

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 12, 2024, 4 pm

Attendance

A Regular Meeting of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Monday, February 12, 2024, at 4 pm in person at 46 Eaton Drive Suite 5 and on Zoom.

The following Directors were present in person: Rob Hagberg, Candace Jones, Joe Tedder, Chuck Riehm, Bill Nobles, and Susan Nossaman. Also present were Sally High (SJWCD Executive Assistant), Josh Pike (Pagosa Sun), Christi Bode-Skeie (Moxiecran Media), Bill Hudson (PAWSD Board and Pagosa Daily Post).

Directors attending by Zoom were Doug Secrist and Rod Proffitt. Jeff Kane (SJWCD Attorney) also attended by Zoom.

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by Chairman Candace Jones at 4:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

Revisions to Agenda

The Board considered Revisions to the Agenda and no need to revise items was identified as the meeting began.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The Board considered Declarations of Conflict of Interest. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

Public Comment (Three Minute Limit)

Chairman Jones opened the meeting to public comment. Bill Hudson (PAWSD Board and Pagosa Daily Post) offered his opinions to the SJWCD Directors. Mr. Hudson stated that he was commenting as himself and not representing the

PAWSD Board, however his comments were in response to SJWCD's January 18 letter to PAWSD. He stated that, although the letter asked for open communication and increased cooperation from PAWSD, SJWCD did not cooperate with PAWSD and did not take PAWSD's advice. Mr. Hudson was thanked for his comments.

Consideration of Attorney's Report

SJWCD Attorney, Jeff Kane, reported that one board seat was open and provided an updated Director Roster. Director Proffitt had submitted a letter requesting reappointment to the court.

Kane reviewed four pending Water Rights Cases for the Board. The Board Packet included written details of each of the pending four Water Rights Cases:

1. BLM Treasure Pass Ditch Water Rights Cases – 21CW3029 (Div. 7) and 21CW3014 (Div. 3),
2. Bootjack Ranch Application for Diligence and to Make Partially Absolute – Phillipps Ditch Irrigation Return Flow (22CW3044)
3. Bootjack Ranch Application for new Chipper's Lake Pumping Station and Lodge Pond Water Rights (22CW3049)
4. Colorado Parks and Wildlife Applications for Piedra Pass Transbasin Water Rights from Piedra River and West Fork, San Juan River - Case Numbers 22CW3050 (Div. 7) and 22CW3049 (Div. 3)

Kane also sent Directors a relevant news report describing the San Luis Valley's shortage of and increased cost of irrigation water, negatively impacting their agricultural economy. Kane answered Directors' questions. No further action was necessary. The attorney will continue to update SJWCD Directors.

Discussion of SJWCD's Three-Part Film Series

Filmmaker Christi Bode of Moxiecran Media presented her timeline and general description of planning three 6-minute films in 2024.

1. Introduction to the Upper San Juan Watershed: Geography, Ecological Functioning, Tributaries, and Rivers
2. Water Uses and Needs: Environmental, Recreational, Cultural, Tribal, Agricultural, Industrial, and Municipal

3. Threats and Future of our Water Supply

Director Tedder suggested the possible need for a 4th film – Transmountain Diversions.

Southwest Basin Roundtable approved SJWCD's application for funding in October 2023 and CWCB is expected to concur in March 2024. \$20,250 is expected to reach SJWCD in June. Directors discussed the need for a not-to-exceed contract with Moxiecran, so that Christi could get footage of snowpack and early seasonal water changes. Director Tedder stated that a contract with Moxiecran Media would be considered later in the agenda.

Consideration of Treasurer's Report

Directors considered two spreadsheets submitted by Director Tedder, Treasurer, in the Board Packet: 1) the final 2023 Budget versus Actual and 2) the February 8 2024 Year to Date balance and End of Year Forecast.

Director Hagberg moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Director Nobles seconded. Approval was unanimous.

2023 Budget Resolution and related documents was submitted to Colorado Department of Local Affairs on time at the end of January.

SJWCD's representation with Colorado Trust needed to be updated, due to board changes. Director Hagberg moved that Authorized Users (SJWCD Representatives) be Directors Tedder, Jones, and Riehm. Director Nobles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Check Signing Authority

Director Nobles moved to ratify the changes to SJWCD's Check Signing Authority with TBK Bank. Authorized signers now include Directors Tedder, Jones, Riehm, Secrist, and Nossaman. Director Hagberg seconded. Acceptance was unanimous.

Consideration of Approval of Record of Proceedings from 1/9 Regular Meeting

Director Hagberg moved to approve the Record of Proceedings from SJWCD's January 9 Regular Meeting. Director Riehm seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Chair Report and Outreach Updates

- WEP's Non-Consumptive Water Needs Assessment was added to SJWCD.org.
- Director Hagberg attended the recent Roundtable meeting in person. Director Jones attended by Zoom. Both described their participation as valuable. Highpoints included
 1. Three upcoming webinars by CWCB to include clarifications of the Colorado River Infographic.
 2. Dave Kanzer, CWCB, is working on a study integrating risk assessment, drought, and hydrology. Director Jones stated that Kanzer would be an excellent speaker to invite to Pagosa for a SJWCD public presentation.
 3. SOIL Moisture survey by Colorado State University.
 4. Legislative Task Force and relevant statewide initiatives.
- Former Director Pfister and Director Jones met by telephone with Blake Mamich, CO Water Trust, who helps buy water rights.
- Southwestern Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting is Wednesday March 27 at Sky Ute Casino.
- Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) meeting is February 27 in Golden with a hybrid option. IBCC meeting is in Durango in June. The C-9 Summit meeting is in Crested Butte in October 2024.
- Water Information Program (WIP). Director Tedder talked with Elaine Chick, director. The 2024 Children's Water Festival is May 15 at Fort Lewis College and is looking for volunteers. Ms. Chick asked for a SJWCD article about 2024 plans for the 9 Basin Newsletter. Director Tedder will write.

Consideration of Adoption of 2024 Strategic Objectives

Directors considered the 2024 Strategic Objectives, included in the Board Packet. Director Hagberg moved to adopt the three 2024 Strategic Objectives without changes. Director Riehm seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SJWCD's 2024 Strategic Objectives

1. Advance the San Juan Headwaters Project as one resource for meeting environmental, recreational, industrial, agricultural, and municipal water needs of the SJWCD community.

2. Identify complementary and supplementary uses for the Running Iron Ranch property and initiate programs with suitable partners to develop the particular uses.

3. Educate the SJWCD community about water resource issues facing the Upper San Juan Basin and define the public position on the construction of a reservoir.

Directors emphasized Objective 1's goal of communicating with CWCB as the most important step that was made clear in the 1/22 Work Session. Director Jones stated that she intends to contact Steve Wolff of Southwestern Water Conservation District to initiate a relationship with CWCB and Russ Sands, CWCB Water Planning.

Discussion of Board Members' Participation in Strategic Objectives

After discussion, Board Members agreed to participate in the following committees:

Strategic Objective One – Bill Nobles, Chuck Riehm, Rod Proffitt, Doug Secrist (Candace Jones)

Strategic Objective Two – Rob Hagberg, Chuck Riehm, Bill Nobles, Rod Proffitt, Doug Secrist (Candace Jones)

Strategic Objective Three – Bill Nobles, Joe Tedder, Susan Nossaman, Rob Hagberg (Candace Jones)

Each director is encouraged to join any Strategic Objective Work Session or participate in any action she or he chooses. Work Sessions involving two or more directors must be noticed. Director Jones wants the board to use and share an e-calendar.

Discussion of Board Members' Participation in Water Organizations

Directors agreed that increasing SJWCD's visibility by participating in regional and state water organizations is desirable. Director Jones shared a Google doc with two tabs – local and regional – for board members to list the organizations and meetings. An effort will be made to alert directors to upcoming meetings. Each director is encouraged to attend any meeting she or he chooses. Directors will share relevant information during the Chairman's Updates at a subsequent meeting.

Miscellaneous Comments Ending Meeting

More than one link to relevant acronyms and vocabulary are under SJWCD's Strategic Plan on SJWCD.org. Refer to Strategic Plan pp. 36-48.

Director Tedder revisited the need to compensate Moxiecran Media so that Christi "doesn't slow down" in her film production. Moving Contingency funds to Public Education is a possibility. CWCB grant funds will be sent in June after a March approval. A contract could be written and reviewed by Director Jones and Attorney Kane before March. All directors will approve at the Special Meeting in March. Director Tedder moved that a contract be written allocating an amount not to exceed \$15,000, with a checkpoint in March, so that Christi can get started. Director Hagberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm. A date for a March Special Meeting was not set.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
By /s/ Sally High
Executive Assistant for Board of Directors

DISTRICT SEAL