

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

UPPER YAMPA WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 (12:00 PM)

MOUNTAIN VALLEY BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
2220 CURVE PLAZA, STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO

ONLINE MEETING:

[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/88364557950?PWD=N8zDQRZDYOWdDSD3HJEdu0BZFYOWtD.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88364557950?pwd=N8zDQRZDYOWdDSD3HJEdu0BZFYOWtD.1)

MEETING ID: 883 6455 7950 - PASSCODE: 631329

MINUTES

Chairman Jim Haskins called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

In addition to Chairman Haskins, Directors present during all or part of the meeting included Katie Berning, Kevin McBride, CJ Mucklow, John Redmond, Nicole Seltzer, Tom Sharp, Leah Wolf Martin, and Mynon Woodley. Present from Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District (UYWCD) for all or part of the meeting included General Manager Andy Rossi, District Engineer Emily Lowell, Public Affairs Manager Holly Kirkpatrick, Business Manager Dianna Schoen, Finance Manager Karina Craig, and Community Programs Specialist Courtney Lynn. General Counsel Bob Weiss and Special Counsel Scott Grosscup were present over Zoom during all or part of the meeting. Others present in person for all or part of the meeting included Peter Fleming, Andy Mueller, Raquel Flinker, Jayla Poppleton, Ellie Miller, Lindsey Marlow, Jerry Gasau, Julie Baxter, Bob Woodmansee and Bill Badaracca. Others present over Zoom for all or part of the meeting included Amy Ostdiek, Becky Mitchell, Brian Romig, David Twedt, Eric Gunderson, Erin Stewart, Frank Alfone, John Spezia, Diane Brower, Julie Baxter, Kevin Wild, Ben Krause, Lexi Firth, Liz Whitney, Marie, Michael, Mike Smith, Nabin Basnet, Rick Ownens, Taylor Adams, Tim Sullivan and William Summers.

This meeting was held in person and by videoconference utilizing Zoom. The meeting agenda included instructions to the public describing the process to participate in the meeting and comment on agenda items.

The following agenda was proposed:

AGENDA

- (1) **12:00 PM** Establishment of Quorum and Call to Order
- (2) **12:00 PM** Approval of Agenda for Meeting **Action item**
- (3) **12:05 PM** Public Input and Comment
The Board will make no decision nor take action, except to direct the General Manager. Those addressing the Board are requested to identify themselves by name, organization, if any, and address. Comments shall not exceed three (3) minutes.
 - a. Update from Colorado River Conservation District and UCRC
- (4) **1:05 PM** Board Member Reports
 - a. Board Member Disbursements
- (5) **1:10 PM** Consent Agenda **Action item**
 - a. Approval of the Minutes of the January 21, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting
 - b. Approval of the Minutes of the March 5, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting
 - c. Financials

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- i. Approval of Disbursements
 - ii. Budget Comparison
- (6) **1:20 PM** Public Information Updates
- a. Grant Disbursements
 - b. New Grant Applications **Action item**
 - c. Community Events
- (7) **1:50 PM** Report of General Manager
- a. General Manager's Report
 - b. Augmentation Plan Updates
 - c. Financial Audit Update
 - d. Board Member Appointment Recognition
- (8) **2:30 PM** District Engineer Report
- a. Update on Reservoir Water Status
 - b. CWT Contract Volume Allocation
 - c. Upper Yampa River Water Quality Update
 - d. CPW Water Storage Contract
 - e. FERC Owner Dam Safety Program
- (9) **4:00 PM** Pending Water Cases
- a. Water Resumes
 - b. Status of Other Water Cases
- (10) **4:15 PM** New Business (Limited to emergency matters that came up
During the course of the meeting) **Action item**
- (11) **4:25 PM** Executive Sessions:
- a. Executive session under CRS § 24-6-402(4)(b) to discuss legal issues on Water Resumes, Water Cases, Contract Negotiations and _____ (insert description) . Mere presence or participation of an attorney at an executive session is not sufficient to satisfy the requirements of CRS § 24-6-402(4)(b). Executive sessions to discuss legal matters are not recorded.
 - b. Executive session under CRS § 24-6-402(4)(e)(I) for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators with respect to _____ (insert brief description). This session will be recorded, and a copy of the recording maintained for not less than 90 days.
 - c. At the conclusion of an executive session and the resumption of the public meeting, the Chairman will announce that if any person who participated in an executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into executive session, or that any improper action occurred during an executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, that such person state their concern for the record.
- (12) **4:35 PM** Board Actions in Regard to Executive Session
- (13) **4:40 PM** Determination of Next Meeting(s) Agenda(s)
- (14) **4:50 PM** Adjournment.

Chairman Haskins established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

Meeting Agenda. Chairman Haskins moved to approve the agenda. Director McBride seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Public Input and Comment. Chairman Haskins invited members of the public to comment on items not otherwise scheduled on the agenda. Public comment was heard from Bob Woodmansee, who emphasized the importance of modeling for water quality issues, particularly regarding Stagecoach Mountain Ranch. Comment

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from Liz Whitley expressed concerns about the sustainability of water usage at Stagecoach Mountain Ranch. Mike Smith, the attorney representing Stagecoach Mountain Ranch, presented a new water quality plan that includes operational improvements at Morrison Creek, nature-based solutions, and treatment technology upgrades. According to Mr. Smith, the plan aims to improve water quality beyond current standards.

Update from Colorado River Conservation District and UCRC.

Becky Mitchell with the Upper Colorado River Commission provided an update on Colorado River negotiations, highlighting the challenging hydrology situation and the need for a supply-based operations approach rather than demand-based management. She explained that Colorado has been proposing generous rule curves for releases from Lake Powell, contributions from upstream initial units (Flaming Gorge, Blue Mesa, and Navajo), and a robust contribution program. Commissioner Mitchell noted that while the February 14th deadline for a seven-state agreement was missed, efforts continue to seek consensus among willing parties, and the Bureau has initiated a 6E process that may further decrease Powell releases. Director Seltzer recognized Commissioner Mitchell for her work.

Andy Mueller, Raquel Flinker and Peter Fleming with the Colorado River District presented. Raquel Flinker discussed Lake Powell inflows and reservoir levels and potential impacts on power generation and impacts on releases. She addressed the draft environmental impact statement released by the Bureau of Reclamation, which included alternatives for future operations. Peter Fleming discussed the Conserved Consumptive Use program principles. Mr. Fleming said that the preference is for a voluntary, compensated conserved consumptive use program over mandatory curtailment, as the latter would disproportionately impact West Slope agriculture and have significant secondary effects on local economies. Andy Mueller discussed the potential for shepherding water across state lines and the challenges of implementing curtailment rules. Director Redmond recognized the group for their community funding partnership program, and Director Sharp praised their efforts to keep calls off the river. Mr. Mueller encouraged Board members to provide feedback on policy decisions as the process moves forward.

Consent Agenda. Director Sharp moved to approve the consent agenda with the correction of the March 5, 2026 Executive Committee minutes statement to read “Director Sharp moved that the Executive Committee make its recommendation to the whole Board at the March Board meeting that the District provide notice to the Colorado Water Trust of availability of 100 acre feet of water in the Volume 1, and an additional 3,500 acre feet of water in the Volume 2 category, under our contract with the Water Trust.” Director Wolf Martin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Public Information Updates.

Grant Disbursements. Public Affairs Manager Kirkpatrick updated the Board on the status of grant disbursements, noting \$19,500 remaining in the Diversion Infrastructure Improvement Project.

New Grant Applications. Jayla Poppleton with Western Resilience Center and Lexi Firth with CSU presented a grant funding request for \$74,917 to launch the first year of the Yampa Valley Climate-Resilient Ranching Hub. The Hub will be connected to the Discovery Farms and Ranches framework, developed by the Integrated Rocky Mountain-region Innovation Center for Healthy Soils (IN-RICHES) at Colorado State University. The initiative aims to establish a statewide network of long-term on-farm demonstration sites that embed rigorous, systematized research within the realities of working landscapes. Director Seltzer moved to approve the \$74,917 grant funding request. Director Berning seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of eight in favor and one opposed. The motion carried.

Community Events. Public Affairs Manager Kirkpatrick updated the Board on upcoming community events of the District.

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Board Member Reports. Board Member disbursements were noted.

Report of General Manager.

General Manager's Report. General Manager Rossi recognized Finance Manager Craig for her 15 years of service and District Engineer Lowell for her 5 years of service with the District. General Manager Rossi reviewed his written report on the current and ongoing activities at the District. He noted a vacant seat on the Yampa-White-Green Roundtable and Governor Polis' enactment of the Drought Task Force.

Augmentation Plan Updates. The Board reviewed the current augmentation plans contract summary document.

Financial Audit Update. Finance Manager Craig reviewed the requirements and process of the 2025 financial audit. She noted the Final Draft Audited Financial Statements will be sent to Directors for their review and reference, in early May, prior to the May Board of Directors meeting.

Board Member Appointment Recognition. General Manager Rossi recognized the re-appointment of board members Katie Berning, Tom Sharp and John Redmond for four year terms.

District Engineer Report.

Update on Reservoir Water Status. District Engineer Lowell provided an update on the reservoir water status. She noted that Yamcolo reservoir is at 5,100 acre feet and is not anticipated to fill this year. There is abatement criteria in place to be applied to contracts.

CWT Contract Volume Allocation. District Engineer Lowell reviewed the Executive Committee recommendation to allow 3,600 acre feet of water volume to be allocated for contract to the Colorado Water Trust. Lindsey Marlow with Friends of the Yampa emphasized the importance of allowing the maximum releases to protect the health of the environment and she noted the economic dependence on the river. Julie Baxter, with the City of Steamboat Springs, emphasized the importance of the release program and the need to protect water quality. The Board discussed and raised concerns about the sustainability of releasing large volumes in dry years. General Manager Rossi explained the reservoir's fill history and the need to balance contractual obligations with long-term water management goals. Director Sharp moved that the Board approve and adopt the recommended motion from the Executive Committee and provide notice to the Colorado Water Trust before April 1, 2026 that the District will commit 100 acre feet out of Stagecoach for Volume One and 3,500 acre feet for Volume 2 out of Stagecoach Reservoir General Supply Pool pursuant to the District's contract. Director McBride seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Upper Yampa River Water Quality Update. Erin Stewart from Spheros Environmental presented data on nutrient concentrations, including phosphorus and nitrogen in the watershed noting that most concentrations fell within historical baseline ranges and met interim stream criteria. The Board discussed the potential sources of phosphorus, including legacy sediment from the reservoir's construction. Erin reviewed strategies for managing phosphorus levels, such as hypolimnetic withdrawal and the use of phosphorus-binding products. The Board acknowledged that more modeling work is needed to fully understand the sources and dynamics of nutrients in the reservoir. The Board discussed water quality monitoring and algal blooms, with Erin explaining that limiting both phosphorus and nitrogen can help control toxic cyanobacteria blooms.

CPW Water Storage Contract. District Engineer Lowell presented a new water storage contract with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) amended and reviewed by General Counsel Bob Weiss for 2 acre feet to support the Finger Rock State Fishery at \$155.72 per acre foot. Ben Krause from CPW provided additional details of the operation and water request. Director Sharp moved to approve the proposed water storage contract with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the State Fishery site in accordance with material supplied to the Board

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including the changes requested by the State at the municipal/industrial rate. Director McBride seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

FERC Owner Dam Safety Program. District Engineer Lowell reviewed the findings from the external audit performed on the Owner's Dam Safety Program (ODSP), a required FERC Safety Program for every dam that is classified as high hazard. District Engineer Lowell and staff were commended on their work.

Pending Water Cases.

Water Resumes. Special Counsel Grosscup noted that there were no new water resumes of concern to the District in January and February. He noted a new law for how the State reviews substitute water supply plans for the lease, loan, or trade of water rights for Agricultural Water Protection.

Status of Other Water Cases. Special Counsel Grosscup provided an update on the various water court cases in which the District is a party. For case 23CW3025, Moffat County is proceeding with their Umbrella Augmentation Plan. For case 24CW3024, Diligence on Elk River Augmentation Plan, the Water Judge has entered a final decree and this case is complete. On case 24CW3029, Counsel continues to work on the Coal Creek Diversion Pipeline. For case 24CW3031, PSCO, Counsel is recommending the Board authorize that he enter into the proposed stipulation with PSCO provided in the packet. Director Sharp moved that the Board authorize Counsel to enter into the proposed stipulation with PSCO in case 24CW3031 as included in the Board packet. Chairman Haskins seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. For case 25CW3008, Storm Mountain Ranch, this is an application for water storage rights located on Walton Creek and a plan for augmentation using UYWCD's Stagecoach water. Counsel recommend entering the proposed stipulation as included in the Board packet. Director Sharp moved that the Board authorize Counsel to enter into the stipulation in the matter of case 25WC3008 in accordance with the proposed stipulation that was attached to the Board packet. Director Wolf Martin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. For case 25CW3019, Stagecoach Reservoir Diligence, Counsel is still waiting on the Division Engineer's report.

New Business. There was no new business.

Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

Board Action Regarding Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

Determination of Next Meeting Agenda. The agenda for the May 20, 2026 Board Meeting was reviewed.

Chairman Haskins moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:57 PM. Director Sharp seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

I certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct summary of the proceeds at the above referenced meeting.



Andy Rossi, District Secretary/Manager

Date: 5/20/20