

**DOLORES WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE**

These written minutes represent the general discussion of the DWCD Board of Directors, DWCD staff, and participants at the DWCD board meeting, and they include a record of any and all board actions taken at the meeting. The written minutes are not intended to provide a word-for-word account of the board meetings. Nor are they a direct quote of any statements offered at board meetings. All DWCD board meetings are recorded on audiotape.

MINUTES
Enterprise Meeting
November 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Godwin Oliver, President, called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm

ROLL CALL

1. Godwin Oliver, President
2. Don Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer
3. Glen Fish, Director
4. Jeremy Redshaw, Director
5. Landan Wilson, Director
6. Ryan Gray, Director
7. Ken Curtis, General Manager
8. Eric Sprague, Water Manager
9. Lisa Jordan, Office Administrator
10. Robert Stump, Bureau of Reclamation
11. Adam Reeves, Attorney MBSS-Via Teleconference

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

In-Person

Via Telephone/Teleconference

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE OCTOBER 10, 2024, ENTERPRISE MEETING.

**MOTION: LANDAN WILSON
SECOND: JEREMY REDSHAW
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE JULY '24 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF PAYABLES AS PRESENTED. O&M: AP/CHECK #42958-43036 & PR/CHECK #126789-126843, \$380,481.09

**MOTION: JEREMY REDSHAW
SECOND: LANDAN WILSON
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

O&M REPORT

Ken reported that the 1) focus is currently on canals. Staff cleaned sediment at South Canal, Pleasant View and Sandstone and have moved on to cleaning the forebay at Cahone. A second track hoe will also be utilized to complete the embankment work at Check 321. 2) Mechanical and Electrical crews have been performing routine fall maintenance checks including getting oil

samples. Brian Lindsley has been getting transformer oil samples from the pumping plants. Ken is trying to schedule the installation of the water screen on THC at Check 513. Staff has ordered boots for the GCPP bussing and are planning out how to finish fixing the drains on the bussing. They will also be getting estimates for painting although it will be next fall before the painting can be performed. **3)** Maintenance Techs have been winterizing in the field. Justin will be working toward Industrial Mechanic work when maintenance work is done, then Josh will begin rebuilding meters this winter. **4)** SCADA crews will be working in the field this winter. **5)** McPhee Power Plant generator work is scheduled to begin December 9. **6)** Staff is working towards getting the FIXX program up and running.

Water Accounting

Eric presented the Inflow/Outflow noting the normal highlights. Eric said that **1) October** elevation ended at 6,877.66' which is 46' down from full. The carry over is around 57,000 AF but about 9,000 AF goes to the fish pool in the off season. We are in an active storm track and expect a few small closed low pressure systems over the next two weeks. Current SWE is 2.6" of water across the SNOTEL sites. The big October rain means there is some potential of improved soil moisture conditions for the runoff. Eric presented the three-month seasonal precipitation outlook from NOAA and we are at the edge of below average precipitation. The two good October storms kept the river up. The Utes are at 87% of 10-year average leaving 3,400 AF unused. MVIC used 99.6% of 10-year average with 8,300 AF unused, mainly project water. The Dove Creek canal column is showing FSA used 40,300 AF this season which is lower than the amount at the delivery meters meaning there is a problem with the flow meter at GCD and he is checking into this. Realistically, the FSA used almost 43KAF leaving around 13KAF of project water and Class B. DWCD did not use any Class B water or any supplemental M&I water this season. Don asked how full Groundhog is. Eric said Groundhog is at least half full including the fish-pool, around 12 KAF. The fishery is running 25 CFS for the remainder of the winter as of November 14. MVIC had a stock run. Temperatures were normal in October. **2) November Inflow/Outflow:** MVIC did decide to fill Narraguinnep in November to get the water above the west gate due to freezing. Landan asked how much of Narraguinnep is in McPhee? Eric said that right now it is 300 AF but will continue to rise to complete their water right.

Irrigation Pool – Eric showed that there was 424 AF of “above allocation use” from the FSA irrigators that amounts to about \$39,150 in penalty charges.

Discussion: Landan asked if there were reasons that people went over. Eric said that he talked to the person who went over the most and his answer was that his farm really needs 24” rather than 22”, so he did what was best for his farm. Ken said that there was one reported leak that we didn’t find out about until a month later. We don’t know if they will dispute the penalty charges.

ADJOURNMENT

Dolores Water Conservancy District Water Activity Enterprise Board meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Donald W. Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer Godwin Oliver, President

DOLORES WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
November 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Godwin Oliver, President, called the meeting to order at 3:29 pm

ROLL CALL

Godwin Oliver, President
Don Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer
Glen Fish, Director
Jeremy Redshaw, Director
Landan Wilson, Director, Via Teleconference
Ryan Gray, Director
Ken Curtis, General Manager
Eric Sprague, Interim Water Manager
Lisa Jordan, Office Administrator
Robert Stump, Bureau of Reclamation
Adam Reeves, Attorney MBSS-Via Teleconference

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

In-Person

Via Telephone/Teleconference

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE OCTOBER 10, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.

**MOTION: JEREMY REDSHAW
SECOND: LANDAN WILSON
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE POWERPLANT BUDGET HEARING ON OCTOBER 10, 2024.

**MOTION: JEREMY REDSHAW
SECOND: LANDAN WILSON
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE OCTOBER 10, 2024 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

**MOTION: JEREMY REDSHAW
SECOND: LANDAN WILSON
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE DWCD BUDGET WORKSHOP OCTOBER 23, 2024.

**MOTION: RYAN GRAY
SECOND: GLEN FISH
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. JEREMY REDSHAW, LANDAN WILSON AND GODWIN OLIVER ABSTAINED.**

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE DWCD BUDGET WORKSHOP EXECUTIVE SESSION OCTOBER 23, 2024.

**MOTION: RYAN GRAY
SECOND: GLEN FISH
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. JEREMY REDSHAW, LANDAN WILSON AND GODWIN OLIVER ABSTAINED.**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE JULY '24 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF PAYABLES AS PRESENTED. ADMIN: AP/CHECK #12600-12614, \$20,100.71

MOTION: JEREMY REDSHAW
SECOND: LANDAN WILSON
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENCY REPORTS

BOR Report

Robert stated that 1) The BOR is extending the MOA project to February 2025 on the valves and actuators due to longer lead times on the valves. 2) McPhee Powerplant generator rebuild is set for December. This generator rebuild is under the existing Powerplant contract and assuming there is enough money to do the work then it will remain under the old contract until complete. The BOR expects 2025 maintenance to fall under the new Powerplant contract.

Division of Water Resources Report

Rusty was not in attendance at the meeting.

T/H Committee Report

Ken stated that draft minutes were mailed to the Board. The Committee paid the bills. The Committee talked about shut down for the season. Ken noted that the tour was cancelled, but it will likely be rescheduled. Ken said that Reach 3 is still full of water therefore work on Reach 3 will wait until spring.

Next T/H Meeting

The Committee will meet at the DWCD, Cortez Office November 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

MVIC Report

Brandon was not in attendance at the meeting, however Ken reported that MVIC is performing routine maintenance and working on state approval for the Narraguinnep repair. Ken said that MVIC intends to store Narraguinnep water in McPhee per the letter to the Division of Water Resources letter included in the mailout. The last storm forced bringing Narraguinnep up above the west gate. Ken said that if there is a spill next year MVIC will probably have to wait on repairs otherwise there is no problem. Ken also stated that MVIC is working on the Garret Ridge and Arikaree ditch projects under BOR grant. Ken stated that MVIC is talking about changing the by-laws to prevent the annual meeting from being too early in January. At the latest MVIC Board meeting Ken noted that the MVIC Board had a good talk with CPW relative to Narraguinnep public access. They will also have a new contactor at Groundhog which ties to our ANS concerns. Robert said CPW mentioned that Jim White has moved up to Region so there will be a new aquatic biologist in our area.

RECESS FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON UPSTREAM USERS INCLUSION 3:41 PM

RECONVENED 3:45PM

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES IN DOLORES COUNTY FOR INCLUSION INTO THE DISTRICT.

DOLORES COUNTY

Tim Bates

12614 Road 44.2, Blue Spruce Glen, Lot 9

PID: 505124200013

Jeremy Matsen

15299 Road 55.9, Sundial Lot #19

PID: 508502100034

Rod Nelson & Patricia Schille

15322 Road 55.9, Sundial Lot #16

PID: 508502100022

**MVP Development LLC, Benn Vernadakis
Sundial Lot #18A
PID: 508502100030**

**Bryan & Amy Lewis
15748 Road 55.8, Sundial Lot #11
PID: 508502401010**

**MOTION: DON SCHWINDT
SECOND GLEN FISH
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Miscellaneous Updates

Ken mentioned that **1)** there was a letter concerning storage of Narraguinnep water in McPhee to the Division of Water Resources during construction on Narraguinnep in 2025. **2)** Ken said that there were a few articles, but we are still in a quiet time on the Colorado River Issues. **3)** Ken stated that the Utes got a large RCPP grant (USDA notice in packet) for planning around their water rights they may be asking for some help. Ken noted the power point presentation in the packet regarding drought impacts to the UF&R that has been used by our CR Commissioner. **4)** DWCD staff turned in notice for the Board appointment, Wes had not heard back prior to tonight's meeting whether he had been reappointed or not. Ken stated that Glen Fish's term expires next. **5)** There was an updated unofficial CWC state election summary report in the handouts that hopefully recognized Larry Don's election. There is also a federal overview from FFA on election results and impacts. FFA will have some insight as far as the Farm Bill and Reclamation related items. **6)** Ken included an article on free river conditions under Colorado Water Law and expects a response from the state. **7)** Ken said that there was a draft agenda for the Irrigation Water Leader meeting in Phoenix which is very close to the same time as CWC. **8)** There is a notice from the Dolores County Treasurer and Public Trustee regarding a proposal to accept 12 monthly tax payments vs. the current three collection deadlines. Ken said that it will likely come up at CWC State Affairs. Presumably, if asked to vote, Ken would vote in support of the Treasures' concept to keep the 3 payments.

Farmer Advisory Committee November 7, 2024:

Ken said that there was a smaller crowd, we asked some questions and had presentations from Greg Peterson and Greg Vlaming. **1)** Greg Vlaming has been trying to stir up local interest in programs such as nozzle exchange, CDA Soil Health etc. Ken has indicated that we probably won't go after any more grants like this. **2)** Greg Peterson represents Colorado Ag Water Alliance who has their own grant funding that has been floated out the last couple of years. It is a lot freer to experiment with and kind of geared toward conservation and ag sustainability in a dryer climate. Colorado Ag Waer Alliance tries to work on these programs all over the state. **3)** After Eric's water presentation, the question of the night was how much carryover, which is 8" if we don't get additional project storage. Ken said after the start of the season, there was a question of why so many fallowed fields and low water use? Ken said that there were not many answers to that question in the public session. Ken stated that he appreciated Landan trying to spur some conversation. Ken said he got some good feedback from Jim Farrier, who thinks fallowed land reasons run the gamut, but boils down to economics; hard to get labor, and if you are going to commit to a field that has been fallowed due to drought you are going to commit some money and labor. Then the poor hay market is also a contributor. Ken said there was good conversation about flexibility. Ken noted that there can't be the traditional water bank and flexibility in September pooling or exchanges, it has to be one or the other.

Discussion:

Godwin said that a big part of the discussion was the lower hay prices in addition to hearing about lower rates and need to go over allocation this year. Landan said that two individuals asked him why the DWCD doesn't want to participate in the conservation programs such as Soil Health? Ken noted that the Soil Health program was for only 3 years and is now complete. Ken said that the Pivot program was big enough that he chased through the Roundtable to pursue the money for that grant. Ken said that the nozzles program took a lot of work and there is some chasing for CDA. Ken said that there are grants like the GoldSim where we would be able to use the tools internally and the outside engineer does most of the legwork. To go begin pursuing grants we would need more focused help, like an engineer. Ken said that he felt like the mood at the FAC was okay. There was some concern about the lower reservoir. Landan said that with regard to greater pooling, or late season pooling no one spoke up so his feeling is that we should leave things as they are. Jeremy agreed they want the water bank as is. Don

asked about the allocation cap discussion. Don said that he heard from one individual that they saw the reduction of the cap as a shortage of allocation to the irrigator. Ken said that we have individuals that are really hurting with a 22" allocation because of the class 6 land on an individual parcel. Landan said that the cap was set at 22" and there was an opportunity to go over if they needed to and noted that he was surprised that people went over 40-50-60 AF. Godwin said that he was surprised at the smaller crowd at the FAC. Godwin thinks we should look at later season pooling options. Board agreed to revisit these questions at the spring farmer meeting. Don noted, like all policies there is always more misunderstanding of the reality than what is actual.

Personnel Committee Meeting, November 12, 2024:

Ken said that we recapped the Budget Workshop discussions and went into depth on current shuffling of personnel. Ken said that the biggest structural problem is that we have gotten behind on the senior electrician level. Ken said that there is a lot of competition for employees and DWCD is behind on some of our bands. Ken stated that currently we have one Control Room opening and the Maintenance Supervisor position is still open. Godwin said the Committee talked about lowering the load on Ken and Eric on Colorado River Issues until the Maintenance Supervisor position can be hired. Godwin said that they discussed whether the electricians were behind on salaries. Ken said they did talk about succession. Ken and Eric talk about succession on the staff level then ultimately the succession of the GM and the Board Members. Ken said that we hope the board members find their replacements if they don't want to extend their terms. Ken noted that that is part of the reason the FAC was started was to help find board replacements from the FSA. The next meeting has not been set.

RECESS FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025 DWCD BUDGET 4:21 PM

RECONVENED 4:23 PM

LEGAL REPORT

MVIC 87.3 Change Case

Adam said that MVIC still trying to wrap up the 87.3 CFS change case with CPW.

Main Canal 1&2 Due Diligence

Adam stated that this item is a winter work project for Ken Eric and Adam they need some technical information for the opposers.

24 CW?? Beaver Reservoir, Bear Creek Reservoir & Dawson Reservoir Due Diligence

Adam stated that we are waiting on the technical consultation on Beaver Reservoir, Bear Creek Reservoir & Dawson Reservoir.

2000 Operating Agreement Contract No. 99-WC-40R-6100

Adam did not have anything new to report.

DWCD/BOR Carriage Contract No. 02-WC-40-7060

Adam did not have anything new to report.

Hydropower Plant O&M Contract with Reclamation

Adam stated that they have performed some work with Ken on the rules and regulations on the power plant solicitation to be discussed in executive session.

Water Rights Protection, Water Supply and Land Use Discussion involving legal advice and/or negotiations subject to Executive Session.

Adam requested an executive session to discuss the following: Water Rights Protection, Water Supply, power plant solicitation and Colorado River issues involving legal advice and/or negotiations subject to Executive Session.

MOTION:

MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PER CRS 24.6.402(b) TO OBTAIN ADVICE FROM COUNSEL AND CRS 24.6.402(e) MATTERS OF NEGOTIATION FOR PENDING WATER RIGHTS, WATER RIGHTS PROTECTION, POWER PLANT SOLICITATION AND COLORADO RIVER ISSUES.

**MOTION: JEREMY REDSHAW
SECOND: RYAN GRAY
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RECESSED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 4:31 P.M.

RECONVENED REGULAR MEETING AT 6:18 P.M.

REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Adam reported that in executive session the Board discussed matters related to water supply and enhancement, water rights protection matters related to pending Colorado River issues and response to bid on the Powerplant contract. No decisions were made.

NEXT DWCD BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 12, 2024 – 3:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Donald W. Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer

Godwin Oliver, President