



# Garfield County

## Board of Commissioners Agenda Request Form

This form must be completed and attached to all supporting documentation for items to be included in the Garfield County Board of Commissioners Agenda. One (1) form is required per agenda item.

Department/Agency: WEST DIVIDE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Submitted By: SAM POTTER, PRESIDENT

Phone Number: 970-625-5461 O;970-309-3030 cell E-mail: water@wdwcd.org;samisbmo7@gmail.com

Date of Board of Commissioners Meeting to consider this item: MAY 4, 2026

Must be submitted by Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. prior to Monday meeting)

Topic: LEASE OF GARFIELD COUNTY RUEDI II WATER

Description (short summary of topic): WDWCD IS SHORT OF WATER SUPPLIES TO LEGALLY OPERATE ITS AUGMENTATION PROGRAMS DUE TO CURRENT DROUGHT LOCATED PRIMARILY IN GARFIELD COUNTY AND ADJOINING AREAS WHERE IT ALSO HAS IGAS .

Name(s) of presenters: SAM POTTER

Requested Board Actions (if funding is requested, specify amount): LEASE OF 200 ACRE FEET OF GARCO WATER TO MITIGATE CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND KEEP WDWCD'S AUG. PLANS OPERABLE

**PLEASE PROVIDE:** Seven (7) paper copies and one (1) E-mail copy of all documentation to support the agenda request to Vola Mercer, email: [vmercerc@garfieldcountyco.gov](mailto:vmercerc@garfieldcountyco.gov) or mail to 108 8<sup>th</sup> Street, #101, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601, no later than Wednesday, 11 a.m. prior to the Monday meeting. Failure to provide backup material timely and as requested may result in removal or continuance of your agenda item at the County's discretion.

For office use only:

Where does item need to appear: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials Received: \_\_\_\_\_

County Funds requested: \_\_\_\_\_

## Garfield County BOCC Lease of Ruedi Contract Water to WDWCD

- 2026 is shaping up to be one of the driest years in Colorado’s history.
- WDWCD operates several decreed plans for augmentation that benefit hundreds of rural water users across Garfield County.
  - West Divide operates several augmentation programs that are in place and provide legal water supplies for junior water users so that they can continue to use water even during times of administration when their uses would otherwise be curtailed.
- 2026 Hydrology is resulting in reduced water supplies and extended administrative call durations like we have never seen before.
  - WDWCD’s Green Mountain Reservoir water is not available (200 AF)
  - We have had to schedule replacement supplies for May and June which are typically free river conditions.
  - While WDWCD planned for and has the ability to deliver water replacements in the worst of the recorded dry years, this unprecedented year is resulting in West Divide needing additional water supplies for augmentation.
- WDWCD is requesting the lease of 200 AF of Garfield County Ruedi contract water which will:
  - Allow for continued operation of existing plans for augmentation;
  - Allow “business as usual” to allow for additional contracts to be issued;
  - Allow “emergency” supplies to be granted for water users, not yet identified, needing a short-term solution this year;
  - Allow operations with the SWCD that are typically done under “free-river” conditions to be done using contract water;
  - Allow a buffer for potentially increased transit loss assessments or availability of Ruedi II shortfalls.
- Considering a 10% increase in contracts, shortages are projected at:

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Projected Shortages	-7.7	-47.8	-9.6	-7.9	-6.5	-5.9	-4.8	-90.1

- We anticipate additional water users reaching out for augmentation services in this unprecedented year.
  - Any excess water in WDWCD plans and accounting can be made available for other users through coordination with Division 5 Water Resources.