

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 20, 2026, 4 pm

Attendance

A Regular Meeting of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Monday, April 20, 2026, at 4 pm in person at 4760 West Highway160 Suite A2 and on Zoom.

The following Directors were present in person: Joe Tedder, Chuck Riehm, Randy Cooper, John Kappelman, and Rod Proffitt. Also present in person was Sally High (SJWCD Executive Assistant).

Attending on Zoom were Director Candace Jones, Jeff Kane (SJWCD Attorney), Christa Chagra. and Randi Pierce (Pagosa Sun).

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by Director Riehm at 4:06 pm. A quorum was present.

Revisions to Agenda and Approval of Agenda

No revisions to the agenda were necessary.

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interests were identified.

Opportunity for Public Comment (limit to 3 minutes)

No public comment was offered.

Consideration of Executive Session

San Juan Water Conservancy District entered Executive Session pursuant to section 24-6-402(4) of the Colorado Revised Statutes to receive advice from their attorney and discuss *matters concerning the transfer or sale of real, personal or other property interest pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(a) of the Colorado Revised Statutes, discussion of positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S., all regarding the potential sale of the Running Iron Ranch on the initiative of the Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District and related litigation (Case No. 24CV30069 filed in Archuleta County District Court), settlement negotiations, mediation, and public statements.*

Director Riehm read the legal language that stated reasons for Directors to enter Executive Session. Director Riehm moved to enter Executive Session for the specific purposes of receiving legal advice and discussion. Director Cooper seconded. A roll call vote resulted in unanimous approval. Randi Pierce and Christa Chagra were placed in the Zoom waiting room. Executive Session commenced shortly after 4:10 pm.

At 5:40 pm, Director Jones moved to end Executive Session. Director Cooper seconded. A roll call vote resulted in unanimous approval. Randi Pierce and Christa Chagra were readmitted to the Special Meeting.

Consideration of Actions Related to Next Steps in Negotiations regarding Running Iron Ranch

As a result of an in-depth discussion of legalities in Executive Session, no actions were needed and none were taken. Directors Kappelman and Cooper volunteered to serve as the committee to move the existing agreement with PAWSD forward. Directors Riehm and Tedder volunteered to serve as needed. Director Jones moved to approve the committee. Director Cooper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Attorney's Report

Jeff Kane assured directors that his attention to the pending Water Rights cases continues. Kane will alert directors in a future meeting when action needs to be taken.

Consideration of Expiring Board Terms

Directors considered the three board terms that expired on March 21, 2026. Bill Nobles submitted a letter of resignation. Director Jones explained that she intended to continue serving on the board through the resolution of the litigation with PAWSD. She will submit a letter to Jeff who will file it with Judge Fay. The intention of Director Nossaman is not known, but she has expressed a willingness to continue to serve until she can be replaced. Director Proffitt moved to accept the reappointment of Director Jones. Director Cooper seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Consideration of Treasurer's Report

Director Tedder included in the Board Packet a Year-to-Date Budget Versus Actual spread sheet through April 17, 2026. He included an AIR form detailing financial actions through the same date. Director Riehm moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Director Proffitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Election of Officers

Directors agreed on the following officers to serve for the coming year:
President – Randy Cooper

Vice President – Chuck Riehm
Secretary – Rod Proffitt
Treasurer – Joe Tedder.

Approval was unanimous and appreciation was expressed.

Consideration of Running Iron Ranch Issues Including RJH Engineering Proposal

Director Cooper described the most recent communications with RJH. They recommended that the next step should be to conduct a comprehensive supply and demand study for all water uses and all relevant geographic areas around SJWCD. RJH also recommended working with Confluence Water Consulting, a Colorado-based firm. RJH will submit a proposal to SJWCD in approximately three weeks. Director Cooper stated that the supply and demand study could take as much as a year and would require cooperation from various local entities.

Director Riehm agreed to contact the Nature Conservancy to receive clarification about the Nature Conservancy grant opportunity for drought mitigation. Conversations with RJH has already been undertaken.

Director Riehm gathered relevant information about the fencing needs at Running Iron Ranch while touring the perimeter with Steve Laverty, owner of adjacent ranch property. Riehm received a recommendation for a fencer at approximately \$35 an hour for refencing the entire property or repairing only the fence that is damaged. Director Jones moved to engage the recommended fence repair person for either the entire fence or the portions in need of repair. Director Proffitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Sponsorship of Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP) Film Festival's Water Films

Director Cooper moved to contribute a \$500 Sponsorship to the nonprofit GGP for purposes of public education. Director Riehm seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Updates from Directors

- Director Tedder described the WRAP (Wildfire Ready Action Plan) grant process being undertaken by San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP). Matt Ford, Al Pfister, and Monica Nigon are writing a first draft that will be ready in coming weeks. The ask is \$400,000 (total) and a 25% match is needed. SJHFHP will be raising the necessary \$100,000 from various stakeholders.
- The 2026 Southwest Water Conservation District Seminar at Sky Ute was a valuable networking opportunity with emotional messaging about the drought and ongoing Colorado River negotiations.
- Director Proffitt and Christa Chagra met with Tim McGee, the Center for Sustainable Development.
- Water Information Program Children's Water Festival is May 13.

- Director Tedder will attend a three-hour strategy session to benefit Headwaters.

Approval of Record of Proceedings from March 16 Special Meeting

Director Cooper moved to approve the Records of Proceedings from March 16. Director Riehm seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

A Special Meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 18, at 4 pm. There being no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

By /s/ Sally High

Executive Assistant for Board of Directors

DISTRICT SEAL

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