

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL MEETING CANVASSING ELECTION RESULTS OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

**OCTOBER 10, 2025 - 10:00 A.M.**

Directors having been duly notified; Chairman John P. Kelly called the special meeting to order at 10:10 am. The following Directors and Staff were present:

| <b>DIRECTORS</b>               |         | <b>STAFF</b>    |                                |
|--------------------------------|---------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| John P. Kelly, Chairman        | Present | Jason Casuga    | Chief Engineer/CEO             |
| Colin T. Baugh, Vice Chairman  | Present | Lorna Wiggins   | General Counsel                |
| Brian Jiron, Director          | Present | Pamela Fanelli  | Secretary-Treasurer/CFO        |
| Stephanie Russo Baca, Director | Present | Christine Nardi | Director of Human Resources    |
| Glen Duggins, Director         | Absent  | Eric Zamora     | Director of Technical Services |
| Michael T. Sandoval, Director  | Present | Amanda Molina   | Director of Communications     |
| Karen Dunning, Director        | Present | Casey Ish       | Director of Lands/Conservation |

The following names of individuals were interested viewers, callers and/or participants

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Tim Smith, AES      | DeAnna Philips, MRGCD  |
| Picasso Montez, AES | Josh Hind, MRGCD       |
| Chris Lopez         | Tarah Jaramillo, MRGCD |

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Dunning led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

Chairman Kelly declared a quorum, and the meeting was publicly noticed. This meeting was a hybrid meeting with Director Duggins absent. Rollcall votes will not be necessary for regular motions.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA**. Seconded by Vice Chairman Baugh. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - CANVASSING OF RESULTS - Tim Smith, Automated Election Services**

Mr. Smith read the summary of the results of the canvass, which were Karen Dunning for Bernalillo County Director, Position 3, Colin T. Baugh for Bernalillo County Director, Position 4, Joe Christopher Lopez for Socorro County Director, Position 6, and Michael T. Sandoval for Sandoval County, Position 7. He stated that the total votes cast in the 2025 MRGCD Election was 259.

Director Dunning asked if they encountered any problems at any of the voting locations or if there was anything they learned from the election.

Mr. Smith responded that they need to put more effort in poll worker training and maybe provide a book at each site on how to operate the equipment and the process.

Director Russo Baca stated she received a call that someone tried to vote, and it was closed down, and she also noted that there were no votes at the Northern Socorro Senior Center.

Mr. Smith answered that the poll worker that was assigned that day was a no show, and at the Northern Socorro Senior Center, no one showed up to vote. He said there was a provisional there, but it was rejected.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked Mr. Smith if this was the lowest voting turnout he has seen in the District.

Mr. Smith answered yes, by a significant margin.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked what is the best way for the District going forward to engage a deeper voter base and advertise it. He also asked if they had put out signs for the locations.

Mr. Smith responded that he feels the biggest way to get maximum turnout is to move to a hybrid type election and incorporate a mass mailout to help reach a significant number of voters while still maintaining a few poll sites for people to show up and vote if they wish. He stated that they will improve on signage. He added that Mr. Casuga recommended having giant signs that say no one will be turned away for the next election.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked if they had a number on how many people were turned away or not found in the data system.

Mr. Smith explained that since it is an ID required election, they request ID from the voter and the poll workers use that for voter lookup, but sometimes the legal name on the ID does not match the name on a deed. He did not have a number for how many people were turned away, but he personally had five or six call-ins for provisionals that could not be found in the record.

Mr. Casuga added that we do not have a voter registration process, so we have to rely on the data that is processed from the counties on owners of land. He agreed that we need to do a better job in the future and should not be turning away people to vote because we cannot find them in our system. He commented that people who show their IDs but are not found in the system need to be given a provisional ballot and not turned away. He voiced that they knew the votes in this election were going to be low, as there was no competition. He expects the 2027 Election to have higher volumes of votes cast, as they have time to plan for that.

Ms. Wiggins asked how this turnout compared to other uncontested elections they have handled in the past.

Mr. Smith answered that it depends on the agency, as state ran elections that are uncontested are usually just called and they win outright, but those that do still have an election always have a lower turnout with uncontested races.

Director Dunning believes going to a hybrid system might solve the provisional issues.

Mr. Casuga expressed that as they plan for the 2027 election, the hybrid election process will pose unique challenges on how they coordinate with the Pueblos. He said because of the nature of the qualified electors list coming from the Governor's office and the fact that they are not generally given mailing addresses when they come from the Pueblos, it could take two years of planning to make sure everything is organized with the Pueblos.

Chairman Kelly asked if the people that get hand-tallied are notified that their vote counted.

Mr. Smith responded that his understanding is that they do not.

Chairman Kelly said that seems like a good thing to do and common courtesy.

Mr. Casuga responded that they would add that to lessons learned for next time.


Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE DECLARATION OF RESULTS/CERTIFICATION OF OFFICIAL CANVASS** . Seconded by Chairman Kelly. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.


|                   |     |                     |     |
|-------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Chairman Kelly    | Yes | Vice Chairman Baugh | Yes |
| Director Dunning  | Yes | Director Russo Baca | Yes |
| Director Sandoval | Yes | Director Jiron      | Yes |

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Chairman Kelly adjourned the meeting at 10:31 am.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of October 10, 2025.

**ATTESTED:**

  
Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM  
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

  
John P. Kelly, Chairman  
MRGCD Board of Directors

