

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 17, 2024, 4 pm

Attendance

A Regular Meeting of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Wednesday, June 17, 2024, at 4 pm in person at 46 Eaton Drive Suite 5.

The following Directors were present in person: Chuck Riehm, Susan Nossaman, Rob Hagberg, Rod Proffitt, and Bill Nobles.

Also present in person were Sally High (SJWCD Executive Assistant), Bill Hudson (PAWSD Board and Pagosa Daily Post), and Josh Pike (Pagosa Springs SUN).

Attending by Zoom were: Candace Jones (SJWCD Chair), Randy Cooper (Prospective SJWCD Director), Jeff Kane (SJWCD Attorney), Renee Lewis (PAWSD administrator).

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by Vice Chairman Chuck Riehm at 4:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

Revisions to the Agenda

The Board considered Revisions to the Agenda. No Revisions were needed.

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

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

Public Comment (3-minute limit)

Bill Hudson (PAWSD and Pagosa Daily Post) stated that he was commenting as a private citizen, not a PAWSD Director. Mr. Hudson objected to three points in the notes from Al Pfister's Exit Interview: 1) population growth predictions by Wilson Water Group, 2) reservoir water storage needed for fire protection, and 3) J.R. Ford's involvement in purchase of Hidden Valley. Director Riehm thanked Mr. Hudson for his comments.

Consideration of Attorney's Report

Jeff Kane informed Directors about three water cases.

Regarding the Treasure Pass Ditch case, Status Conferences in both Division 3 and Division 7 have taken place. The applicant, Bureau of Land Management, agreed with Southwestern Water Conservation District's terms in their proposed decree. A revised decree is expected in August.

Boot Jack Ranch amended their Lodge Pond application from the April proposed decree. Attorney Kane was in communication with the Division of Water Resources about SJWCD's concerns and was attempting to reach the attorney for CWCB that also opposed Boot Jack's application.

Regarding the Piedra Pass Ditch cases, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has been silent.

Consideration of Treasurer's Report

Director Tedder placed an AIR form and a Budget versus Actual report through June 12 in the Board Packet. Director Jones summarized the Treasurer's notes found in his AIR form. Director Nobles moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Director Hagberg seconded. The increased Park Ditch dues need to be reflected in the spread sheet. Acceptance was unanimous.

Consideration of Board Vacancy and Recommendation of Randy Cooper

Director Hagberg moved to recommend appointment of Randy Cooper to Judge Wilson. Director Nossaman seconded. Randy answered the standard questions asked of potential board members. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Update and Board Outreach Reports

- Director Jones conferred with J.R. Ford. Important points were planning, geology and viability of the site, and needed infrastructure. The capacity of the community to pay is a separate question from other SJWCD jobs in planning for water storage. He supports the Southwestern Water Conservation District holding its August meeting here and including a "field trip" to Running Iron Ranch and the Park Ditch Parshall flumes.
- August 7 is the next SWCD meeting. Director Jones will coordinate with Steve Wolff for an afternoon informational visit to Running Iron Ranch.
- Directors Jones and Hagberg attended the Park Ditch Association Annual Meeting. In addition to the installation of the Parshall flumes, the ditch shareholders encountered major expenses like removal of willow and repair of a serious blow-out. Property owners, some of whom are not water owners, are preventing access to the ditch, as defined in law. A significant culvert repair is needed to accommodate the volume of water traveling down the ditch. This maintenance is an every-ten-year requirement as defined in water law and NRCS has partnered with Park Ditch in the past. As a result of increased expenses, annual dues for shares increased from \$18 to \$58 per share.
- Director Riehm described his meeting(s) with PAWSD and the Webers regarding the leases for the Running Iron Ranch. The grazing lease is approved and no longer under negotiation. The gravel mining lease is not yet approved by SJWCD, but a near-final version is ready for consideration. Twenty thousand tons of gravel are ready for crushing, sale, and removal. Five thousand tons will be used by PAWSD for the construction of the Snowball Water Treatment Plant. The remainder of the existing gravel will be sold with a royalty of \$2 per ton going to PAWSD. The current gravel lease covers only the existing 20K of gravel. Andy Weber has found another potential 80K tons of gravel in the southwest portion of the property suitable for mining and marketing. This potential 80K tons is not in the lease currently being approved. Directors discussed at length commercial versus public (town, county, forest service) purchase of any future gravel. Mining more gravel after the existing 20K tons will require a new lease. Renee Lewis and Bill Hudson weighed in with explanations of the final revisions to the lease for the 20K tons. The final document was already approved by PAWSD and was received in email 30 minutes before the SJWCD meeting. An over-one-hour discussion

resulted in a motion authorizing Directors Jones and Riehm to sign the gravel lease. Director Hagberg moved and Director Nossaman seconded. Further discussion resulted in a proposed amendment to the motion. Further discussion resulted in the motion being withdrawn by unanimous vote. After more discussion, Director Hagberg moved that the present version of the lease be signed. Director Nobles seconded. Directors Jones and Riehm will approve the signing of the final draft that PAWSD has already approved. Directors Nobles, Jones, Riehm, Hagberg, Nossaman, and Cooper voted Aye. Director Proffit voted Nay. The motion passed.

- A Work Session will be scheduled.

Consideration of Engaging Professional(s) to Advance Reservoir Planning

Director Riehm conferred with Rick Ehat. Ehat sent an organized proposal in the form of a table that states the work he recommends as next steps. Ehat reminded SJWCD of his rate per hour. His response was not included in the Board Packet, but will be sent to Directors when received by the Executive Assistant. Director Jones responded with the need for prioritizing geological research. These matters will be discussed in an upcoming Work Session and an action may be taken in a future Meeting.

Director Riehm also asked Directors to be familiar with his written notes, included in the Board Packet, resulting from conferring with Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District. Directors were encouraged to visit their website.

Consideration of Approval of Records of Proceedings of May 20 Special Meeting

Director Hagberg moved to approve the 5/20/24 Records. Director Riehm seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates from Committees Advancing Strategic Objectives and Actions

Objective One issues will be covered in an upcoming Work Session

Objective Two Committee Member Hagberg conducted a tour for Keith Bruno (Audubon local and regional) about community educational use. Bruno's response was positive. Directors Tedder and Jones conducted a tour for Dan Harms of La

Plata Electric Association to discuss a potential solar farm on the site. Director Hagberg needs accurate board direction for his communications with LPEA and PAWSD.

Objective Three Committee Member Jones reported for Director Tedder, regarding the completion of the first film by Christi Bode. Video One – “The Value of Snow” – is nearing completion. August is the expected completion date for Video Two. A public educational presentation, to include viewing “The Value of Snow,” will be planned.

A Work Session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, at 4 pm.

A Special Meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 15, at 4 pm.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

By /s/ Sally High

Executive Assistant for Board of Directors

DISTRICT SEAL