

**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  
July 10, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER**

Godwin Oliver, President, called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm

**ROLL CALL**

1. Godwin Oliver, President
2. Don Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer
3. Glen Fish, Director
4. Jeremy Redshaw, Director
5. Ryan Gray, Director
6. Eric Sprague, Water Manager
7. Lisa Jordan, Office Administrator
8. Adam Reeves, Attorney MBSS-Via Teleconference

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

**In-Person**

Brandon Johnson, General Manager MVIC; Rusty Crangle, CDWR

**Via Telephone/Teleconference**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION:**

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE JUNE 12, 2025, ENTERPRISE MEETING.**

**MOTION: JEREMY REDSHAW**

**SECOND: DON SCHWINDT**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY RYAN GRAY WAS ABSENT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**TO APPROVE THE MAY '25 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF PAYABLES AS PRESENTED. O&M: AP/CHECK #43629-43747 & PR/CHECK #127243-127296, \$530,359.59**

**MOTION: JEREMY REDSHAW**

**SECOND: GLEN FISH**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY RYAN GRAY WAS ABSENT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE**

**O&M REPORT**

Eric reported that **1)** DWCD mechanics and electricians are focusing on routine maintenance at plants. Mechanics are also working on safety buoys at check structures. **2)** Frank will be spraying weeds along the Towaoc canal next week. He's finished spraying for pondweed and is working on algae. **3)** Electricians are working on power plant excitation with Reivax as well as some follow-up troubleshooting at MPP after the shutdown at McPhee last year, plant trips out when switching flow rates. Both power plants are up and running well. **4)** There is a new pattern for releases for the downstream fishery with increased flows during the middle of the week. CPW is experimenting with the changing paradigm on the downstream river to improve connectivity for fish. **5)** The operators are finished working at the tunnel, the road is clean and they got some

additional base placed at the tunnel inlet. They installed the new anode bed for the siphon near the fairgrounds on THC. Currently they are up north grading and laying base on canal roads. They finished grading South Canal and have laid base from Cahone Pumping Plant through Check 326. After they are done, they will probably begin work on lateral access roads, most likely starting at Fairview. 6) This month the two new control room operators are on their own, which is a normal step in the training process. 7) Moving forward there are plans to work on the power plants, especially McPhee hydraulics, otherwise everything is stable.

Discussion: Godwin asked if DWCD was treating the canal with magnicide this year. Eric said that it is not magnicide. DWCD will always give notification if we were treating canals with magnicide. This is routine spraying for pond weed and algae.

## **Water Accounting**

Eric presented the Inflow/Outflow, summarizing the report. The reservoir peaked at 6894.74'. MVIC completed their 72,000 AF diversion limit. Eric noted that MVIC has about 50% of the storage in McPhee right now, between their portion of call water that is left in there, Narraguinnep water that is stored in McPhee, the Totten credit, the upstream users exchange, and their portion of project water. Their project water changes based on the late season but we are far enough in to the season that it shouldn't change by much. Eric has not heard if MVIC has gone to 4' or not. Brandon Johnson stated it has not yet. The river crossed below 300 cfs on June 21<sup>st</sup> and that triggered the releases from Groundhog for the upstream exchange which started accruing then. The reservoir has dropped to 6889.9' and the river is down to around 100 cfs and will probably continue to drop at a slower rate so we will continue to see the reservoir elevation drop which is normal for this time of year. UF&RE has used 53% of their current supply; MVIC has used 45% of their current supply and Dove Creel Canal has used around 43% of the supply.

Eric presented the pool sheet noting that there isn't anyone over at this time.

Eric stated that DWCD was able to increase the FSA allocation, increasing 2"/allocated acre in mid- June for a few reasons. The Dolores River came in much higher for the month of June, thanks to the rains -- just under 34 KAF -- which really changed the dynamic on the forecast, which is the biggest reason we were able to move the allocation up to 11.5"/allocated acre on the north system. Eric stated that this year our conservative estimates were magnified by CBRFC' conservative estimates and you can see in the 2025 ESP graphic where CBRFC realized they were overshooting and corrected the forecast during this same period. It also occurred right as MVIC completed their 72 KAF and confidence in the Project water supply increased. We are on track for the river to come in at around 6,000 AF in July which is what was planned. Eric stated there would be at least a small allocation bump that will likely happen at the beginning of August. Eric said the only other thing that could affect the allocation would be the late season monsoon.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Dolores Water Conservancy District Water Activity Enterprise Board meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

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

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## **DOLORES WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

### **MINUTES Regular Meeting July 10, 2025**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Godwin Oliver, President, called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.

## **ROLL CALL**

1. Godwin Oliver, President

2. Don Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer
3. Glen Fish, Director
4. Wes Wilson, Director
5. Jeremy Redshaw, Director
6. Ryan Gray, Director
7. Eric Sprague, Interim Water Manager
8. Lisa Jordan, Office Administrator
9. Adam Reeves, Attorney MBSS

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

### *In-Person*

Brandon Johnson, General Manager MVIC; Rusty Crangle, CDWR

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

### **MOTION:**

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE JUNE 12, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.**

**MOTION: JEREMY REDSHAW**

**SECOND: RYAN GRAY**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WES WILSON WAS ABSENT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE.**

### **MOTION:**

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE JUNE 12, 2025 PUBLIC HEARING FS ASSESSMENTS.**

**MOTION: JEREMY REDSHAW**

**SECOND: RYAN GRAY**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WES WILSON WAS ABSENT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE.**

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **MOTION:**

**TO APPROVE THE MAY '25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF PAYABLES AS PRESENTED. ADMIN: AP/CHECK #12727-12745, \$25,347.00**

**MOTION: JEREMY REDSHAW**

**SECOND: RYAN GRAY**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WES WILSON WAS ABSENT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE.**

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

### *BOR Report*

There was no report, Robert was not in attendance at the meeting.

### *Division of Water Resources*

Rusty stated that the measurement rules were signed and they started June 1<sup>st</sup>. Brandon said that with regard to measurement rules; CWCB is accepting applications for grants due in October.

### *T/H Committee Report*

No report, the draft minutes were in the packet. It was noted that the THC meetings will be held at 3:00 PM from May – September.

### *Next T/H Meeting*

The Committee will meet at the DWCD, Cortez Office July 23, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

### *MVIC Report*

Brandon stated that **1)** a cylinder was installed at Groundhog on June 13. **2)** The upstream users exchange started on June 23. **3)** MVIC received three bids on the Narraguinnep Dam repair. MVIC's Board will have a meeting to choose a bid on July 22. Brandon stated that whoever gets the award will be able to begin work August 18. **4)** MVIC is lowering Narraguinnep so that it can dry out prior to repairs. They intend to completely drain it. **5)** The MVIC meeting in August has been moved to August 19 at 2:00 PM. **6)** MVIC crews are performing gravel work on THC they will haul the gravel to Reach 3 and UF&RE will distribute the gravel. **7)** Cortez Pipeline had a blowout today. **8)** Brandon noted that in an email from CPW, they stated that at the private reservoir above Highline Reservoir, Mack Lake in Loma and the Colorado River had adult mussels that is the likely the source of reported veligers and prior found zebra mussels. **9)** MVIC continues to work with BOR on the pipeline project on the Lower Arickaree and the Garrett ditch. They are currently working through the environmental and historical processes. **10)** Don asked if MVIC will go up to 4'. Brandon said that he doesn't know. Brandon stated that at the last meeting the MVIC board wanted to keep as much water in Groundhog as they could so they will most likely be utilizing water below Groundhog but they may make incremental increases.

### **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

#### *Project Irrigation Water Assessment Hearing Follow-up:*

Farm Service Agency paid \$11,092.80 for the 2024 assessments on the Loyd property that were subject to last month's hearing. \$5,604.42 remains outstanding from the amount due at the time of the hearing. Adam recommends that the board ratify the order to include only the \$5,604.42. Adam said that the irrigator is not considered current, we are not adding anything additional as the \$5,604.42 was included in the initial order.

#### **MOTION:**

**TO REVISE THE ORDER AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ATTORNEY TO INCLUDE ONLY \$5,604.42 FOR 2025 WHICH WAS INCLUDED IN THE AMOUNT AT THE JUNE 12, 2025 HEARING.**

**MOTION: DON SCHWINDT**

**SECOND: WES WILSON**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### *Reclamation Power Plant O&M Contract:*

The contracting officer has reached out to schedule a meeting to discuss our proposal the week of July 21. Ken may have updates at the August Board meeting.

Additionally, the Government has requested that DWCD extend our proposal by an additional 60 days, through September 7, 2025 to provide the parties with ample time for negotiations. Given the July 10th Board meeting, 60 days will extend the proposal to Monday September 8, 2025.

Ken would ask the Board to approve a 60-day extension to the DWCD proposal for Reclamation Power Plant O&M. There was consensus from the Board to extend the proposal for 60 days.

#### *CR Issues:*

There are a significant number of articles related to some public pronouncements concerning the ongoing CR negotiations. First, Ted Cooke, formerly of CAP, was named as the nominee for BOR Commissioner, which one former UB water manager named interesting.

Another article covers the broad outlines of a proposal announced to the AZ coordinating committee that matches Powell releases to a percentage of the three-year running average of natural flow at Lee Ferry. The parties have agreed to work through the modeling together. The percentage and lower and upper limits have not been set, but at least link releases to actual flows. Natural flow has not been fully defined, but would seem to be the actual flows plus Upper Basin consumptive use. Ken noted that current procedures will likely be scrutinized and end up being very procedural by our federal partners.

On Thursday June 26 the Upper Colorado River Commission met and had prepared statements in light of last month's news from AZ. Scott Cameron, Interior, probably had the most specific items. Department of Interior does look for a seven-state solution in principle by November 11, 2025 with all details settled by February 14, 2025. He mentioned the risks to all, offered the possible need for transfers across state lines, inclusion of the tribes, possible careful targeted limited federal funding. He asked that the commissioners be given flexibility and if necessary, Secretary Burgum will act. Commissioner Mitchell remarked that a regime based on Lee Ferry flow would not acknowledge a delivery obligation, but also take the tributaries below Lee Ferry out of accounting. She pointed out that lawyers can't fix a math problem and it might be a better use of the limited time left to focus on LB sharing of the limited supply. Wyoming mentioned

pursuit of intrastate pilot conservation program legislation while Utah highlighted their demand management trial this year. New Mexico touted their strategic reserve along with continued problems on the Rio Grande. Ken included multiple articles, though somewhat redundant, have different quotes and perspectives. Overall, Ken thought the UB commissioners put forth a strong united front for the basin wide audience.

Other articles include Gunnison hydrology that mirrors our own. Another covers AZ legislation that moves more water from ag to municipal. Ken included an article that points to a contested CWCB ISF hearing on the Shoshone water rights between the front range and CRD with CWCB on all sides. Finally, federal funding for the Colorado and San Juan endangered fish recovery programs has made it through the senate. Mix in federal staffing turnover and funding questions and high stakes Colorado River politics remain busy and tense.

Adam added that to get a deal done on the runway, even if people agreed, getting it signed in time seems unlikely. Ryan asked about triggers. Adam said it is unclear what operating criteria would revert to if no deal made. He outlined some legal arguments on UB not causing depletions. Ultimately, it is a Reclamation decision on how the reservoirs are operated. Colorado's legal position is strong. Adam stated that AZ is last in line, so selecting a CAP person from the state that is last in line is definitely interesting. Adam can see the fight pivoting to how much AZ takes from CA.

Don said that the following comments are coming from Colorado Water Congress & Family Farms Alliance. The UB is not happy about the appointment but the LB/UB split caused some fireworks in the FFA after the two Colorado FFA members agreed to take a position against Ted Cooke. Don said growth is not slowing down and everyone thinks the place to get water is from ag. There is definitely pressure and the need to be careful because the losers could be ag. Don said that NWRA, which is the parent agency above the state agency, was in the same wrestling match. Ag is in an interesting and uncomfortable place to be.

Glen wondered if MVIC is seeing these messages with regard to prior appropriation relative to Colorado River risks. Glen wonders if MVIC is aware of that as much as other people in these articles. Glen said that that goes back to his drumbeat that we need to get along better. Don agreed that they need to get along. Adam said that this project is right in the bullseye and the fact is MVIC and UF&RE being a part of the project pushes the bullseye off just a little bit.

## **LEGAL REPORT**

Adam stated that he performed some work on the assessments from the public hearing. He is working on the decrees and there is nothing new on the water resume. He had nothing additional to report.

## **OTHER**

### **NEXT DWCD BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, August 14, 2025 – 3:00 P.M.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 P.M.

Donald W. Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer

Godwin Oliver, President