

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**UPPER YAMPA WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026 (9:30 AM)
CARPENTER RANCH
13250 US-40, HAYDEN, COLORADO 81639**

ONLINE MEETING:

[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84121702496?PWD=Rx2WZKUATOPIJGKAVJRA9Y9PPGRxN9.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84121702496?pwd=Rx2WZKUATOPIJGKAVJRA9Y9PPGRxN9.1)

MEETING ID: 841 2170 2496 - PASSCODE: 056158

MINUTES

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

Board Members Present: Jim Haskins, John Redmond, Mynon Woodley, Tom Sharp, Kevin McBride, Nicole Seltzer, Katie Berning, CJ Mucklow and Leah Wolf-Martin

Staff Members Present: Andy Rossi (General Manager), Emily Lowell (District Engineer), Holly Kirkpatrick (Public Affairs Manager), Dianna Schoen (Business Manager), Karina Craig (Finance Manager), Neal O Bray and Eddie Rogers (Plant Operators), and John Nelson (Facilities Operator)

Others Present: Bob Weiss (UYWCD General Counsel), Erin Light (Colorado Division of Water Resources, DWR), Andrew Rickert (Colorado Water Conservation Board, CWCB), Randy Seidl (Rain Enhancement Technologies), Prentiss Donohue, Mendi Figueroa (Community Agriculture Alliance, CAA), Linda Maynard, Jeffrey Chagnon, Rutuja Dongre, Anya Donohue, and Matt Smith.

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

9:00 AM Breakfast

(1) **9:30 AM** Establishment of Quorum and Call to Order

(2) **9:30 AM** Approval of Agenda for Meeting

Action item

(3) **9:35 AM** 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.

(4) **9:38 AM** Consent Agenda

Action item

a. Approval of the Minutes of the May 20, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting and June 29, 2026 Special Board of Directors meeting

b. Financials

i. Approval of Disbursements

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ii. Budget Comparison

- (5) **9:40 AM** Update on Strategic Initiatives
- (6) **11:00 AM** New Business (Limited to emergency matters that came up **Action item**
During the course of the meeting)
- (7) **11:10 AM** 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.
- (8) **11:20 PM** Board Actions in Regard to Executive Session

11:30 AM Lunch Break

- (9) **12:30 PM** Discussion of UYWCD Grant Program Policies
- (10) **2:00 PM** Adjournment.

Chairman Haskins established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM.

Meeting Agenda. General Manager Rossi noted the addition of documents to agenda item 5. Director Sharp moved to approve the agenda. Director Woodley 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. Erin Light, Division Engineer, DWR, provided the Board with an update on water rights administration within the Division.

Consent Agenda. Director Sharp moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Director Berning seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Update on Strategic Initiatives.

Randy Seidl of Rain Enhancement Technologies presented the company's ionization-based rainfall enhancement system. The system uses ground-based, solar-powered arrays that generate electrical charges to ionize air and boost precipitation from existing weather patterns. Rain Enhancement Technologies offered a one-year trial opportunity in coordination with, and with grant funding from, the CWCB.

General Manager Rossi updated the Board on the status of the three strategic initiatives adopted in the District's Strategic Plan: Water Supply; Agricultural Partnerships and Infrastructure; and Water Quality and Wildfire Mitigation.

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District Engineer Lowell reviewed efforts on the Stagecoach firming project. Director Sharp moved to cease pursuit of PL566 and NRCS funding for the firming project. The motion failed for lack of a second. The General Manager recommended that staff outline next steps for moving the project forward, including possible District funding, for presentation at the September Board meeting.

Public Affairs Manager Kirkpatrick and Mendi Figueroa provided an update on current agricultural partnerships and infrastructure efforts

District Engineer Lowell presented a request from the Colorado Water Trust (CWT) for an additional purchase of 500 acre-feet of water. Following Board discussion, Director Wolf Martin moved, per staff recommendation, to provide CWT an additional 500 acre-feet for purchase this season. Director McBride seconded the motion. Director Sharp then moved to amend the motion to require that the contract be structured on a take-or-pay basis; Director McBride seconded the amendment. The amendment failed by a vote of 2–7 (Directors Sharp and McBride in favor). The Board then voted on the original motion, which carried by a vote of 8–1 (Director Sharp opposed).

Discussion of UYWCD Grant Program Policies.

Public Affairs Manager Kirkpatrick reviewed the history of the District's Community Grant Program, including awards made since 2020 and current general policies.

The Board discussed the following Grant Program Policies:

1. Budget, Award and Approval Amounts – The Board recommended increasing the program budget to \$400,000, establishing a \$100,000 cap per grant request, and authorizing General Manager approval for grant requests up to \$25,000.
2. Location Requirements of Grant Requests – The Board recommended that unique opportunities located outside the District boundary, but affecting water use within the boundary, be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. Additional Funding for In Progress Projects – The Board agreed that such requests may be presented to the Board.
4. Funding Timelines and Time of Completion – The Board determined that funding may not exceed three years; grant recipients must return to the Board after three years for continued funding.
5. Reoccurring Grants – Following discussion, General Manager Rossi noted that UYWCD staff will develop recommendations for the September Board meeting, including a proposal to move annual funding requests to a different budget category.

Public Affairs Manager Kirkpatrick reviewed the history of the District's Diversion Infrastructure Improvement Program (DIIP) and asked whether the Board would like to continue the program using UYWCD funds now that CWCBC funding has been exhausted. The Board expressed support for continuing the program at a suggested funding level of \$100,000.

The Board also discussed eligibility criteria for grant funding of water supply projects. The Board did not support funding rate studies but supported funding for physical project work. Funding was not supported for domestic wells or river restoration projects. Water quality projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and education and outreach requests must include specific project details.

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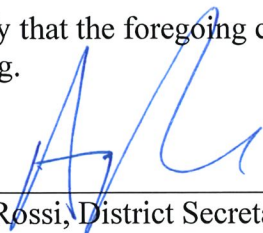
General Manager Rossi noted he will incorporate all input from the retreat into more explicit policy language, to be presented at upcoming Board meetings.

New Business. There was no new business.

Executive Session and Board Action Regarding Executive Session. There were no Executive Sessions.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 PM.

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: 
