New Business

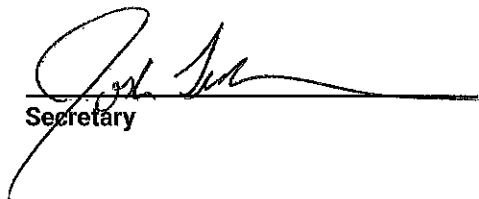
- a. **There was no new business.**

O. 4:55 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 no executive session held.**

P. 5:31 PM - Adjourn Meeting

- a. **There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 PM. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**


Secretary

3/18/2026
Date

RRWCD Board Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Nov.

Name	Address	Representing	Phone	Email
Kyle Sprouse		WY Airbase		
BreAnn Larson		DWR		
Mike Leener		FCWA		
Brandi Baguana		DWR		
Byron Weathers				
Chris Kuser		DWR		
Pete Wilson		WSB		
Jason Wilman		DWR		
Troy Kosloff		DWR		
Kenny Kelling				
Bob Meier		FC-farmer		
Leonard Hladichak				
Devi Ridman		DWR		