

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS  
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1  
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
April 30, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.  
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101  
And by Zoom Teleconference**

**Present:** Jake Burris, President; Clay Mitchell, Vice-President; Michael Jones, Secretary/Treasurer; Tony Holcomb, BOM; Brett Hemmerling, BOM; Patrick Brownell, BOM; Miguel A. Diaz, BOM; Jamie Hart, BOM; James Cooley, BOM; Reid Mattive, BOM; and Sheldon Rockey, Ex-Officio Member.

**Staff and Consultants:** Pete Ampe, and Arthur Sayre, Hill & Robbins P.C.; Quinton Norris, Program Manager; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Kylie Gregg, Office Manager; and, April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

**Guests:** Deb Sarason, William Myers, Karla Shriver, Les Alderete, Andrew Jones, Lawrence Crowther, Clay Corzine, Mike Kruse, Brian Rue, Andrea Rue, Richard Lapuma, Bane Burris, Ryan Donovan, Jeff McCullough, Jerry Honeycutt, Greg Higel, Morgan, Jessica Valdez, Brad Grasmick, Asier Artachevarria, Dee Greeman.

**Meeting Called to Order**

President Burris called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of the Agenda**

President Burris asked for any changes, additions or approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Michael Jones and unanimously approved.

President Burris welcomed Reid Mattive as a new Board of Manager and thanked Chris Miner for his service on the Board for several years.

**Oath of Office-Reid Mattive**

President Burris asked for Oath of Office. Pete Ampe swore in Reid Mattive.

**Public Comment**

President Burris asked for public comment. Andrew Jones and Brad Grasmick asked for permission to comment during the settlement discussion.

**Discussion and Possible Action Items**

President Burris asked for discussion and possible action items.

- **SWAG Settlement Discussion**

Pete Ampe reported forwarding the Board of Managers an email from Brad Grasmick. He suggested Mr. Grasmick provide the Board with a summary of the settlement proposal. He also reported the Board would meet in executive session to receive legal advice. Mr. Grasmick introduced himself as the attorney representing NEWUA and SWAG and provided a summary of the settlement proposal. President Burris questioned the 20% Rio Grande Canal water. Discussion was held on the native inflows, who they belong to and how they came up with a number. Mike Kruse voiced his concern with being limited as to what he could do with his water. Mr. Grasmick explained as part of the settlement offer if it is accepted and the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Plan decreed in the suggested form, SWAG would dismiss their current pending plan for augmentation. He described how they would move forward with changing the Adkins water right with the goal of leasing the water to the Subdistrict. Andrew Jones, representative of L Cross Ranch encouraged the Board to consider the settlement offer. He described his experience and involvement with the South Platt well crisis. Mr. Jones described the settlement offer as an opportunity to be a win for all involved. He highlighted the challenges of going through trial and the current state of the aquifer. Mr. Jones reported the settlement would allow the Subdistrict to maintain control over the Plan and asked the Board to consider it as an alternate to litigation. Clay Corzine commented on how losing 20% of his water off the top does not sit well with him. Mr. Jones and Mr. Grasmick reported the 20% was not accurate and how it's a reduction spread over the whole Subdistrict. Mr. Jones described the proposal as

creating a pumping limit Subdistrict wide where everyone gets an allocation and the ones with surface water receiving a financial advantage.

- Potato Cull Request on District Owned Property

Jeff McCullough described the cull pile potato management problem and how the District owned property could be an ideal location to spread cull potatoes. He explained how the proposal is a work in progress and that the potatoes are fine for livestock but are no longer fit for human consumption. Mr. McCullough described the cull process and reported how this would be a viable temporary solution. He reported on another proposal to use the potato chips as a revegetation tool and the hope to find other uses for the potatoes. President Burris advocated for the situation to be handled on a more private basis rather than involving the counties. Discussion was held on potential interference with recharge operations on the District properties. Quinton Norris reported the Subdistrict could make a recommendation to the District Board of Directors; however, they would make the final decision to either approve or deny the proposal. Mr. McCullough highlighted how 300 acres should be sufficient to hold one million hundred weight of potatoes. Pete Ampe explained how the District owned the West Medano property and how it could be a viable option, depending on the conservation easement rules and restrictions.

A motion was made by James Cooley to recommend to the District Board of Directors to consider allowing use of the Subdistrict property to dispose cull potatoes. The motion was seconded by Clay Mitchell and unanimously approved.

- Opportunity to Purchase-Anderson Ditch Water

Quinton Norris reported on the opportunity to purchase approximately 34 acre feet of Anderson Ditch water currently being stored in the Rio Grande Reservoir. He explained how the District acquired the water and divided it up between the Subdistricts according to allocations to depletions to the Rio Grande. Mr. Norris provided the total costs and total acre feet acquired by the District.

A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve the lease/purchase of Anderson Ditch water. The motion was seconded by James Cooley and unanimously approved.

- Surface Water Inclusion Requests

Quinton Norris presented the Schulz Farms, Bartee Ranch and Nicholas Miner Surface Water Inclusion requests. Staff recommendation was approval.

A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve the Surface Water Inclusion requests as presented. The motion was seconded by Brett Hemmerling and unanimously approved.

- 2025 Fee Assessment Appeals

Quinton Norris presented the Southern Colorado Farms LLC, Crestone View Farms, and Consaul Farms appeal reviews. He provided a summary of the issue, supporting information, staff analysis/recommendation and the amount of reimbursement being requested on each.

A motion was made by Miguel Diaz to approve all of the appeals as staff recommends. The motion was seconded by Jamie Hart and unanimously approved.

### **Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice Regarding Pending Litigation, the Potential Purchase of Real Property, and to Receive Legal Advice Thereto**

President Burris asked for a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal advice regarding pending litigation, the potential purchase of real property, and to receive legal advice thereto. A motion was made by Jake Burris at 2:41 p.m. to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Clay Mitchell and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ampe stated the Board was entering into executive session pursuant to section 24-6-402 (4)(a) to receive legal advice regarding pending litigation, the potential purchase of real property, and to receive legal advice thereto. The Board would take no formal action or position during the executive session.

### **Possible Action from Executive Session**

President Burris asked for possible action from executive session. A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to accept the withdrawal of Saguache 37 CREP contract as it was never fully executed at the federal level, and waive the 10% penalty but require all monies paid out by the Subdistrict to Saguache 37 be refunded. The motion was seconded by Miguel Diaz and unanimously approved.

Staff was directed to continue looking into the SWAG settlement offer.

**New Business**

President Burris asked for new business. There was none.

**Next Meeting**

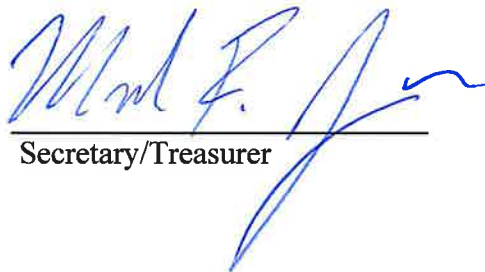
The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.



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President



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Secretary/Treasurer

