MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MIDDLE PARK WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
Kremmling Town Hall

Virtual Option via Microsoft Teams
https://tinyurl.com/5528d7ue
Meeting ID: 247 371 293 867 69 Passcode: zD2Uk2nk
To Join By Phone: 1-872-256-3960 Phone Conference ID: 116 570 549#

April 8, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Directors:
- Jack Buchheister – President
- Jim Lenzotti – Secretary
- Mike Eytel – Treasurer
- Gary Bumgarner (not present)
- Tom Long
- Geoff Niggeler
- Erin Wilson

Others Present:
- MPWCD Water Resources Consultant & Hydrologist Kristina Wynne
- MPWCD Attorney Kent Whitmer
- MPWCD Attorney Katie Randall
- Neal Misbach, Division 5 Water Commissioner
- Tim Ritschard, Division 5 Water Commissioner
- Daniela Gosselova, Member of the Public (present by Zoom)
- Alan Curtis and Kate Bosch, Curtis, Justus & Zahedi, LLC (present by Zoom)
- Brendon Langenhuizen, Colorado River District
- Russ Knight, Sunset Ridge Property Owners Association

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
The meeting was called to order. New Board members Geoff Niggeler and Erin Wilson took their oaths of office and introduced themselves.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   a. January 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes*
   b. February 11, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes*
   c. Financial/Banking Reports*

- **A motion was made by Tom Long and seconded by Jim Lenzotti to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carries unanimously.**

3. **BOARD ADMINISTRATION**
   a. Introduction of New Board Members
   b. Officer Elections: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer*

- Erin Wilson and Geoff Niggeler introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting; existing Board members and Staff welcomed Erin and Geoff and encouraged them to ask questions as they get up to speed with Middle Park affairs.
- **A motion was made by Mike Eytel and seconded by Jim Lenzotti to elect the officer slate as follows: Jack Buchheister as President, Tom Long as Vice President, Jim Lenzotti as Secretary, Mike Eytel as Treasurer. Tom Long abstained, motion carries.**

4. TROUBLESOME PROJECT – DEED OF WATER RIGHTS TO EAST FORK MUTUAL IRRIGATION COMPANY*

- Kent Whitmer provided a summary of the history of the specific water rights in question. The Troublesome Project water rights are a portfolio of water rights located North of Kremmling. A portion of those water rights were developed in the 1970s by the East Fork Mutual Irrigation Company. The Irrigation Company paid for all of the improvements and has been using a portion of the Troublesome Project rights pursuant to an agreement with MPWCD that allowed for their perpetual use of the water rights. A member of the Irrigation Company Board approached MPWCD with a request that the water rights be transferred to the Irrigation Company rather than being held in MPWCD's name and used/operated by the Irrigation Company pursuant to the agreement. Kent again advised MPWCD that he has a conflict of interest in this matter, since he is a shareholder of the Irrigation Company and President of the Board. Gary Bumgarner is a shareholder of the Irrigation Company as well. Given Kent's conflict of interest, Kent has recommended that independent counsel be engaged to advise the Board about the transfer request and to effectuate the transfer if so desired. At a previous meeting the Board decided to engage the firm of Curtis, Justus & Zahedi, LLC for this purpose.
- Alan Curtis introduced himself and his associate Kate Bosh and explained the draft transfer documents that were included in the meeting materials. Alan and Kate fielded questions from the Board. Following discussion, Jack Buchheister suggested sending the drafts to the Irrigation Company for review and comment, then Alan can advise the MPWCD Board accordingly. Jack also explained how invoices and bills are processed by MPWCD upon receipt from Curtis, Justus & Zahedi. Alan and Kate left the meeting at this time.

5. REPORTS

a. Attorney (Attorney Report/Action Items Status List)

- Kent Whitmer noted that the Attorney Report and Action Items Status List were included in the meeting materials and invited questions from the Board.

b. Hydrologist (BBA Report)

- Kristina Wynne noted that her report was included in the meeting materials and invited questions from the Board. Kristina noted that reservoir storage had increased slightly since the report went out, and discussed recent administration of the Colorado

River and potential calls that could come on in the near future. The most recent projections from Northern and the Bureau indicate that they will not be pumping any Windy Gap water. BBA has been receiving a lot of calls from contractees who have not historically used their MPWCD contract water and are now looking to do so. Much of this is likely driven by the expectation that Green Mountain Reservoir will fill only about 50%, with a limited HUP pool. The situation is very dynamic right now. Last year MPWCD ordered 525af from Wolford Mountain Reservoir; this amount was a conservative order based on normal hydrology, but water users are needing new and different supplies in 2026 due to dry conditions. Discussion followed. **Following discussion, Tom Long made a motion to order 600 acre-feet of Wolford water from the River District this year. Motion was seconded by Jim Lenzotti and carries unanimously.**

6. **ANNUAL AUDIT**
   a. Acceptance of 2025 Audit*

- The Audit report was included in the meeting materials and was discussed. **A motion was made by Tom Long to accept the 2025 audit. Jim Lenzotti seconded, motion carries unanimously.**

7. **ESTABLISHMENT OF 2027 WATER SERVICE AND USE FEES***
- A proposed rate schedule was included in the meeting materials and was discussed. Kent and Katie gave an explanation of the increases proposed. **Following discussion, a motion was made by Jim Lenzotti and seconded by Mike Eytel to approve the 2027 rates as presented. Motion carries unanimously.** Jack noted that the pricing for Windy Gap contracts may need to be revisited when the Windy Gap Firming Project is complete.

8. **WOLFORD MOUNTAIN REQUEST AND PAYMENT CRWCD***
- This item was already discussed and a motion passed; no further action is needed.

9. **WATER RIGHTS**
   a. Fraser Valley Project Diligence Applications Due Summer 2026

- Kent Whitmer provided a summary of the District's water rights in the Fraser Valley. Two diligence applications will be due this summer for water rights associated with the Fraser Valley Project. The application due in July is for Ranch Creek rights; Middle Park is the co-applicant with the River District and Grand County. Conversations are already underway as to drafting of the application. The application due in August is for the Fraser Valley rights, where MPWCD is the sole applicant. Kent recommends moving forward with diligence applications for both sets of water rights. **A motion was made by Tom Long and seconded by Erin Wilson to move forward with drafting and filing the Fraser Valley Project diligence applications this summer. Motion carries unanimously.**

10. WATER CONTRACTS

a. Granby Development Co. Short-Term Supply Request*

- Kent Whitmer provided a summary of the short-term contract request that was included in the meeting materials. The request is for 1.6 acre-feet of Sunset Ridge water, and 1.6 acre-feet of mixed Windy Gap/Wolford supplies. The applicant has made similar requests in the past, which have been approved with caveats related to supplies in Sunset Ridge Pond. Kent read the caveats from the most recent approval letter and recommends similar caveats for this year's approval as well, if the Board decides to approve. Kristina Wynne noted that this is the fourth year of the applicant's SWSP, of five years total allowed under 308(5). The applicant is working to get an augmentation plan in place, and the applicant plans to come back to the Board with a permanent contract request in the near future. Discussion followed. **A motion was made by Tom Long and seconded by Mike Eytel to approve this short-term contract request at the rate of $1100/af for 1.6af of Sunset Ridge water, and the prevailing rates for a mixed contract of Wolford and Windy Gap supplies. Motion carries unanimously.**

11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Resolution in Recognition of Service – Sean Flanigan*

- Included in the meeting materials was a letter to the Flanigan family and a resolution in recognition of Sean's service on the MPWCD Board. Tom Long requested that the resolution be revised to reflect Sean's service as Vice President of the Board. **A motion to approve the letter to the Flanigan family and the resolution as amended was made by Tom Long and seconded by Mike Eytel. Motion carries unanimously.**

b. Ron Jones Pond Project Update

- Katie Randall noted that the contracting process is underway with GEI Consultants now that an agreement has been reached with the landowner.

c. Discussion about District Administration & Bookkeeping

- Kent Whitmer reported that JVAM has hired a part-time employee whose sole job will be to do bookkeeping for MPWCD. Training starts next week and will continue for the next few months.

c. Open Discussion and Direction to Staff

- Kent Whitmer noted that the conversation about a public outreach/education campaign was tabled pending appointment of new members to the Board. Now that we have Geoff and Erin on the team, the conversation can begin to move forward again. Jack recommended further discussion of this topic at the long-term planning session in September.

- Kent Whitmer also noted that he's been approached by a landowner in the Fraser Valley who is interested in a potential partnership with Middle Park along St. Louis Creek. BBA is evaluating and gathering information.

12. OPEN FORUM

- Russ Knight provided an update on the work that's been done on the Sunset Ridge Pond. Lucas Babbitt has been engaged to do a feasibility study for potential improvements to the pond and adjacent river stretch. A beaver dam is impacting the river and pond operations. SRPOA is continuing to search for funding opportunities to conduct further feasibility analysis, and hopes that MPWCD will continue to be a partner in these efforts. Board discussion followed.
- Daniela Gosselova provided suggestions about public outreach and education effort The Board thanked her for her input.

13. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Jim Lenzotti, Secretary