

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING – MARCH 16, 2026, 4 pm

Attendance

A Special Meeting of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Monday, March 16, 2025, at 4 pm in person at 4760 West Highway 160 Suite A2 and on Zoom.

The following Directors were present in person: Candace Jones, Joe Tedder, Chuck Riehm, Randy Cooper, Rob Hagberg, Bill Nobles, John Kappelman, and Susan Nossaman. Also present in person was Sally High (SJWCD Executive Assistant).

Attending on Zoom were Director Rod Proffitt, Jeff Kane (SJWCD Attorney), and Randi Pierce (2 phone lines, Pagosa Sun).

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by Director Jones at 4:00 pm. A quorum was present.

Revisions to Agenda and Approval of Agenda

No revisions to the agenda were necessary. Director Nossaman moved to approve the agenda. Director Hagberg seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

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 Jones read the legal language that stated reasons for Directors to enter Executive Session. Director Nobles 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. The Pagosa Sun on Zoom was placed in the Zoom waiting room. Executive Session commenced shortly after 4:00 pm.

At 4:54 pm, Director Hagberg moved to end Executive Session. Director Nobles seconded. A roll call vote resulted in unanimous approval. Randi Pierce was readmitted to the Special Meeting.

Consideration of Actions Discussed in Executive Session

Director Jones read the following statement describing the terms of agreement with PAWSD from 3/13/26 mediation.

“On Friday, March 13, the Conservancy District board and PAWSD representatives engaged in a mediation process aimed at resolving the Running Iron Ranch litigation. In the Friday session, the Districts were able to outline a framework for resolving the litigation. The framework is a step forward. If the Districts can implement it successfully, the framework will lead to a final resolution over the coming months.

Today, we discussed the framework in executive session, and we will consider now in public session a motion to proceed with negotiations along the lines the framework provides. The PAWSD board noticed a special meeting for this evening to do the same. Because the framework is not a final agreement and negotiations are continuing, we agreed to keep the framework between the boards for now. Our goal and, we believe, the goal of PAWSD board members is to reach a mutually beneficial resolution of the Districts’ long-running dispute over the Running Iron Ranch.

We look forward to cooperation between the boards to reach a final settlement. When that happens and this board is asked to approve a final settlement, we will discuss specific terms of the settlement in public session.”

Director Cooper moved to approve the statement and the continuing appointment of Directors Jones and Riehm to communicate with legal counsel. Director Nobles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Attorney’s Report

Jeff Kane reminded Directors that the BLM Treasure Pass Ditch, CPW Piedra Pass, and Hidden Valley Ranch cases are moving forward and no action is needed at this time. The Caribou Ditch case is ready for SJWCD action. Director Hagberg moved to

approve the unstipulated decree explained by the attorney. Director Cooper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Treasurer's Report

Director Tedder included in the Board Packet a Year to Date Budget Versus Actual spread sheet through March 13, 2026. He included an AIR form detailing financial actions through the same date. Director Riehm moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Director Hagberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of RJH Engineering Proposal

Directors Cooper and Riehm explained that the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) stated that the SJWCD/RJH Feasibility Study, submitted in February, was not complete enough for consideration. The deficits in the information provided in February, to be prioritized in the future, included:

- Market, supply and demand
- Alternatives to the reservoir
- Economic analysis
- Project implementation costs and detailed budget for management.

It is unknown when the next BoRec process will be made public. RJH discontinued their work, but stands ready to move forward as directed by SJWCD. Directors Cooper and Riehm agreed to continue to lead SJWCD in the relationship with RJH. The submitted Feasibility Study was posted on the sjwcd.org website in February 2026.

Updates from Directors

- March 25 is next interactive community meeting to consider county issues, including water planning. The location is the Springs Resort and Commissioner John Ranson is host. Start time is 5 pm.
- Sunday, April 26, is the Earth Day celebration the River Walk. No Directors spoke up agreeing to participate. Director Jones will inform the organizers that SJWCD will not participate this year.
- Director Hagberg attended the 3-2-3 Meeting in Espanola on February 24 and 25. Networking was the most valuable part of his experience.
- Director Tedder provided updates from the Headwaters' group (SJHFHP). Mountain Studies Institute has been replaced by Water Enhancement Project (WEP) to act as fiscal sponsor. A grant application to create a Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP) is being written. Approximately \$400,000 is needed and SJHFHP would need to supply approximately \$100,000 in matching funds. WRAP is not time-constrained, but applications can be submitted to CWCB at any time. Experienced contractors and current land holders have been contacted.

Discussion of Expiring Board Terms

Three Board terms expire on March 27. A notice appeared in the Sun and is posted on the website. Director Nobles submitted his resignation. After the resolution of the court case with PAWSD, Director Jones does not plan to renew her board position. Director Nossman is undecided about whether or not to resign at this time. Director Tedder reminded the board that officers for 2026 need to be elected.

Approval of Record of Proceedings from February 16

Director Nobles moved to approve the Records of Proceedings from February 16. Director Kappelman seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

A Regular Meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 20, at 4 pm. There being no further business to come before the Board, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

By /s/ Sally High

Executive Assistant for Board of Directors

DISTRICT SEAL

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