

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #3 AND
SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #6
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
February 19, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101
And by Zoom/Teleconference**

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

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

Present: Tyler Faucette, President; Virgil Valdez, Vice-President; Ronald Reinhardt, Secretary/Treasurer; Gerald Faucette, Manager; Austin Miller, Manager; and Armando Valdez, Ex-Officio Member.

Absent: Mario Curto, Manager; Rodney Reinhardt, Manager; Virginia Christensen, Manager; Peter Clark, Manager; and Robert Middlemist, Manager.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill and Robbins P.C.; Angelo Bellah, Program Manager; Amber Pacheco, Deputy General Manager; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Wylie Keller, Water Resources Specialist; and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: John Justice, Chuck Finnegan, Jessica Valdez, Deb Sarason, Kendal Bergimister, William Myers, David Hofmann, Travis DeClerk, Monte Smith, Jason Lorenz, Glen Sykes, Becca Sykes, Michelle Lanzoni, Jack Gilleland, Nathan Fransen, Adam Skadberg.

Meeting Called to Order

Angelo Bellah called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. Both Subdistrict's had a quorum present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Leroy Salazar led the opening prayer.

Approval of the Agenda

Angelo Bellah asked for amendments or a motion to approve the agenda. The agenda was amended to add a discussion regarding redefining sustainability after the CAS Stipulations as item No. 7 and move Executive Session to item No. 8. A motion was made to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Angelo Bellah asked for public comment. Adam Skadberg suggested getting a grant writer, buying out wells and getting the water the Subdistrict needs. Amber Pacheco reported on the work being done to secure grants. Tyler Faucette commented on the conservation efforts.

La Jara Creek Injurious Stream Depletion Remedies

Angelo Bellah asked for La Jara Creek injurious stream depletion remedies. He presented a spreadsheet and went over the secured and working to secure forbearance agreements. Mr. Bellah reported he may need the Boards assistance to get contact information or reaching out to a few of the remaining individuals. He explained how some individuals wish to sign long term forbearance agreements and others do not. Discussion was held on the term length and bonus payment amount. Mr. Bellah reported on the Trinchera Subdistricts lease of two (2) wells to remedy depletions on La Jara Creek. He described the ongoing discussions being held to find a way for Subdistrict accretions to be used to remedy other Subdistrict depletions. Mr. Bellah reported on the potential to store water in La Jara Reservoir, make releases as needed and transfer water from other systems in to La Jara Creek. He reported on a discussion with Craig Cotten regarding fish well return flows.

2026 Los Sauces SWSP Operations

Angelo Bellah asked for 2026 Los Sauces SWSP Operations. He said there were three (3) additional shareholders interested in leasing their shares to the Subdistricts. Mr. Bellah went over the amount of acres and consumptive use to be dried up. He provided an update on the SWSP and the flume/culvert at the first augmentation station. David Hofmann reported Craig Cotten may add some conditions to the SWSP in connection with the flume being removed. Mr. Bellah provided an update on the second augmentation station and the ongoing negotiations with the land owner.

2026 Taos Valley No. 3 SWSP

Angelo Bellah asked for 2026 Taos Valley No. 3 SWSP. He provided the recommended acre foot amount of water to request based on the current water forecast. Jason Lorenz updated the Board on the Cove Lake/Platoro situation. He reported receiving a letter of support from the Conejos Water Conservancy District on a request to store water in Platoro. Mr. Lorenz asked the Board for an amount they would take if everything gets into place.

A motion was made by Subdistrict No. 3 to request 300 acre feet. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Subdistrict No. 6 to request 300 acre feet to store in Platoro and 1000 acre feet of additional public storage for water other than what comes into priority for the TVC#3. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Subdistrict No. 3 amended their motion to request 250 acre feet to store in Platoro and 1000 acre feet of additional public storage for water other than what comes into priority for the TVC#3. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Redefining Sustainability After CAS Stipulations

Angelo Bellah asked for redefining sustainability after CAS stipulations. He presented the composite water head change chart. President Salazar explained how the CAS stipulations allowed pumping at the historical 1978-2000 level. He reported how, at that time, the rivers flowed at 25% more than they do today. President Salazar explained the need to redefine sustainability in a reasonable fashion. He highlighted the conversation held at a meeting with Cleave Simpson, Angelo Bellah, Wylie Keller and Matt Martinez. President Salazar reported legislatively redefining the definition of sustainability would require the support of the community. President Faucette reported having the information to be able to move forward with modifying the legislation. President Salazar reported on the positive events including a reduction in pumping. President Faucette highlighted the Board of Managers authority to curtail pumping and to utilize the aquifer to the maximum amount possible. President Salazar commented on how what happens in one Subdistrict impacts another Subdistrict. Jason Lorenz highlighted the Trinchera Subdistrict's allotment and how the allotment is determined. Sam Vance suggested using caution with grant writers to maintain the cooperative efforts of the Subdistricts. Adam Skadberg commented on winter kill and the need to engage with an agronomist to help growers understand what their water holding capacity is and the amount of water it would take to bring the soil up to capacity prior to irrigation season closing.

Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice Concerning the Lease/Purchase of Real Property

Angelo Bellah asked for a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal advice concerning the lease/purchase of real property. A motion was made at 5:05 p.m. to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded 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 lease/purchase of real property. The Board would take no formal action or position during the executive session.

Possible Action Following Executive Session

Angelo Bellah asked for possible action following Executive Session. There was none.

Direction for Staff

Angelo Bellah asked for direction for staff. Staff was directed to continue negotiations on the Los Sauces SWSP.

A motion was made by Subdistrict No. 3 to conditionally approve the contract as discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Subdistrict No. 6 to conditionally approve the contract as discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.



President



Secretary/Treasurer