

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #3
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
December 22, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
8805 Independence Way
Alamosa, CO 81101
And By Zoom/Teleconference**

Present: LeRoy Salazar, President; Warren Crowther, Manager; Doug Bagwell, Manager; Sam Vance, Manager; and Elliott Salazar, Ex-Officio Member.

Absent: Nathan Coombs, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Ruben Sandoval, Manager.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C; Angelo Bellah, Program Manager; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Kylie Gregg, Office Manager; and, April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Jessica Valdez, Deb Sarason.

Meeting Called to Order

President Salazar called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Warren Crowther led the opening prayer.

Approval of the Agenda

President Salazar asked to amend the agenda to add general updates on critical issues which need to be resolved/water levels, etc. He asked for any other changes, additions or a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Elliott Salazar to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Doug Bagwell and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Salazar asked for public comment. There was none.

La Jara Creek Forbearance Agreements

President Salazar asked for La Jara Creek Forbearance Agreements. He asked for an overview on the issues the Subdistrict is facing on La Jara Creek with making replacements. Angelo Bellah presented the Conejos response area (Subdistrict No. 3) RGDSS 7:101 2011-2020 average monthly depletions by reach. President Salazar went over the values in the La Jara column and reported having a few forbearance agreements secured and the need for additional. He highlighted the need to replace wet water in the months of April and May. Discussion was held on why Subdistrict No. 3 owes while Subdistrict No. 6 pumps three (3) times more than Subdistrict No. 3. Pete Ampe explained the delay that occurs to the river when pumping in the confined aquifers. He described how the return flows from Subdistrict No. 6 return to the creek and Subdistrict No. 3 returns to the Conejos River. Discussion was held on using Subdistrict No. 6 accretions to offset Subdistrict No. 3 depletions and who would handle the accounting and coordinate the transfers. Angelo Bellah presented a forbearance renewal tracking sheet, he highlighted the ditches that have signed and the ones they have been in contact with. President Salazar went over the key ditches on the upper La Jara. Mr. Bellah provided the forbearance return deadline and asked any Board of Managers that want to assist with getting them signed and returned to reach out to him. President Salazar reported on a deal worked out by the Trinchera Subdistrict with Ms. Gonzales. Wylie Keller explained how an injury can be exchanged as long as there is a live stream from the top of the reach to the water right to be replaced. Deb Sarason reported on the SWSP submitted by the Trinchera Subdistrict. Discussion was held on the lower depletions on dry years.

Taos Valley No. 3 SWSP/Contract

President Salazar asked for the Taos Valley No. 3 SWSP/contract. Angelo Bellah reported on confusion surrounding the number of shares the Board approved to purchase at the last meeting. President Salazar confirmed the purchase of 7.6 shares. Mr. Bellah reported on a request from the San Luis Valley Irrigation Well Owners to participate in the Taos Valley No. 3 SWSP. He said they would need to call out the amount of water they wished to utilize. President Salazar questioned the flexibility with the water. Deb Sarason explained how the Well Owners have to have a beneficial use for the water before receiving an approved SWSP. Sam Vance described the intentions of the Well Owners to remain in line with the Subdistricts. President Salazar asked Wylie Keller to investigate to see how much of the water the Subdistrict would be able to use. Mr. Bellah explained

how it was utilized last year for storage. President Salazar highlighted the lower than predicted groundwater withdrawals.

Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice Concerning the Potential Purchase of Real Property and to Receive Legal Advice thereto

President Salazar asked for a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal advice concerning the potential purchase of real property, and to receive legal advice thereto. A motion was made by Doug Bagwell at 1:50 p.m. to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Elliott Salazar 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 concerning 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 Salazar asked for possible action from executive session.

A motion was made by Elliott Salazar to purchase the Martinez fish well for \$4.1 million yielding over 1,000 acre feet, with a down payment of \$300,000 to \$600,000 and the rest to be financed through owner carry or CWCB, honoring the contract with CPW. The motion was seconded by Sam Vance and unanimously approved.

President Salazar described a conversation with David Robbins regarding changing legislation and the need to have other communities and entities on board. He explained how 1978-2000 was a wet period and not an ideal time to be tied to. Pete Ampe described the difficult haul and what it would take to move forward. President Salazar highlighted the urgency in moving forward soon. Discussion was held on developing and relaying a clear and concise message in order to start the process this year. President Salazar asked the attorneys to get together to discuss and move the process forward. Clinton Phillips presented the list of wells measured by DWR every March. He highlighted which wells saw an increase and the ones that saw a decrease. Discussion was held on how to handle the refund to Subdistrict members for the difference in the amount that was budgeted and the amount that was certified and assessed.

A motion was made by Doug Bagwell to credit members instead of a repayment to shareholders. The motion was seconded by Elliott Salazar and unanimously approved.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.



President

Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer