

**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
October 9, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Godwin Oliver, President, called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm

ROLL CALL

1. Godwin Oliver, President
2. Don Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer
3. Wes Wilson, Director
4. Landan Wilson, Director
5. Ryan Gray, Director
6. Ken Curtis, General Manager
7. Eric Sprague, Water Manager
8. Gina Espeland, Admin Assistant Accounting
9. Robert Stump, Bureau of Reclamation
10. Adam Reeves, Attorney MBSS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

In-Person

Brandon Johnson, General Manager MVIC

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, ENTERPRISE MEETING.

**MOTION: LANDAN WILSON
SECOND: WES WILSON
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TO APPROVE THE AUGUST '25 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF PAYABLES AS PRESENTED. O&M: AP/CHECK #43913-44017 & PR/CHECK #127433-127481, \$374,651.11.

**MOTION: LANDAN WILSON
SECOND: WES WILSON
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

O&M REPORT

Status of System Operations / Current O&M Work

Ken said it has been mostly operations, getting ahead of the busy work season, but had a number of call outs because of storms. Have been doing jobs with the lone dirt crew, some minor erosion and two leaks, one at the end of Ruin and one on Cahone.

Eric stated still working on hiring a new Maintenance Field Technician and Operator and just hired a new Water Resources Technician that started this week. Control room has a plan for shutdown and working our way to getting the canal drained and will need some help from farmers draining the canals next week. Still working with the Utes on scheduling flows and they are still dialing back for the weekend. Mechanics did pull pump D23 at Martin's field and it's ready to go to Brimhall and we'll have the motor looked at by Lane Electric. Will possibly be pulling a jockey pump at Cahone as well depending on gasket inspections. Have a lot of fall work and talking with the crew next week for scheduling.

Landan asked what happens since there is still some water left in the canal and that Great Cut is shut off. Eric stated that they are about 10 irrigators that have expressed they're interested in irrigating late and we'll let them pull until next week when we'll probably start draining. Not sure at this point. We have already started winterizing some farmers that have expressed they're done irrigating. Might see a text if there are operational issues next week. Have thinned out the canal to meet needs. Water available moving forward is just what is left in the canal. We are letting Dove Creek Lawn and Garden go through the weekend. Still have pumping plants running. The demand was low this morning. Would like to find a home for the water and will see what we find by Monday.

Don said it might be good to hear from Brandon and what MVIC is going to do. Brandon stated that they shut the U-Lateral off and will shut the East and West tonight and will drain on down. It will go to Monday and it could go to the Utes, however they have not heard from the Utes. The Utes have some quantity left. The Hermana is running, but the levels have dropped. Just filled the canal off uncontrolled Hermana inflows and might end up spilling. It depends on what the T/H does over the weekend. Hopefully it balances it out. Don asked where the spill choices are. Eric and Ken said at the end of Reach 3.

Water Management Report

Water Report

Eric went thru the inflow/outflow for September. Dropped another 6 feet of reservoir storage. Highlighted the Dolores River on the 15th after that MVIC shut off Groundhog, because the river still stayed up high. He thinks that it is the precipitation for September, which came in approximately average, but that's still a substantial improvement on July and August. It brought the river up and reduced what we were taking from storage. The rain has been average for October so far, and we are down to reservoir elevation of 6864 ft. That means we still have storage to carry over for 2026.

We originally targeted effectively zero carryover because we hadn't fulfilled the obligations to the project parties, but the way it played out, between unclear supply and late storms, we ended up with carryover. All allocations out of McPhee reset on 1-NOV, except the fishpool. Landan said that the carryover will be split between the four and it will be a base line for next year. Some has to go to M&I first and then split. Don said that if the river stays up and it could bump the carry over.

Fish pool will be 25 cfs through the end of the month and 15 cfs through the end of the year. They will increase flows in March.

Utes have used 95% of their allocation. Utes have about 400 AF left.

MVIC spent the remainder of Narraguinnep stored in McPhee. In October MVIC has 3,057 cfs-days of project and 1012 cfs-days of Totten exchange for a total of approximately 8,000 AF left. MVIC would have used more too. MVIC, with rain coming, decided to shut down this weekend. Up north we are leaving 2500 AF on the table. Can't push it out this late in the year. Full Service used about 92% of allocation. The last increase to FSA allocation was actually reallocating more pool water from farmers who are not expected to use their full allocations.

ADJOURNMENT

Dolores Water Conservancy District Water Activity Enterprise Board meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

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

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DOLORES WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
October 9, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Godwin Oliver, President, called the meeting to order at 3:27 p.m.

ROLL CALL

1. Godwin Oliver, President
2. Don Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer
3. Wes Wilson, Director
4. Ryan Gray, Director
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6. Ken Curtis, General Manager
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9. Robert Stump, Bureau of Reclamation
10. Adam Reeves, Attorney MBSS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

In-Person

Brandon Johnson, General Manager MVIC

MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.

**MOTION: LANDAN WILSON
SECOND: RYAN GRAY
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION:

TO APPROVE THE AUGUST '25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF PAYABLES AS PRESENTED. ADMIN: AP/CHECK #12775-12788, \$13,586.25

**MOTION: WES WILSON
SECOND: LANDAN WILSON
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENCY REPORTS

BOR Report

Robert reported that he didn't have much to report, but he is still here through next week. Reclamation is surviving off prior funding. He doesn't expect to hear about the powerplant contract until after the shutdown. Some BOR procurement staff are working and some furloughed so he doesn't expect any new information until shutdown is over.

Division of Water Resources Report

CDWR – Not in attendance.

T/H Committee Report

Wes stated that draft minutes were mailed to the Board. The Committee paid the bills. Brandon stated that the committee worked on the Budget.

Next T/H Meeting

The Committee will meet at the DWCD, Cortez Office October 15, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

MVIC Report

Brandon stated that **1)** Getting through the end of water season. The work at Narraguinnep is going well and they should have the pipe in for the downstream filter soon. Downstream Parshall work is continuing and he plans to leave Narraguinnep empty until the parshall is working. Brandon asked if it is okay to store in McPhee until we can get Narraguinnep complete. They had a leak on the Rocky Ford and liner work is going on. Groundhog cabins & store had some improvements that need to be completed for a final walk through.

Landan asked about past storage of Narraguinnep in McPhee. He understands that it helps us, but are we legally obligated to store? Ken explained that it is not a problem for safety under any BOR regulation, but Brandon will get DWR approval to protect their water rights. The contracts are all about mixing water rights and contracts and usually MVIC wants to put the water in their bucket. We are temporarily storing, if we don't foresee a spill next year. Landan asked how long we had been doing this? Ken said it has been at least 12 years, we did it in 2013 & 2021 to benefit all parties. Don said that we did it from the beginning up to the lawsuit when it got contentious, then restarted afterwards. Adam said it is sound water management and a good DWR administratively approved exchange. Ken explained the DPR use only for droughts, that was changed with the contracts for MVIC to regain control.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Miscellaneous Updates

Legislative Update:

Ken stated that he included the Orange Political Strategies, CWC lobbyist, September 18, 2025 Update on legislative bills. There have not been big raids on the water funding. Ken had heard on Friday that a potential stream access bill is probably dead. Ken brought up a report from former DNR Secretaries Walcher & King that explains the issue in great detail that he will share. Don recommended we keep in our library.

Water Law in a Nutshell 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM October 22, 2025 at FLC

It is good class if anyone is interested in attending.

FFA Conference Oct 30 – 31, 2025 - Reno Nevada

This was moved to the fourth week of October. It is focused on federal and BOR issues and includes water managers and users from across the west.

Colorado River Articles

Delta County ranchers were pushing to bring a shepherding bill in the 2026 legislature. As of Friday, Ken was told that it was dead. Uncompahgre irrigators are coming up with ways to save water and want to get it to Powell, but are not the ones who should set the tone for the State should we get to demand management and shepherding. Article on climatology of the Colorado River basin explains the Pacific Decadal Oscillation impacts on hydrology. Ken included articles on the Shoshone water rights debate between CRD and front range water users. Shared control of the ISF call for the right by CRD with CWB is the major concern of the front range entities. CWCB delayed the final decision at the CRD's request to continue negotiating. Don said that the authority for the River District and SWCD is to help assure compact compliance. It is the legal authority that the 2 River Districts have for a place at the negotiating table between east & west slopes.

There is an article on the CR main stem mussel infestation above Grand Junction. There is definitely a few infested lakes along the main stem. We continue to fund our inspection station and have not had the final year McPhee numbers, but mussels remain a concern at McPhee.

Other articles sourced from an NGO report released by the Great Basin Water Network (GBWN), raising the alarm on impending CR crisis and urges immediate action including nine specifics. GBWN was formed to fight Las Vegas water grabs from northern Nevada and no longer have anyone to fight. They want to stop all dams and force the UB into current uses in an attempt to try to box the upper basin into no new development. They also want to curtail junior rights to help the tribes. There is a lot of poor information in the report and did not bring any useful new ideas. Given the poor 2025 runoff, technical difficulties releasing from Powell below power pool, over subscription and dropping reservoirs, everyone recognizes the problems. This is a political as much as a technical and legal negotiation that apparently remains stalled. Commissioner Mitchell continues to refuse accepting a deal harmful to Colorado.

Set Upstream Users Inclusion Hearing 3:45 PM November 13, 2025

DWCD has traditionally held one annual meeting for upstream users that have joined the augmentation/exchange program to be included in the District for Dolores Project Assessments.

MOTION:

SET AN UPSTREAM INCLUSION HEARING FOR 3:45 PM ON NOVEMBER 13, 2025 BOARD MEETING.

MOTION: WES WILSON

SECOND: LANDAN WILSON

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Set 2025 Budget Amendment Hearing 4:00 PM November 13, 2025

Any necessary changes to the 2025 budget, if amendments, require a hearing. I recommend that the Board set a hearing for November followed by any necessary action for appropriated but unbudgeted items. Would like to have the hearing if we need, but if we don't need the hearing. will ask the Board for approval

MOTION:

SET BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING FOR 4:00 PM ON NOVEMBER 13, 2025 BOARD MEETING.

MOTION: LANDAN WILSON

SECOND: RYAN GRAY

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Set 2026 Budget Hearing 4:15 PM November 13, 2025

DWCD is required to have a public hearing prior to adopting the 2026 budget. Required submittal dates make November the obvious time.

MOTION:

SET 2026 BUDGET HEARING FOR 4:15 PM ON NOVEMBER 13, 2025 BOARD MEETING.

MOTION: WES WILSON

SECOND: DON SCHWINDT

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DWCD 2026 Budget Workshop

Usually held at 5:30 PM with dinner and budget presentation and discussion. Ken said he picked October 22, 2025, but the Board can choose a different date. Tonight, Ken is just handing out the 2026 Draft Budget. The Board agreed on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 for the DWCD 2026 Budget Workshop.

Set FSA Farmer Advisory Committee Meeting Date

Recap 2025 irrigation season with full-service farmers. We'd be available most Tuesdays – Thursdays from October 14 – November 12 to meet with the full-service farmers. When does the Board think that we can get the most turnout of full-service farmers? Godwin asked about November 5th. Staff will check availability of the Pleasant View Fire Station and will schedule for November 5th if available.

Draft 2026 Budget Presentation

Ken stated that he handed out the budget. FS rates are flat. Our legal fees have been down, so transfers could go up this year, but are back down for 2026 on the Administrative Budget. We have a valuation estimate from the counties, but not a final until early December. In the 200 budget Ken added money to Great Cut and the buildings per the infrastructure updates this past year. Great Cut we have a structural engineering estimate in and waiting for another. Still plan to do the Great Cut busing work this year when the water is off. He has some money for new vehicles and increased the SCADA to purchase inventory for check structures and upgrade PLC boards at Pleasant View. Dove Creek Lawn and Garden is about the same as last year. The powerplants budget is coming down since the MPP rotor work is complete. We have to rebuild some hydraulics at MPP and some testing is ongoing. We don't know what the water supply is going to be, so set up a pretty normal budget. If you have any questions, you can ask now or at the workshop. We do have an additional Admin position that we will be hiring as well as for 2 empty positions, otherwise we have our standard crew.

Ken stated that we may need an Executive Session on some Colorado River.

LEGAL REPORT

Main Canal 1&2 Due Diligence and 24 CW??

Adam reported that he has spoken with SWCD and MVIC attorneys and this is a change in priority and not change in river operations and not trying to get ahead, just color our water senior.

Beaver Reservoir, Bear Creek Reservoir & Dawon Reservoir Due Diligence

Still working on the decree.

Hydropower Plant O&M Contract with Reclamation

Adam stated nothing to report.

Plateau Creek Pump Back Due Diligence

Adam stated he did file the decree for diligence. We had to notify people in the area and have been fielding calls from them, they are mostly okay with it. Adam stated that there is benefit in having Executive Session for CO River Issues.

Ken stated that he has fielded some calls from Dolores County landowners concerning Monument Creek Reservoir. We'll try to do a better job of notifying landowners with a better explanation next time.

OTHER

Ken stated that past Board Director, Larry Deremo did pass a few weeks ago. He attended the Celebration of Life and passed on condolences to the family. Adam stated that Larry was instrumental in getting Dove Creek Lawn and Garden accomplished and good at getting things done for his community.

Adam requested an Executive Session for a discussion on 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 AND WATER RIGHTS PROTECTION.

**MOTION: LANDAN WILSON
SECOND: DON SCHWINDT**

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RECESSED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 4:30 P.M.
RECONVENED REGULAR MEETING AT 5:08 P.M.**

REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Adam reported that in Executive Session the Board discussed matters that may be subject to negotiation issues related to the administration of the Colorado River and Dolores Project. Attorney and GM received direction on joining a letter to Colorado River Commissioner Mitchell concerning potential federal actions on federal reservoirs. No decisions were made.

NEXT DWCD BOARD MEETING

November 13, 2025 – 3:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 P.M.

Donald W. Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer

Godwin Oliver, President