

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 19, 2024, 4 pm

**Attendance**

A Regular Meeting of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Monday, August 19, 2024, at 4 pm in person at 46 Eaton Drive Suite 5.

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

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

Attending by Zoom were Joe Tedder (SJWCD Treasurer) and Josh Pike (Pagosa Springs SUN).

**Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by President Candace Jones at 4:00 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)**

No public comment was offered.

### **Consideration of Executive Session**

Director Jones announced the need for a consideration in Executive Session.

Bill Hudson (PAWSD and Pagosa Daily Post) stated that he objected to an Executive Session, that Colorado law was being broken, and that SJWCD should expect a lawsuit. Mr. Hudson left the room.

Director Hagberg moved to hold an Executive Session. Director Riehm seconded. Approval was unanimous in a roll call vote.

At 4:17, the Executive Session ended with a unanimous vote. The Special Meeting was again called to order. Mr. Hudson and Mr. Pike returned to the meeting.

### **Consideration of Treasurer's Report**

Director Tedder provided Directors with a Budget VS Actual spread sheet through August 16, 2024 that included a forecast through the end of the year. An AIR form detailed a review of July board actions moving money from Contingency to cover expected overruns. An initial (CWCB) WSRF Grant reimbursement was received for \$5,740 and a second reimbursement request for \$7,200 has been made. An overrun in the Publications and Website line item was forecast that would exceed the budget by \$113.85. Director Tedder requested that funds be moved from Contingency to cover that annual expense for website hosting, leaving \$6,223 Contingency. Director Hagberg moved to approve. Director Cooper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Because of the shortened timeline to achieve goals set regarding the Engineering line item, Director Tedder requested that \$40,000 be transferred to SJWCD's Colorado Trust account, leaving \$30,000 in the Operating Budget for Engineering. Director Nobles moved to approve. Director Hagberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Update - Request for Proposals for General Project Manager**

Key points in the update about the RFP included:

- In the Executive Session, Directors briefly discussed legal questions to be directed to SJWCD's attorney regarding changing circumstances of the RFP and procurement procedure. Attorney Jeff Kane was unable to attend the meeting.
- Seven Colorado firms were sent the RFP in July. Three firms expressed interest in the current version of the RFP. The three firms agreed to engage in a future planning process. They were:
  - Harris Water, Durango-based with 3 employees
  - Davis Engineering, Pagosa Springs and Alamosa with 15 employees
  - Wright Water Engineers, Durango and other Colorado locations with 45 employees.
- Designated Directors Riehm and Jones met with Steve Harris and colleagues and with Mike Davis. They will meet with Pete Foster of Wright Water Engineers after Labor Day.
- SJWCD Directors intend to form a team to develop a Master Planning Matrix to identify and target specific tasks and a timeline for completion of tasks.
- A Work Session to develop a Master Planning Matrix will be scheduled in early fall. One goal of the Work Session will be to engage with a grant writer(s) to secure funding for next steps.
- The immediate narrowing of the scope of the RFP allows SJWCD to focus on potential uses of Running Iron Ranch while reservoir planning continues.
- It is unknown whether a participating firm will charge a consulting fee.

### **Consideration of Adjustments to Procurement Process**

Director Hagberg moved to table, until the September Special Meeting, consideration of changes to the procurement process, so that legal advice could be obtained from counsel. Director Riehm seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Consideration of Establishing a YouTube Channel**

Director Nobles moved that SJWCD create a YouTube channel for the purpose of posting its films. Director Proffitt seconded. Approval was unanimous.

### **Consideration of Communication / Marketing Plan for Educational Video Series including Budget for Expenses**

Director Nobles moved to task Strategic Object Committee Three to facilitate the release and publicizing of SJWCD's three films, with a budget not to exceed \$3,000. Director Hagberg seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Related actions already identified included:

- scheduling a venue for a public unveiling, scheduling speakers, and setting a date after the release of the third video.
- giving "The Value of Snow" to the Liberty Theater for immediate rotation.
- submitting a press release, written by Directors Cooper and Hagberg, to the Pagosa Springs Sun and Durango Herald.
- posting "The Value of Snow" on sjwcd.org.

Director Riehm moved to go forward with the actions. Director Nobles seconded. Approval was unanimous.

### **Consideration of Federal Grant Opportunities for Project(s) at the 20-Acre Parcel at Running Iron Ranch**

Director Jones described SJWCD's invitation to join with Southwestern Water Conservation District in applying for Bureau of Reclamation funds. The B2E grant's deadline is October 15. No matching funds are required. The opportunity was discussed during the recent SWCD meeting in Pagosa Springs. Specifically mentioned was appropriate river restoration at the 20-acre parcel immediately upstream from Watershed Enhancement Partnership's Pagosa Gateway Project. Director Riehm moved to pursue the funding with SWCD. Director Cooper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Board Member Reports and Outreach**

- The Southwestern Water Conservation District 2-day meeting in Pagosa Springs was successful. The Running Iron Ranch tour was well attended. Director Riehm described a 4-mile walk to the Park Ditch head gate with Bob Formwalt, Steve Wolff, Rob Hagberg, and Glenn Walsh.
- The SWCD Attorney stated that requests for transmountain diversions are expected to increase in the future. SJWCD's policy has been to oppose all transmountain diversions that affect the upper San Juan River water supply. In

the future, SJWCD may choose to be more discriminating in which cases to oppose due to budget constraints.

- SJWCD received a response to the Becky Mitchell letter from Amy Ostdiek, Section Chief of the Interstate Federal Water Information Section of Colorado Water Conservation Board. Director Jones acquainted Ms. Ostdiek with the proposed reservoir project at RIR and SJWCD's obligation to plan for local water storage. Ms. Ostdiek gave assurances that SJWCD's water rights were not jeopardized by ongoing Colorado River negotiations. She reports to the Southwest Basin Roundtable and offered to visit Pagosa Springs to present about Colorado's role in negotiations and CWCB's expectations of high altitude, off channel, small water storage.
- Director Hagberg represented SJWCD at the most recent San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership meeting. He reported that SJHFHP is finalizing their vegetation management plan for Jackson Mountain. Professor Bill Baker of Dulce, NM submitted a multi-page written statement opposing proposed mastication of secondary growth in the forest, encouraging fire treatment instead. A gravel pit at Jackson Mountain is "not off the agenda." The SJHFHP Fire Mitigation Plan (Bill Trimarco) continues to be successful and affordable.
- The Colorado Forest Collaborative Network Summit is September 4 through 6, with a \$90 fee.
- 2-3-2 Partnership (2 watersheds, 3 rivers, 2 states) will meet in Del Norte on September 18. All directors are welcome.
- Director Proffitt reported a lack of traction in pursuit of the Polaris Project. Director Jones stated that the SJWCD subcommittee negotiating with PAWSD should encourage PAWSD to support and participate in the CSU Polaris Project, and support SJWCD's inclusion in SWCD's application for Bureau of Reclamation B2E funds. Director Riehm will schedule a meeting with the PAWSD subcommittee.
- Steve Wolff of SWCD sent a Doodle Poll to schedule a meeting of Cloud Seeding stakeholders for late September. Director Jones received and will share the poll. Directors Nobles and Tedder expressed an interest in attending.
- The C9 Summit is October 1 and 2 in Crested Butte. Director Hagberg expressed interest in attending.
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs has scheduled a webinar for August 21 at 11 am about grant and project capacity building. Director Proffitt expressed an interest in attending for SJWCD.

## **Consideration of Approval of Record of Proceedings of July 15 Regular Meeting**

Director Hagberg moved to approve the (amended) Record of Proceedings of the July 15 Regular Meeting. Director Cooper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Updates from Committees Advancing Strategic Objectives and Actions**

### **Objective One**

Relevant information had been covered.

### **Objective Two**

Relevant information had been covered.

### **Objective Three**

Director Tedder will contact Christi Bode about the completion of the third film and schedule a Committee Three work session.

A Special Meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 16, at 4 pm. October 15 is the deadline for the draft budget approval.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

By /s/ Sally High

Executive Assistant for Board of Directors

DISTRICT SEAL