



Republican River Water Conservation District

Special Board meeting – December 10, 2025

offered in person and virtually

Cobblestone Inn & Suites, conference room
35952 U.S. Hwy 385, Wray, CO

-
- A. The Board of Directors of the Republican River convened their board meeting December 10, 2025 pursuant to notice required by statute and the District's by-laws. President Rod Lenz opened the meeting at 9:58 AM.
- a. Lenz led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - b. Lenz led the group in prayer.
 - c. Secretary Josh Lechman conducted a roll call of Directors. Board members present for roll call were:
 - i. Rod Lenz, President
 - ii. Dennis Wieser, Vice President
 - iii. Aaron Sprague, Treasurer
 - iv. Josh Lechman, Secretary
 - v. Jake Barkhuizen
 - vi. Don Brown
 - vii. Brooke Campbell
 - viii. Tim Fetzer
 - ix. Steve Kramer
 - x. Greg Larson, via Zoom
 - xi. Trent Leoffler, late for roll call
 - xii. Steven Meakins, absent
 - xiii. Tim Pautler, via Zoom
 - xiv. Kevin Penny
 - xv. Kristen Schneider, via Zoom
 - xvi. Roger Seedorf
 - xvii. Brad Rock
 - xviii. A quorum was established with 15 members present for roll call.
 - d. Jim Tomky was sworn in as the new representative for Frenchman Groundwater Management District.
 - e. President Lenz read Resolution 25-10 honoring Steven Meakins.
 - i. **There was a motion to approve Resolution 25-10 honoring Steven Meakins. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
 - ii. *Trent Leoffler joined the meeting at 10:06 AM.*
 - f. President Lenz did not introduce any guests.
 - g. **There was a motion to approve the agenda. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
- B. **Report on administering proposed budget needs – Aaron Sprague, Budget Committee Chairperson**
- a. Robbins discussed the Board is holding this hearing to hear the public's perspective as a precursor to the board adopting, altering or maintaining the fee structure the Board currently has.
 - b. Sprague presented an informational slideshow for the public and Board in review of what is being discussed during the Hearing and by the board after the hearing.
 - c. Members of the public asked clarifying questions during and after Sprague's presentation.
- C. **Public Hearing on change to RRWCD Water Use Fee – Rod Lenz, Board President**
- a. *Each member of the public is allowed three minutes with questions from the board not counting against their time.

- b. At 11:05 AM President Lenz opened the Hearing to the Public. Members of the public who spoke during the Hearing are:**
 - i. Barry Hinkhouse
 - ii. Dave Carlson
 - iii. Jake Michal
 - iv. Jim Hendrix
 - v. Byron Weathers
 - vi. Tyson Brown
 - vii. Ron Blach
 - viii. Brent Deterding
 - ix. Marty Buoy
- c. The Hearing closed at 11:27 AM.**

Board Discussion and Action Items

D. Receive and vote on groundwater well consultant recommendation for PTAC committee – Tim Pautler, PTAC Committee Chairperson

- a. Pautler discussed interviewing Chris Sanchez and Matt Seitz on December 4, 2025. The committee recommends Chris Sanchez.
 - i. Robbins stated he has worked with Sanchez for a long time and Sanchez will offer a fresh perspective of the basin.
 - ii. There was a motion to hire Chris Sanchez as the new well field hydrogeologist. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.
 - iii. Pautler updated the members of the board that the PTAC committee is attempting to schedule a field trip to the well field for Sanchez and the potential design firms.

There was a lunch break taken at 11:32 AM.

E. Discuss and vote on change to RRWCD Water Use Fee – Rod Lenz, President

- a. The board reconvened at 12:21 PM to discuss and vote on the potential change to the RRWCD Water Use Fee.
- b. All board members present for roll call and Leoffler were present for the discussion of the potential change to the water use fee.
- c. Wieser made a motion to adopt a new 50/50 fee structure where acres are assessed in 2030, payable in 2031, with the 4 year rolling average using years: 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029. There was a second.**
- d. The board members discussed the budget, public perception of the district and the sunset of the \$15.50 fee for the SFFZ retirements, there was also discussion of conservation and how conservation is not the district's statutory responsibility.
- e. Penny amended the motion to adopt a new 50/50 structure fee where acres are assessed in 2029, payable in 2030, with the 4 year rolling average using years: 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028. There was a second.**
- f. The vote for Penny's amendment failed 7 (yes) to 9 (no).
- g. The vote for Wieser's original motion passed 15 (yes) to 1 (no).
- h. There was a motion the actions taken today take precedence over the public published notice. Legal stated the motion is to the extent the published notice is not in conformity with the motion the board just adopted. The board will defer to the language of Wieser's motion. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.**
- i. There was a motion to authorize legal to draft the language of the Resolution addressing the water use fee change to give the RRWCD budget committee authority to continue to set a budget, recommend the appropriate fees to support that budget on an annual basis per Colorado Statute.**
 - i. 4 year rolling average for each parcel or well to establish it's annual pumping**

- ii. The ability of the budget committee to recommend annual fees based on budgetary needs.
 - iii. There was a second. The vote was unanimous.
- F. Old Business
 - a. Daniel reminded the group of the upcoming Board Retreat scheduled for January 8 and 9, 2026 in Greeley, CO at the Double Tree Hotel.
 - b. Robbins stated he will put this in Resolution form for the February meeting.
- G. New Business
 - a. There was no new business.
- H. Executive Session, if required, 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.
- I. 1:02 PM – Adjourn Meeting
 - a. At 1:02 PM there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. There was a second and the vote was unanimous.



Secretary

3/18/2026

Date

RRWCD Board Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Dec. 10

Name	Address	Representing	Phone	Email
Don Destman	30498 CR 60 Wray			
Nate Milano				
Kyle Sprouse				
Benjamin Kelly				
Jim Lamb	Ambrose			
Joe Hayes	Wray			
Aaron Wetman	Wray			
Matt Bleche	Wray			
Demp Saluda	Yuma			
Steve Destman	Yuma			
Bryan Hinkley	Burlington			
Michael Marquette	Wray, CO		970-580-3478	
Shan Galles	Yuma			
Larry Bards	Yuma			

RRWCD Board Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Dec. 10

Name	Address	Representing	Phone	Email
Alex Rock		Central	630-0977	
Ron Richards			630-3843	
Mantua Bug		Sandhills	630-5791	
Michael Sande			630-2922	
Bryce Boerjef				
M Leerur				
C Lebsack				
Ann Hendrix				
Tyson Brown				
Paul Black				
MAREL CURET			342-7822	

RRWCD Board Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Dec. 10

Name	Address	Representing	Phone	Email
Sylvia Weathers		Self	970-630-0987	