

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #5
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
December 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room
And by Zoom/Teleconference**

Present: David Schmittel, President; George Whitten, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Corey Hill, Manager; and Kit Caldon, Manager.

Absent : Dale Gerstberger, Manager; and Doug Gunnels, Ex Officio Member.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Wes Seeger, Davis Engineering; and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Tim Lovato, Jessica Valdez, William Myers, Jeannie Allen, David Hofmann.

Meeting Called to Order

President Schmittel called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

President Schmittel asked for changes, additions or a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Kit Caldon to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by George Whitten and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Schmittel asked for public comment. Tim Lovato commented on the SAG wells and how they fluctuate. He asked what wells would be considered when setting the allocation. Chris Ivers reported an updated aquifer report will be reviewed.

Allocation of Groundwater Withdrawals for 2026

President Schmittel asked for allocation of groundwater withdrawals for 2026. Chris Ivers presented the Subdistrict No. 5 Aquifer Report provided by Clinton Phillips. He highlighted the well layers and explained why Mr. Phillips used the wells he did. Mr. Ivers went over the baseline measurement and yearly difference in measurements. He presented the individual hydrographs and the outlook forecast issued by the National Weather Service out of Pueblo. Mr. Ivers reminded the Board of the allocation set last year at 90%. Tim Lovato asked about the measurements and readings on the SAG 9 well and what the indications are on a flowing well. Mr. Ivers explained the standard way of showing the depth below ground for pressure heads. Discussion was held on the flow at Russel Springs. Mr. Lovato described the impact, he believes, groundwater pumping has had on his property and proposed an allocation of 75-80%. President Schmittel described the hardship that would bring in the predicted average or below average level. Mr. Lovato commented on the effects to surface water users. Mr. Ivers highlighted the preliminary acre-feet of groundwater withdrawals for 2025. He presented the three (3) month temperature and precipitation outlook from the National Weather Service.

A motion was made by Kit Caldon to set the allocation at 85% of the average.

Mr. Ivers reported preliminary numbers show the Subdistrict pumped 72-75% of the historic average last year.

The motion was seconded by George Whitten and unanimously approved.

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

President Schmittel announced the Board did not need to enter into executive session.

Discussion on Augmentation Well Locations

President Schmittel asked for a discussion on augmentation well locations. Chris Ivers provided an update on a meeting held to discuss potential locations of augmentation wells. He explained how the wells would be needed in June and July of wet years. He presented a well narrative and reported on well location options. Mr. Ivers reported on the need to get a request for bids out. He described the information be included in the bids. Mr. Ivers presented the State Land Board property map, he highlighted the limited location and reported on the approval by their Board to enter into a contract with the Subdistrict. Mr. Ivers presented the Sheppard property map and potential location of new wells. Wylie Keller reported on the need for two (2) or maybe even three (3) additional wells in certain layers.

Discussion was held on the best location to drill the wells to get the maximum benefit to the Subdistricts.

A motion was made by Kit Caldon to allow staff to proceed with option one (1) to drill a layer three (3) well on the Shepherd property within the current easement and proceed with option two (2) to drill a layer two (2) well on the State Land Board property. The motion was seconded by George Whitten and unanimously approved.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is January 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.



President

Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer