RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
May 18, 2026, at 1:00 P.M.
8805 Independence Way
Alamosa, CO 81101
And By Zoom Teleconference

Present: Greg Higel, President; Armando Valdez, Vice-President; Zeke Ward, Secretary/Treasurer; Elliott Salazar, Director; Mark Deacon, Director; Sheldon Rockey, Director; and, Kim Cooley, Director.

Absent: Dale Hazard, Director.

Staff and Consultants: David Robbins, Pete Ampe, and Arthur Sayre, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Amber Pacheco, Deputy General Manager; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Angelo Bellah, Program Manager; Quinton Norris, Program Manager; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant; and, Michael Carson, Database Administrator.

Guests: Chris Lopez, Lawrence Crowther, and Jeff McCullough.

CALL TO ORDER
President Greg Higel called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. There was a quorum present for the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF AND GUESTS
President Higel welcomed all those present and asked for introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
President Higel asked for amendments or a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Elliott Salazar to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mark Deacon and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT
President Higel asked for public comment. There was none.

REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS
President Higel asked for review and possible action on the following action items:

- ***Subdistrict No. 5 Bids for Augmentation Wells and Pipeline***

Chris Ivers presented a bid summary review for the augmentation wells, pipeline, and infrastructure. He reported Subdistrict No. 5 Board of Managers voted unanimously to select the lowest bid from Cooper Drilling for the augmentation wells and Mountain Valley Services for the pipeline and infrastructure. Mr. Ivers went over the total bid prices, what was included in the bid and the project timeline. He explained how the wells would be needed in wet years to make replacements for Subdistrict Nos. 1, 4 and 5.

A motion was made by Mark Deacon to approve the Cooper Drilling and Mountain Valley bids. The motion was seconded by Sheldon Rockey and unanimously approved.

- ***Request To Use District Property for Disposal of Cull Potatoes***

Jeff McCullough described a "fix it right now" short term solution/project to dispose of cull potatoes. He described the project and explained why the District property was a good fit. Mr. McCullough gave the estimated number of potatoes set to be dumped and explained finding the land was one of many steps to still be taken. He explained the drying process, the need to make the potatoes unviable, and the estimated costs. David Robbins cautioned the Board that whatever they approve be for no more than one (1) year so they have the opportunity to consider it the next year to remain good stewards of the District's property. Discussion was held on the role and responsibility CPAC would have on the project, soil impacts, daily monitoring, and whether or not there would be any expense to the District. Mr. Robbins emphasized the need to avoid any issues with the County as landowners in Saguache County. He reported it would need to be clearly defined that the District as land owner would not assume responsibility or the consequences for the manner of disposal and that CPAC or the grower(s) of the potatoes would take on the responsibility. Mr. Robbins asked the Board to address the issue of these potatoes not being fit for human consumption. Sheldon Rockey reported on Subdistrict No. 1's unanimous approval of the cull potato project.

A motion was made by Armando Valdez to move forward with the cull potato contractual agreement for use of the property on a one year basis to begin one year from date it starts. The motion was seconded by Sheldon Rockey.

Elliott Salazar requested quarterly updates on the project. Arthur Sayre highlighted conversations he had with the State in connection with potential land/quarantine regulations. Mr. McCullough described the disposal process and the amount of cull potatoes that could be processed per day.

The motion was voted on. Kim Cooley voted no. The motion passed.

A contract would be drawn up and brought back to the Board for consideration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION

President Higel asked for an executive session to receive legal advice regarding pending litigation. A motion was made by Mark Deacon at 2:14 p.m. to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Kim Cooley 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 Board exited the Executive Session at 2:26 p.m.

POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Higel asked for possible action following executive session. Armando Valdez thanked SWAG for their courtesy and the proposal they offered and made a motion to reject the SWAG offer. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Vice President

Zeke Ward
Secretary/Treasurer