

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
March 3, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101
And by Zoom Teleconference**

Present: Jake Burris, President; Clay Mitchell, Vice-President; Michael Jones, Secretary/Treasurer; Chris Miner, BOM; Jamie Hart, BOM; Brett Hemmerling, BOM; Patrick Brownell, BOM; and Sheldon Rockey, Ex-Officio Member.

Absent: Miguel A. Diaz, BOM; Tony Holcomb, BOM; and James Cooley, BOM.

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

Guests: Deb Sarason, Jessica Valdez, William Myers, Mike Kruse, Brian Rue, Andrea Rue, Ryan Rhoads, Lynn McCollough, Tuck Slane, John Slane, Curt Trimble, Dale Bartee, Deanna Bartee, Justin Bartee, David Hofmann, Barbara Macias, Randy Kempf.

Meeting Called to Order

President Burris called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda

President Burris asked to amend the agenda to add consideration of Investment Resolution. He asked for any other changes, additions or approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Clay Mitchell and unanimously approved.

Election of Officers

President Burris asked for election of officers. Pete Ampe reminded the Board of the current officers; he opened the floor for nominations including self nominations for President or a motion to retain the officers as currently appointed. Clay Mitchell nominated Jake Burris for President. The nomination was seconded by Jamie Hart and unanimously approved. Jake Burris nominated Clay Mitchell as Vice President. The nomination was seconded by Patrick Brownell and unanimously approved. Clay Mitchell nominated Michael Jones as Secretary/Treasurer. The nomination was seconded by Jake Burris and unanimously approved.

Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

President Burris asked for disclosure of potential conflicts of interest. Pete Ampe explained the purpose and procedure of the disclosure.

Jamie Hart: Santa Maria, Rio Grande Canal, McDonald Ditch, Butler Ditch, Groundwater.

Chris Miner: Groundwater, Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria, McDonald Ditch, Prairie Ditch.

Patrick Brownell: Farmers Union, San Luis Valley Irrigation District, Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria, San Luis Valley Canal.

Jake Burris: Groundwater, Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria, Farmers Union, Enterprise Ditch, Scotch Ditch, Lagarita Creek.

Clay Mitchell: Groundwater, Prairie Ditch, Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria

Brett Hemmerling: Groundwater, Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria, Shockrol Ditch, King Callan Ditch.

Sheldon Rockey: not present at the time of disclosure.

Michael Jones: not present at the time of disclosure.

Approval of the Minutes

President Burris asked for approval of the following minutes:

- November 26, 2025-Special Meeting
- December 8, 2025-Quarterly Meeting
- January 22, 2026-Special Meeting

A motion was made by Patrick Brownell to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jamie Hart and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Burris asked for public comment. Lynn McCullough commented on the urgency of the water/snowpack situation. President Burris assured Mr. McCullough that the Board understands the urgency. Pete Ampe reported on the Subdistricts efforts to oppose moving the Plan of Water Management No. 4 trial date.

Program Manager's Report

President Burris asked for the Program Manager's report. Quinton Norris reported on the completion and submission of the Annual Report (AR) to the Division of Water Resources. He also reported getting out the forbearance agreements to the ditch companies and began working to compile data for the 2026 Annual Replacement Plan (ARP). Pete Ampe updated the Board on the Diamond Springs challenge to Phase 7 of the Model and the challenge filed by the District due to the timing and release of the response function workbooks. He highlighted how Subdistrict No. 1 will owe depletions to Saguache Creek and how Subdistrict No. 5 may have the capacity to cover theirs and Subdistrict No. 1's depletions. Mr. Norris highlighted the 2025 diversions and reported on the letters sent to canal companies for expiring Board of Manager terms. He reported on a meeting held at the District to learn more about the CREP program. Mr. Norris highlighted a question from Subdistrict members regarding CREP fields going into solar. He gave an update on the Senate Bill purchases, 2026 CREP rates and CREP program changes. Mr. Norris asked that a work session be held this summer to discuss other potential Fallow Program options. He provided a water review for 2025 which included total groundwater withdrawals, recharge offset and net depletions. Mr. Norris gave a property update and suggested they move forward on the recharge pit project on the Lacy property. He reported on a trespass incident on the Medano property and gave an update on the 2025 ARP depletion replacement operations. Mr. Norris informed the Board of his upcoming schedule change once his wife gives birth to their child.

- *Financial Report*

Quinton Norris presented the Balance Sheet, he went over the balance in the checking and savings accounts, accounts receivables and total current assets. Mr. Norris highlighted the amount due to the District, other liabilities, total accounts payable and equity. He presented the Balance Sheet CREP, Balance Sheet Variable, Profit and Loss by Class, Statement of Cash Flow and the Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual.

A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Chris Miner and unanimously approved.

- *Investment Resolutions*

Quinton Norris presented the Colorado Local Government Liquid Asset Trust and the Colorado Surplus Asset Fund Trust (CSAFE) Resolutions. Kylie Gregg described the purpose of the investment policy and explained how the tools could be used. Pete Ampe reported they are not FDIC insured and are considered safe with minimal risk.

A motion was made by Clay Michell to approve the resolutions as presented. The motion was seconded by Michael Jones and unanimously approved.

Attorney's Report

President Burris asked for the Attorney's report. Pete Ampe provided an update on the Texas vs New Mexico Colorado US Supreme Court case. He described the final report released by the Special Master. Mr. Ampe gave an update on the Plan of Water Management No. 4 trial, SWAG augmentation case, submission of the Annual Report (AR), the challenge to the Phase 7 Model and the Districts protest due to the timing and release of the Response Function workbooks. Mr. Ampe updated the Board on Subdistrict No. 5's augmentation wells and the potential to be able to meet the obligations under Phase 7 response functions if necessary for Subdistrict No. 5, Subdistrict No. 1, and Subdistrict No. 4.

Engineer's Report

President Burris asked for the Engineer's report. Clinton Phillips presented a map of the San Luis Valley unconfined aquifer storage study area. He went over the change for January 2026, change between January 2025 and 2026, the current aquifer level, current five (5) year average level and the acre feet needed to get to the -400,000 level. Mr. Phillips presented a snapshot of the monthly change and reported on the lowest level ever recorded in the study period last August.

Discussion and Possible Action Items

President Burris asked for discussion and possible action items.

- *Appeals*

Quinton Norris described the Price Farms and the Gunbarrel Road appeals. He reported both were due to staff error, gave the refund amount and recommended approval.

A motion was made by Brett Hemmerling to approve the Price Farms and Gunbarrel Road appeals as presented. The motion was seconded by Jamie Hart and unanimously approved.

Mr. Norris presented the Mix Farms appeal, described a mistake made in the amount billed from the County, gave the refund amount and recommended approval.

A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve the Mix Farms appeal. The motion was seconded by Clay Mitchell and unanimously approved.

Mr. Norris presented the Tuck Slane appeal, he explained how they were not receiving surface water credit and recommended approval. Pete Ampe explained why the augmentation plan was in the Subdistrict and how it is broken out in the ARP.

A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to approve the Tuck Slane appeal. The motion was seconded by Brett Hemmerling and unanimously approved.

- *Participation Contracts*

Quinton Norris provided the background information on the Mountain Vista Gravel Participation Contract request and staff recommendation to conditionally approve. Pete Ampe explained the conditional approval suggestion.

A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve the Mountain Vista Gravel Participation Contract. The motion was seconded by Chris Miner and unanimously approved.

Mr. Norris provided the background information on the Nissen Family Trust Participation Contract request and staff recommendation to conditionally approve.

A motion was made by Michael Jones to approve the Nissen Family Trust Participation Contract. The motion was seconded by Brett Hemmerling and unanimously approved.

Mr. Norris provided the background information on the Peterson Farms Participation Contract request and staff recommendation to conditionally approve.

A motion was made by Michael Jones to approve the Peterson Farms Participation Contract. The motion was seconded by Patrick Brownell and unanimously approved.

Discussion was held on whether any of the conditionally approved contracts ever not go through court.

The Board paused for a break at 2:47 p.m. and resumed at 2:50 p.m.

- *Fallow Contracts*

President Burris reported how members of the Board may have submitted bids for the Fallow Program. Discussion was held on how the program was set up with a blind valuation/ranking system. President Burris announced the amount budgeted for the program. Quinton Norris presented the ranking system resolution and described how the contracts are ranked. Mr. Norris also presented the 2026 Fallow Program Board Memo. He went over his executive summary including the total number of bids received, total number of acres and the amount of groundwater reduction. Mr. Norris went over the proposed funding scenario comparisons. Discussion was held on possibly increasing the Fallow Program budget. Kylie Gregg went over the amounts that were approved in the budget in July 2025.

A motion was made by Michael Jones to increase the Fallow Program budget to \$2.5 million dollars with the intent of funding 110 contracts. The motion was seconded by Bret Hemmerling and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to spend the entire \$2.5 million, to continue down the list and operate it as a waitlist. The motion was seconded by Michael Jones and unanimously approved.

- Property Contracts

Quinton Norris asked the Board to consider renewing the Wayne Brown Medano property lease and the storage building lease. He reported both are one year leases with no changes, and have had no issues.

A motion was made by Brett Hemmerling to approve both leases. The motion was seconded by Chris Miner and unanimously approved.

- Budget

Quinton Norris presented the budget. He suggested holding a work session sometime between now and July to go over it in detail. President Burris reminded the Board of the Budget Committee members, he named himself, Clay Mitchell, Patrick Brownell and Michael Jones. They reported a Budget Committee meeting would be scheduled.

Board of Mangers Open Discussion

President Burris asked for Board of Managers Open Discussion. There was none.

New Business

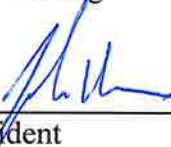
President Burris asked for new business. There was none.

Next Meeting

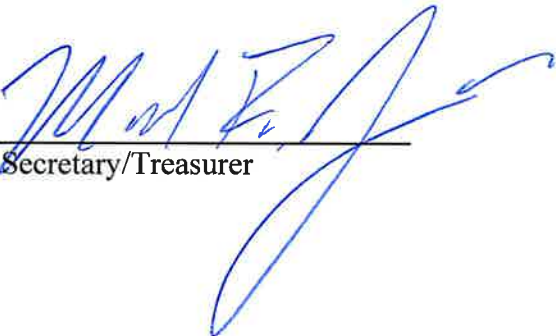
A special meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.
The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.



President



Secretary/Treasurer

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE RIO GRANDE
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
NO. 1**

A resolution authorizing the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Special Improvement District NO.1 to join with other local governments as a Participant in the Colorado Surplus Asset Fund Trust (“CSAFE”) to pool funds for investment.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of C.R.S. Section 24-75-601 and 701, et seq., as amended and C.R.S. 24-75-702, et seq. as amended, any local government entity (including cities, towns, school districts, special districts, counties or political subdivisions of the state) is authorized to pool any moneys in its treasury, which are currently surplus funds and not immediately required to be disbursed, with similar moneys from other local government entities, in order for these entities to take advantage of short-term investments and maximize net interest earnings. CSAFE is formed as a common law trust under the laws of the state of Colorado.

WHEREAS, the District has adopted an Investment Policy that permits the District, including, its special improvement districts (“Subdistricts”), to pool moneys in treasury that are not immediately required to be disbursed with the same such moneys in the treasury of any other local government in order to take advantage of short-term investments and maximize net interest earnings consistent with and pursuant to such Investment Policy.

WHEREAS, the Subdistrict desires to participate in CSAFE formed in accordance with the aforesaid statutes, in order to pool its surplus funds with other local government entities.

WHEREAS, the Subdistrict has passed, by majority vote the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Managers of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Special Improvement No.1 that:

The Subdistrict has reviewed C.R.S. Section 24-75-601, as amended and C.R.S. Section 24-75-701, et seq., as amended, of the Colorado Revised Statutes and the merits of investing in a trust as permitted by C.R.S. Section 2475-601, as amended and C.R.S. Section 24-75-701, et seq. as amended, including the trust’s liquidity, risk diversification, flexibility, convenience and cost compared to the alternative direct purchase of comparable investments and finds it is in the best interest of the local government entity and therefore hereby approves and adopts this Resolution, along with other local government entities in the trust for the purpose of pooling surplus funds. The terms of the above-mentioned trust indenture shall be incorporated herein by this reference and a copy filed with the minutes of the meeting at which warranties, either expressed or implied, are part of this agreement between CSAFE and the District unless as set forth in the Indenture of Trust, but that CSAFE shall use its best efforts in conjunction with the District to accomplish these goals.


The Subdistrict is liable for all checks written on its account, authorized or unauthorized. The Subdistrict should implement proper security procedures to safeguard the checks for each account. CSAFE does not guarantee the prevention of fraud or theft from a District account.

The Authorized Signatories for the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Special Improvement District are those persons who hold the positions of General Manager, Deputy General Manager, Program Manager, Subdistrict President, Subdistrict Vice-President, and Subdistrict Secretary/Treasurer. The current persons holding those positions are those persons listed in the Banking Resolution attached hereto and incorporated herein whom are the approved staff and Board Officers empowered to invest funds of the Participant or his/her successor in function, are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Indenture of Trust and any other documents necessary to establish an account with CSAFE. The Authorized Signatories are hereby designated the "Treasurer" as that term is defined in the Indenture of Trust and are therefore authorized to invest money from the Participants' treasury, from time to time, which are not immediately required to be disbursed, by purchasing shares of CSAFE with those available funds and is authorized to redeem, from time to time, part or all of those shares as funds are needed for other purposes.

The Authorized Signatories may be changed from time to time by written notice to CSAFE.

Any investment in CSAFE must be consistent with and pursuant to the District Investment Policy.

Adopted, this 3rd day of April A.D. 2026

ATTEST: 
_____, President

ATTEST: 
_____, Secretary/Treasurer

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE RIO GRANDE
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
NO. 1**

A resolution authorizing the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Special Improvement District NO. 1 to join with other local governments as a Participant in the Colorado Local Government Liquid Asset Trust (the “Trust”) to pool funds for investment.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Part 7, Article 24 (C.R.S.), it is lawful for any local government to pool any moneys in its treasury that are not immediately required to be disbursed with the same such moneys in the treasury of any other local government in order to take advantage of short-term investments and maximize net interest earnings; and

WHEREAS, the District has adopted an Investment Policy that permits the District, including, its special improvement districts (“Subdistricts”), to pool moneys in treasury that are not immediately required to be disbursed with the same such moneys in the treasury of any other local government in order to take advantage of short-term investments and maximize net interest earnings consistent with and pursuant to such Investment Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Trust is a statutory trust formed under the laws of the state of Colorado in accordance with the provisions of Parts 6 and 7, Article 24 and Articles 10.5 and 47 of Title 11 of the Colorado Revised Statutes regarding the investing, pooling for investment, and protection of public funds; and

WHEREAS, the Subdistrict desires to become a Participant in the Trust.

RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Managers of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Special Improvement No.1 that:

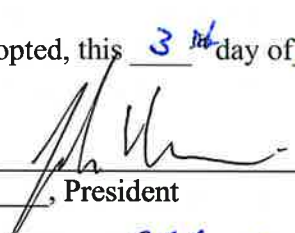
1) Rio Grande Water Conservation District Special Improvement No.1 hereby approves, adopts, and thereby joins as a Participant with other local governments pursuant to Part 7, Article 75, Title 24 of the Colorado Revised Statutes that certain Amended and Restated Indenture of Trust entitled the Colorado Liquid Government Asset Trust dated May 1, 2021 as amended from time to time, the terms of which are incorporated herein by this reference and a copy of which shall be filed with the minutes of the meeting at which this Resolution was adopted; and

2) The Designee and Authorized Signatories are those persons who hold the positions of General Manager (Cleave Simpson), Deputy General Manager (Amber Pacheco), Program Manager (Quinton Norris), President (Jake Burris), Vice-President (Clay Mitchell), and Secretary/Treasurer (Michael Jones). The current persons holding those positions are listed on the Trust Registration Form attached hereto and incorporated herein. The Authorized Signatories are authorized by the Participant to direct the investment of such Participants’ investment funds.


3) The Designee and Authorized Signatories may be changed from time to time by written notice to COLOTRUST; and

4) The Trust currently has three investment portfolios COLOTRUST PRIME, COLOTRUST PLUS+, and COLOTRUST EDGE. Prior to investing in any of the portfolios offered by the Trust, Participants are encouraged to review the COLOTRUST Information Statements and Investment Policies for each portfolio. Any investments in such portfolios must be consistent with and pursuant to the District Investment Policy.

Adopted, this 3rd day of March A.D. 2026



_____, President

ATTEST: 
_____, Secretary/Treasurer