

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors  
Monday, October 24, 2022**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) conducted a regular Board meeting on Monday, October 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the District office, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B, Gunnison, CO, 81230 and via Zoom video/teleconferencing.

Board members present: Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, Stacy McPhail (via Zoom), Julie Nania, Bill Nesbitt, Michelle Pierce, and John Perusek

Board members absent: Sara Bergstrom, Don Sabrowski and Andy Spann

Others present:

Kara Buckley, Crested Butte Institute  
Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager (via Zoom)  
Cheryl Cwelich, UGRWCD Water Resource Specialist I  
Mike Fabbre, Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District (via Zoom)  
John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel  
Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Water Resource Specialist II  
Jill Steele, UGRWCD Accountant  
Sue Uerling, UGRWCD Admin. Asst/Communications Specialist  
Jim Watson, Crested Butte Land Trust  
Kenneth Williams, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (via Zoom)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Michelle Pierce called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**Director John Perusek moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of the agenda as circulated. The motion carried.**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Director John Perusek moved and Director Rosemary Carroll seconded approval of the consent agenda items. The motion carried.**

**4. LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

General Counsel John McClow reported that there has been no new legislative activity of interest since the last Board meeting. He also noted that the Colorado State Supreme Court still has not ruled on the petition for writ of certiorari filed by A. G. Weiser and the Colorado Water Congress regarding river access vs. private property rights on the Arkansas River.

John referred to the memo and report he sent to the Board regarding the Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District's (Mt. CBWSD) plans to develop a diversion/release structure at Meridian Lake Reservoir and asked if anyone had any questions. Joellen wondered how long the proposed project had been inactive. John noted that there has really been no activity on the proposal since it was initially presented in 2015. John said that Mt. CBWSD has had a number of personnel changes since then and that a couple of years ago, he had a phone call from the Mt. CBWSD manager at that time who said that since their staff was relatively new, they wanted to review the initial proposal and get back with the District later. John said he told them that there was no hurry for the District, as this is Mt. CBWSD's project and that the District is willing to work with them when they are ready to go forward with the project.

Director Rosemary Carroll asked whether Mt. CBWSD had made any decisions about what option(s) to go forward with for moving the water. John noted that there are basically two choices to consider; one is how construction of a pipeline from Washington Gulch might work to transport water into Meridian Lake Reservoir and the other is a pumping plant. Both Alternatives also include construction and operation of a new outlet structure. John said he does not believe there has been any new detailed designs or engineering to address these issues since their original submission included in the packet.

## **5. 2023 BUDGET WORK SESSION**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reviewed the 2023 Draft Budget for the District beginning with Revenues. She noted that at the last meeting, she was still waiting to confirm some of the income sources for the Watershed Management revenues, which have now been confirmed bringing that total revenue line item to \$380,023 for 2023.

Sonja reported that the Wet Meadows Income was pulled out as a separate line item and the sub sources for revenue under Wet Meadows were identified for a total of \$274,166 in income for 2023.

Sonja noted that under the Water Quality Monitoring Income line item, the District is still waiting to get some data from the USGS on costs associated with monitoring for metals in 2023.

Sonja asked if there were any questions on revenues for 2023. Director Bill Nesbitt commented that he would like to see revenue line item number 3 "Interest on Investments" increased for 2023 as he believes that interest rates will remain higher around three to four percent in 2023.

Sonja explained that the “Cost of Goods Sold” category is new terminology for the 2023 budget which describes any program or activity which has outside funding tied to the budget line item. These items were placed in the “Non-operating Expenses” in previous years. Director Nesbitt asked if this had come out of Kim Antonucci’s work with Jill on cleaning up the budget. Sonja replied “yes” and that this would make it a little easier for accounting and staff members to track these funding sources.

Sonja moved on to the Operating Expenses for 2023 and pointed out that budget line item number 19 “Administrative Travel and Expenses” might be a little low at \$25,000. She wondered if the District should bump up this figure to \$35,000 as there have been a couple of years prior to Covid that the District spent this much on travel. Sonja said that now that conferences, meetings, and travel are back up to pre-Covid levels and with gas, food and hotel rooms all being more expensive, she thinks \$35,000 might be more realistic. After further discussion about increasing costs in general, Director Julia Nania asked if the District considered an inflation rate (like four percent) across the Board for expenses, including for Board meetings, conferences and mileage. Sonja replied that there was no across the board increase included in the budget for inflation, that instead specific line items were considered (e.g., utilities, travel, etc.) since the increases can vary. Sonja noted that her “Manager’s Discretionary” line item was increased as well, so if costs for BOD activities were to increase more than planned, those costs could be covered by her discretionary funds.

Sonja noted that with budget line items 29-34 (under Operation Expenses), District monies used to support programming for other non-profit entities, like City of Gunnison and Coal Creek Watershed, were pulled out of previous categories they were under (such as Water Quality Monitoring) and made a separate line item so that these expenditures will be easier to track for payment and reporting. Sonja reported that for the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy, the UGRWCD is still holding back \$20,000 which was previously allocated for their programming in 2020 and 2021. They are still awaiting final deliverables for work paid for by UGRWCD. President Michelle Pierce told the Board that Camille Richard, executive director for the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy District, recently submitted her resignation to their directors and that their Board is currently seeking her replacement. Michelle spoke with Camille personally and Camille told Michelle that she plans to finish all of her reporting/invoicing by the end of the year. Sonja said UGRWCD would then hold that line item as it is based on this information.

Director Bill Nesbitt asked if the title of budget line item number 34 “Donation Spencer Avenue Reserve” could be changed as he does not want anyone to think of this as some sort of donation, since monies put into this reserve for maintenance is a requirement of the condo association bylaws. Sonja said it would be no problem to take out the work “donation” and clean up that title.

The next big line item, per Sonja, is payroll and she noted that these expenses were itemized under the subcategories of: CRA Retirement, Medical Insurance, Payroll Taxes, Salaries, Staff Development and Workman’s Comp Insurance. Sonja said the District did do a five-year trend analysis on these expenses and that she would like to go into more detail on the retirement and pension figures later in the meeting under the Executive Committee update. Sonja noted that under Medical Insurance, the District’s expenses have stayed

pretty steady over the last five years. She is happy with rates and she believes staff is happy with benefits being received.

Sonja noted that with respect to the \$5,000 annual donation the District has been making to the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL) for their weather station, that a staff-level decision was made to instead allocate funding for the annual field trips by school students from Gunnison, Crested Butte and hopefully Lake City (next year) and that the weather station expenses are covered well by research activities and funding coming in to the basin. This expense is included in the Education and Outreach programming and Sonja feels this is a better place to expend District funds. Sonja spoke with RMBL Director Ian Billick and he indicated that he understood and appreciates the boards support.

Director Nesbitt noted that under Public Outreach, his recollection was that there was an increase made to try to get more students learning in the field about the watershed, such as going to the Water Science Center in Grand Junction. Sonja said this was correct and that she is happy with the direction the District took this fiscal year in supporting the field trips to RMBL, Taylor etc. She likes the target audience and number of people we are reaching through this category. In addition, we can also access and match our District funding for children attending the Water Science Center via the Gunnison Basin Roundtable.

There was a question asked about what “Promotional Items” included and Sonja answered that it was water bottles, stickers, t-shirts, etc. She explained that in previous year’s budgets, promotional items were just lumped together with all of the Education and Outreach expenses so there was no breakout.

Sonja pointed out that line item 53 is a place holder for an employee home loan assistance buying program and that this matter will continue to be discussed with the Board going forward in 2023.

Director Nesbitt asked if the “Consulting/Engineering” figure of \$15,000 for 2023 is adequate. Sonja explained that she feels this is a good figure based upon previous years as additional engineering funds are provided under the Watershed Management Planning category. She feels the basin water users are really appreciating the availability of these funds for pre-feasibility engineering and that the District may want to bump this figure up in the future when CWCB WMP funds are no longer be available.

Director Nesbitt also asked about possibly bumping up the “Grant Program” line item to \$300,000 since the District has seen consistent growth in interest for grants over the past several years. The consensus was that interest in grants has increased and that this line item should be bumped to \$300,000, especially since costs of materials keep going up. Several Board members expressed support for this increase. Bill also asked about the accounting and tracking process for grant funds that are not used in the year they were allocated. Sonja confirmed that these monies go back into the general fund and that the new accounting system allows for grant awards to be tracked to a specific year so that when they aren’t used, we can reallocate them. She noted that the Board can elect to designate such unused fund to be added to the grant funding category for the next fiscal year if they desire. At this time, it appears that all 2022 projects are going forward.

**6. Dr. Kenneth Williams, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, presents “Active Land Management for Watershed Health, Research Opportunities for Water Resources”**

Ken Williams introduced himself and explained his working relationship with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and his funding from the Department of Energy. He hopes his presentation will provide some food for thought about research and science objectives coming down the pipeline in the future, importantly active land management strategies being proposed and/or conducted by the US Forest Service (FS). He believes there is a unique opportunity right now to collect baseline data in the Taylor basin, which he calls ground zero, prior to FS implementation of active land management strategies. Ken’s primary research interest is to try to understand what the consequences of active land management practices, such as forestry, forest thinning, prescribed burns and large forest fires might have on water resources. Ken showed the domain area of where they will be conducting their research in the Taylor basin and noted a unique opportunity in the Union Park/Lottis Creek area which feeds into the Taylor River below the reservoir. Ken believes they have been able to get a lot of valuable data from Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) flights and extended his appreciation to the District for their support of such flights. He explained that ASO flights can provide added value in basin wide mapping of snowpack and snow melt, especially above SNOTEL sites, to help in the prediction of water quantity available for the basin as the ASO data is folded into hydrologic forecast modeling. The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR; Dave Gochis Principal Investigator) had a 2% error in the hydrologic inflow predictions for Taylor Reservoir this year due to additional data from ASO and model improvements.

Ken noted that some active land management practices have been going on for decades, including logging of lodge pole pines. More recently, the US Forest Service began removing beetle kill stands and he said it is just a matter of when, not if, they will also use stand-replacing wildfires in the Taylor basin. Ken said much of this area is already being hammered by climate stressors and that through the processes of cutting back, burning back, and growing back, this will speed up the natural progression of resistance, resilience and transition and that it is important to try to understand the effects on water quantity and water quality prior to the forest going through this progression. He reiterated that the US Forest Service is not funded for nor actively working to look at the consequences of their active land management processes on the watershed. Ken said his group of researchers will be conducting plot scale experimentation on four plots in the Taylor basin, measuring for the effects of 20 different treatments on three of the plots to compare against the control plot. Ken believes ASO can and will serve as a “spatial integrator” to help his team investigate natural and manipulated snow dynamics on these plots.

Ken also showed a drone video of beaver dams/floodplains in the Taylor basin. He noted that the work that Ashley Hom with the US Forest Service and Mark Beardsley with EcoMetrics have conducted with the “Beaver Believers” group could potentially result in an increase in beaver dams from the current 552 primary beavers dams to as many as 2,898 future beaver dam analogs in the basin. Ken noted that such structures could definitely affect natural streamflows and that this might something the District wants to explore. Sonja indicated that the District has significant interest in the work and has interest in conducting additional scientific studies to document short-term and long-term impacts and benefits. She believes that there could

be a long-term benefit to basin water-holding capacity, late season baseflows, flood flow attenuation, water quality, floodplain connectivity, mitigating wildfire, etc., but that it also has to be looked at from a water rights perspective and consider the number and intensity of structures being installed. Staff have requested a conversation with the FS supervisor on this matter and are pursuing a paired watershed study with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ken offered to answer any questions. Director Julie Nania said that some of her primary concerns about the proposed burn activity is that there is no proposed monitoring of soil health or soil moisture content or flow relationship data, and she feels that to have pre- and post-data from such monitoring would be enormously important. Julie said she also has major concerns about sedimentation. Julie noted that there is so much variability from year to year and season to season in the Taylor basin that she thinks it will be hard to isolate and measure specific treatment consequences within their test plots. Ken agreed and said this is why it is going to be very important to have multi-year set of referenced data just to account for “normal year” variability. Ken noted that you have to understand how these systems evolve normally from year to year in the absence of actively managing the land before you have any chance scientifically to assess the consequences of such management treatments. Ken thinks there are opportunities for his research team to get out in front of that, especially if you have a 5-to-7-year event horizon to capture variability pre-manipulation. This timeframe gives scientists the ability to take active soil content from the basin and burn it artificially in the laboratory to look at the impacts of heat on soil sterilization.

Director Bill Nesbitt thanked Ken for the presentation and asked if his group of scientists are working at all with the BLM on the burn that is proposed in the Powderhorn area. Ken replied that he is aware of it. He feels that the District can serve as the “umbrella” under which all of the various government agencies and scientific groups actively managing the land and conducting research are able to navigate that space so that they know what is being planned and so that they can connect interested researchers with the projects.

Director Nesbitt also said he is concerned about fire whether they are a controlled burn or acts of God and how Ken’s group might help with that. Ken noted that his group will not be out with a torch lighting fires and that he will leave burn management to the “experts” within the Forest Service. Ken said because these burns are down the road a bit, he recommends the District invite the U S Forest Service to the table to talk about all of its concerns ahead of any such management activities.

Director Rebie Hazard asked if there has been any consultation with the Division of Water Resources about the beaver dam analogs (BDA’s) being constructed by the FS, particularly with respect to water rights, in the Taylor basin. General Manager Chavez replied that DWR has been made aware of the concerns of the District around BDA work in the Taylor.

Director Stacy McPhail thanked Ken for his comments about looking at systems naturally versus under active land management and noted that she’s concerned that there is this external push to do something now because of climate change but that ultimately, doing it without controls and data in place, does nothing to tell

us about the actual effects on the natural system, so she is happy that scientists like Ken are also seeking interested in obtaining this data and providing information to help answers to these questions.

Director Julia Nania also noted that she is “as concerned” about water quality and water quantity impacts for other larger watershed treatments as she is about the beaver dams and thinks that because some of these other treatments are not so visible to the general public, they are not being followed as closely.

Ken said that as the beetles continue their movement, this will become more and more visible to the general public but that hopefully the “slow roll” of Taylor forest mortality will continue as just that “a slow roll” and give researchers time to collect data before there is the push for bigger treatments. He also noted that as a water district, the UGRWCD should be aware of what happened in southern Wyoming where there was a large area of beetle kill and consequently, the water district in that area decided that because there would be less water transference to the trees, there would be more water in the system, and they made the hasty decision to allocate more water for use in the future. Ken said that this might be a case that we want to look at more closely.

Finally, Director Rosemary Carroll wanted to point out that it is highly unusual to see a study like what Ken’s group will be conducting go on for five to seven years or longer, as most studies like this are grant funded for maybe a year or two at best. Rosemary said this gives the District a unique opportunity to be able to access data prior to the land management treatments and be able to address our concerns with the appropriate agencies prior to any action.

Ken offered that he would share his contact information with the Board members, and he welcomes anyone’s questions or comments at any time

## **6. DINNER BREAK AND BASIN WATER SUPPLY REPORT**

During the dinner break, Water Resource Specialist, Beverly Richards presented a Power Point of current and projected drought and weather conditions and basin water supplies and streamflows. Bev also reviewed the cloud seeding proposal and coverage area for this coming winter.

General Counsel John McClow said that just last week the Bureau of Reclamation proposed to reduce releases from Lake Powell to 5.5 million acre feet rather than the 7 million acre feet stipulated in the 2007 guidelines.

Director Bill Nesbitt asked if the District was paying Robert Hurd or Hinsdale County for the management/outlet training for Lake San Cristobal. Sonja answered that so far, Robert has volunteered his time and the District has just reimbursed him for his mileage. The Board of the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise emphasized to Robert the importance of continued and ongoing training of other county employees on the Lake San Cristobal outlet operations so that we are prepared if Robert should ever step

down. Sonja said the District may need to have a conversation with the county about providing some funding for this in the future.

Director Joellen Fonken asked if Gunnison Nordic still needed to send a check to participate in the Cloud Seeding program since the CWCB is providing more funding. The funding being provided is a one-time additional contribution for the Black Mesa infrastructure.

In addition, Director Rebie Hazard reported that Saguache County was opposed to the Cloud Seeding program and would not participate according to a letter they sent to the state. Sonja asked Rebie why they were opposed? Rebie was not sure but asked if the District had yet mailed out the cloud seeding funding request letters to all of the potential funders. Sonja said the letters had not gone out yet due to the change in funding from the CWCB but that they will go out shortly.

## **7. GENERAL MANAGER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bill Nesbit reported that November 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the next meeting of the Federal Reserve and that there has been speculation that they will raise interest rates again under a variety of scenarios, including 75 basis points now and another 75 basis points in early 2023; or 50 basis points in November and another 50 basis points each month until reaching the target of 150 basis points total increase (or 1.5 percent). Bill said they are still not officially referring to the slow down as a “recession.”

Treasurer Nesbitt also noted that in the Gunnison Bank and Trust Co. checking account, due to some interest that was recently paid into the account, the balance of \$250,135.84 has slightly exceeded the FDIC insurance limit of \$250,000 so he will visit with Sonja and/or Jill about moving some funds to reduce the balance to under the FDIC insurance threshold.

**Executive Committee Report:** Vice President Stacy McPhail noted that the committee met on October 18, 2022 to finalize the performance evaluations with senior staff. In addition, the committee discussed potential changes to retirement contributions for the staff. Stacy asked if Sonja would review a couple of the models discussed and then she would circle back to present the committee's final recommendations.

Sonja reviewed a table showing a tiered approach of increasing retirement contributions based on staff's longevity with the organization. Vice President McPhail noted that this was the preferred option that the committee had agreed to for rewarding longevity with the organization. Sonja also shared a table outlining increases in staff salaries for 2023 based upon the most recent Employer's Council market data pull.

**Vice President Stacy McPhail motioned on behalf of the Executive Committee to adopt their recommendations on the tiered retirement contributions, as well as the salary recommendations presented for 2023, and the finalized senior staff performance reviews, all as approved by the committee. The motion carried.**



**Administrative Update:** General Manager Chavez noted that during the Employers Council market survey data pull, it was difficult to find a job title that really matched what Cheryl's job duties entailed. She and General Counsel McClow elected to approach pay for Cheryl based upon the existing pay for our current Water Resource Specialist. Pay was set at 85% of the current Water Resource Specialist (Beverly Richards). This approach reflects the number of years of experience and level of education attained. Positions and job descriptions will now be evaluated as Water Resource Specialist II (senior level) and Water Resource Specialist I (entry level). In addition, Cheryl Cwelich's title has been changed to Water Resource. General Manager Chavez indicated that Cheryl is performing very well and being given more responsibility consistent with duties of a Water Resource Specialist. She and Beverly are going to be assuming a larger role in the Watershed Management Planning process which is critical to freeing up more of Sonja's time to address other issues of importance within the District. Sue Uerling will also be taking on full responsibility for overseeing the Education and Outreach Program and will continue to seek regular input from her co-workers, management and the Education Committee. Sonja also reported that District staff were given a one-time lump sum cost-of-living payment of \$1,500 for 2022. Executive Management (Sonja and John) were not included in the cost-of-living payment.

**STOR appointment:** Sonja noted that her appointment to the Gunnison County Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) committee needs to be formalized by a letter of appointment signed by the Board President and sent to the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners.

**Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Rosemary Carroll seconded approval of the appointment of General Manager Sonja Chavez to represent the District on the Gunnison County STOR Committee and authorized Board President Michelle Pierce to sign the letter of appointment. The motion carried.**

**Colorado FAMLI and HFWA Act:** General Manager Chavez explained that due to legislation passed in the last legislative session, employers in Colorado are now required to offer leave to their employees under the Colorado Family Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program and the Colorado Healthy Families and Workplace Act (HFWA). She explained the details of the options under both state programs and noted that after reviewing, it was determined that the District leave policy and payment exceeded the State's Program.

**Vice President Stacy McPhail motioned on behalf of the Executive Committee to approve their recommendation to: (1) Adopt a Resolution of the District Board to Decline All Participation in the Colorado FAMLI Program; and (2) Direct General Counsel to prepare a letter to the State of Colorado documenting the Board's vote and decision to Decline All Participation in the Colorado FAMLI Program. The motion carried.**

General Manager Chavez noted that after their analysis of both of these state of Colorado programs that the District's personnel policies do not directly address parental leave, particularly for a newer employee who wants to start a family. Sonja and Counselor McClow will work on and present to the Board a parental leave policy for future for consideration.

**Direct Potable Re-Use Draft Regulations:** Sonja noted from her memo in the packet that the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) approved draft rules to pave the way for using treated wastewater for drinking water.

**Watershed Management Planning:** Sonja referred to the memo in the packet prepared by Beverly Richards and Cheryl Cwelich. Director Julie Nania asked if a final copy of the Phase I report from JW Associates was available. Water Resource Specialist II Beverly Richards noted that she had recorded all of Julie's comments to the Zone 1 section and that staff will finish reviewing the full reports and send comments and recommended edits to JW Associates by the end of October.

**Wet Meadows Program:** Sonja referenced Cheryl Cwelich's report included in the packet. Cheryl mentioned that she has been struggling to schedule a meeting in November with the Forest Service Gunnison Field Office regarding the BDA Trail Creek work so that the District can understand and provide input on that plan in order to ensure that our water rights are not harmed. Cheryl is now working with the forest supervisor, Dayle Funka, to get a meeting scheduled. There were no questions from the Board.

**Education and Outreach:** Sonja referred to the memo written by Sue Uerling included in the packet. Director Nesbitt expressed regret that he was not able to get over to Gunnison Middle School for the 7<sup>th</sup> grader's presentation on their pollinator garden. Sue reported that the kids did a great job both with the gardens themselves and with their presentations. She thanked Director Sara Bergstrom and Beverly Richards for coming to the presentations and taking photos. Gunnison Country Times Editor Bella Biondini was also at the presentation so Sue's hoping we get some good coverage in the newspaper. Sue reported that all of the outdoor education/field trips have been well received.

**Scientific Endeavors:** Director Rosemary Carroll said their scientific community had a retreat about three weeks ago and the group was broken into several specific areas of research for the upcoming Department of Energy study. Rosemary will be in charge of the hydrology group. Rosemary said they spent a lot of time just discussing what drought is and what has the greatest affects on hydrology (e.g., a warm week in April, a hot month of August, getting all of your snow in December and then none the rest of the season). These will be the types of questions her group will be studying. Rosemary really encouraged staff and others like Director Nania to reach out to Ken Williams directly with specifics about data collection they are specifically interested in.

**Gunnison River Festival (GRF):** Director Joellen Fonken reported that there will be a meeting of the GRF Board on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> in the UGRWCD Board Room. At that meeting, she will formally submit her resignation as the Director of the Gunnison River Festival after serving in this role for 10 years. A search for Joellen's replacement has begun. Joellen was thanked for her service.

**Mt. Emmons Land Exchange:** Director Julie Nania reported that the Mt. Emmons Mining Company (MEMC) land exchange received approval for the exchange of four parcels of land. The withdrawal of these lands from mineral exploration means that these lands will be free from mineral entry for the next 20 years.

Once MEMC releases their claims, the lands surrounding Mt. Emmons will not be open to additional exploration for the duration of the withdrawal. As a part of this land exchange, there are some small, but direct water rights that will become available and the US Forest Service has said they are not interested in these water rights. Although the public comment period recently ended, Julie said there would still be opportunities for the District to provide input through the Water Quality Control Commission process to express any concerns related to minerals in the water. She wanted the District to be aware of this and said she would be happy to talk individually with anyone who wants more details or has questions.

## **9. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) annual conference is December 14-16, 2022 at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. Sonja asked if any of the Board members were interested in attending. She, John McClow, Beverly Richards and Cheryl Cwelich will be attending from the staff and the District can register any Board members also interested in attending. John McClow noted that typically there about 1,000 people who attend this conference and this year's conference includes a tour of the Hoover Dam. Director McPhail and Director Perusek expressed an interest but said they would need to check their calendars. The District will send a reminder email to the Board.

Sonja also wanted the Board to know that she wrote a letter of support for Hannah Cranor to be selected for a "water fellows program" being offered through the Department of Agriculture. For this program, they are looking for rising stars from within our younger generation of agricultural producers and Sonja felt Hannah fit this bill perfectly. The Department of Agriculture will make their selection in November.

## **10. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

No citizens requested to speak.

## **11. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Information on future meetings was included in the Board packet.

Water Resource Specialist, Beverly Richards noted that the next Watershed Management Planning meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. (instead of Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> as was listed in the packet) due to a scheduling conflict for staff.

## **12. SUMMARY OF MEETING ACTION ITEMS**

General Counsel John McClow will work on the resolution and draft a letter as required by the State of Colorado to Decline All Participation in the Colorado FAMLJ Program.

General Manager Chavez and General Counsel McClow will work on a parental leave policy to present to the Board.

Director Bill Nesbitt will work with Sonja and Jill to determine the best solution to getting the Gunnison Bank and Trust account back under the \$250,000 FDIC insurance threshold.

General Manager Chavez will work with staff to send out the updated Cloud Seeding Program participant letter.

Staff will reach out to interested Directors about travel arrangements for CRWUA.

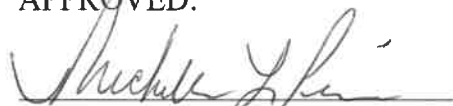
**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Michelle Pierce adjourned the October 24, 2022 meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Perusek, Secretary

APPROVED:

  
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Michelle Pierce, President