

## UPPER SNOWMASS CREEK CAUCUS

Minutes 10/19/2026

Attendees: David Berkey, Mark Regan, Bob Helm, Lisanne Rogers, Jan Martin, Dave Hale, Amy Carr (by Phone), Art Martin

Following establishing a quorum, a water report was delivered by Art Martin. Art attended a the SWSD Board Meeting on September 16, 2026 where there was much discussion of the Ziegler Reservoir (ZR) project set to begin this fall among other reports.

The Manager's report reported the following:

- a. Water treatment plant production, a proxy for water consumed in the District, was 74.227 MG in August vs. 85.997 MG for August 2025
- b. Snowmass Creek average stream flow for August of this year was 20.49cfs vs. 25.68 in 2025.

David Berkey and Art Martin met with Kit Hamby, the District General Manager to discuss the Reservoir project which is to expand the capacity of the Reservoir from 82 MG to 122 MG. The District will slowly drain the Reservoir starting in November of this year, and drainage should be concluded by mid-January 2027. The reservoir will be physically enlarged from approximately mid-May 2027-September 2027. The reservoir refill is planned to begin around September 20, 2027. Ideally, the Snowmass Creek (SC) flow will be a minimum of 10cfs in order to refill the Reservoir. If snowfall d levels during the latter half of winter in 2027 are low, there may not be enough water in SC to fill the Reservoir, and so the refill may have to be postponed. If the streamflow is sufficient to allow refilling SC, any impact on other users should be minimal since September 20 is near the end of the irrigation season.

The project being done in partnership with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

The recent rains have improved SC streamflow from as low as 4-6cfs to as much as 50cfs.

On October 14, 2026 Art and David attended the Water and Sanitation meeting where it was reported that SC stream flows reach a high of 56cfs from an August low of 9.76cfs. September average stream flow was 35.5cfs.

The District also reported that calls across the state in 2026 reached down to 1950 rights, a date not seen since the drought of 2002. Unless this winter's snowfall is exceptional, it is expected that reservoirs across the state will again be far from full, necessitating summer calls. It was also noted that water treatment plant production (effectively water use) in Snowmass Village is down 14% from 2025, a continuation of an impressive trend begun in the early 1900s. While the population of the Village has grown substantially, due to conservation and other techniques, water use has decreased.

The discussion turned back to ZR which is projected to cost approximately \$12 million, however, with contingencies, financing costs, etc., \$16 million is being budgeted.

The water drained out of the reservoir will principally go to providing SkiCo for their 2026-2027 snow-making allocation. Any remaining water will likely be put back into SC.

There will be substantial amounts of dirt removed from ZR and trucked elsewhere, but no trucks will use the back way (Snowmass Creek Road) for egress.

Next Snowmass Water and Sanitation District Board meeting is scheduled for 11/18/2026.

The Treasurer's report was delivered by Mark Regan. The Caucus is in strong financial position despite budgeting \$40,000 for fire mitigation work in early spring with Western Vegetation Management. D & O insurance has been secured with a new carrier.

Amy Carr gave the Road and Bridge report noting the cooperative efforts of the Caucus and the R & B staff in trying to find solutions to Watson Divide despite a small R & B budget. Staff has been exploring different surface materials to try and improve the continuous rutting over the road. Staff also asked that the Caucus provide information to residents regarding the role of speed in producing rutting, and requesting drivers slow their roll over the road. Staff requested additionally that a requirement be added to the Caucus's Land Use Applicant's request for approval to mandate no trucks used for the build use Watson Divide.

It was also suggested that representatives from Road and Bridge attend next year's Caucus picnic to answer questions residents may have regarding the issues with Watson Divide.

Mesa resident TJ Anderson had submitted a request to the Board to discuss the possibility of banning the use of pesticides and herbicides in the Caucus area. The matter was discussed with the conclusion being since Colorado State law governs these uses, the Caucus has no say in the matter other than encouraging residents to use as little as possible.

Len Olender's Land Use application was discussed in relation to what the Caucus's purview is in subdivisions' governance of land use. The distinction was made that the Caucus's job is to review application in light of compliance with the County's Land Use Code. The subdivision has broader say in these applications since there could be conflict with Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions pertaining to a particular application.

Jan Martin moved that the Board go into Executive Session. David Berkey seconded and discussion ensued on the potential matching grant process.

After leaving Executive Session the results of the Caucus election were noted. Dave Hale was elected to another two-year term, and Jan Martin tendered her resignation. She requested to remain as an ad hoc representative of the Caucus relating to fire mitigation and was granted the request. Lianne Rogers nominated Amy Carr for Caucus president and Dave Hale seconded. She was elected unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.