

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 2, 2024, 4 pm

**Attendance**

A Regular Meeting of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Monday, December 2, 2024, at 4 pm in person at 46 Eaton Drive and by Zoom.

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

Present in person were Sally High (SJWCD Executive Assistant), Alex Handloff (San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership and Mountain Studies Institute), and Bill Hudson (Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Board and Pagosa Daily Post owner). Attending by Zoom were Jeff Kane (SJWCD Attorney), Josh Pike (Pagosa Springs SUN), and Allan Pfister (Watershed Enhancement Project).

**Call to Order of 2025 Budget Hearing**

A publicly noticed Budget Hearing of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by President Candace Jones at 4:05 pm. A quorum was present. Director Tedder described the recently received documents from the Archuleta County Assessors Office. He explained minor changes to the 2025 budget numbers and reviewed the Budget Statement.

**Public Comment about the 2025 Budget**

Bill Hudson rose to comment. He questioned whether there was enough money in the SJWCD budget to cover the legal expenses that he predicts will be needed when PAWSD sues the Conservancy District. He stated that \$100,000 and more would be needed. Mr. Hudson was thanked for his comment.

**Approval of 2025 Budget and Budget Statement**

Director Nobles moved to approve and submit the 2025 Budget documents. Director Riehm seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 4:19 pm.

### **Revisions to the Agenda and Approval**

The Board considered Revisions to the Agenda. Director Jones requested that the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP) item #13 be moved to #9 to be respectful of Alex Handloff's time. No objections were offered.

### **Disclosures of Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were recognized.

### **Public Comment (3-minute limit)**

Bill Hudson (PAWSD board member and Pagosa Daily Post owner) rose to comment. He voiced objection to a 3-minute time limit for public comments and asked for more time. He stated that he was not speaking as a PAWSD Director. The 3-minute time limit was re-started. He was asked to limit his comment to three minutes. Mr. Hudson distributed a handout. Mr. Hudson was thanked for his comments.

### **Consideration of Funding for San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership**

Directors considered funding to SJHFHP. Alex Handloff described slides provided in the Board Packet, existing projects, and opportunities for future collaboration. He answered relevant questions from SJWCD Directors. Director Nobles moved to fund SJHFHP at the level in the 2025 budget, \$2,750.00. Director Riehm seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Consideration of Executive Session**

Board Chairman Jones read the Colorado Statute defining use of Executive Session.

*Upon an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present, the San Juan Water Conservancy District will go into executive session pursuant to section 24-6-402(4) of the Colorado Revised Statutes to discuss matters concerning the transfer or sale of real, personal or other property interest pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(a) of the Colorado Revised Statutes, to confer with the District's attorney for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., and to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S., all regarding the potential sale of the Running Iron Ranch on the initiative of the Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District.*

Director Jones moved to enter Executive Session. Director Riehm seconded. A roll call vote resulted in unanimous approval of the motion.

Mr. Hudson was asked to sit outside the SJWCD board office, where he remained until the conclusion of Executive Session. Mr. Pike was placed in the Zoom Waiting Room until the Executive Session ended.

Director Nobles moved to leave Executive Session. Director Nossaman seconded. A roll call vote resulted in unanimous approval of the motion at 6:02 pm. Non-board members returned to the meeting.

### **Consideration of Actions Relating to the Potential Sale of Running Iron Ranch on the Initiative of Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District**

Director Nobles moved to issue another public statement emphasizing three points:

- SJWCD reiterated that the terms offered do not serve the best interests of the public.
- SJWCD restated that it will not consider selling its Water Rights which are public property.
- SJWCD scheduled a public work session to discuss issues raised by PAWSD's intention to sell the Running Iron Ranch for January 6 at 4 pm.

Director Cooper seconded. Director Jones was asked to write the statement. Each Director will have the opportunity to comment. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Consideration of Request to Extend Weber's Grazing Lease**

Directors considered Kathy Weber's request to continue grazing on the Running Iron Ranch in 2025. The value of a lease, a contract, and PAWSD's approval were needed before a decision could be made. Directors stated that they favored continuing the grazing lease in 2025, but no action was needed.

### **Consideration of Attorney's Report**

Attorney Jeff Kane reported that he would provide a draft of his written comments to Bureau of Land Management before the next meeting regarding the revised Treasure Pass decrees. SJWCD Directors will consider changes to the BLM's water rights requests at that time.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has again delayed decrees about the Piedra Pass water rights case. A status conference has been scheduled for January 2025. The attorney will update SJWCD.

Mr. Kane stated that it is reasonable to expect an attendee to identify him/herself before being admitted to SJWCD's Zoom meeting.

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

The Directors' Board Packet contained relevant materials through the end of 2024. Director Tedder described Archuleta County's 2024 tax distribution and his accounting for its changes. Director Nobles moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Director Nossaman seconded. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

### **Consideration of Resolution 2024-04 and Adoption of the Projected 2025 Budget**

Director Nobles moved to adopt Resolution 2024-04 and the Treasurer's submitting the 2025 Budget to Archuleta County and Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Director Riehm seconded. Approval was unanimous.

### **Consideration of Funding of Watershed Enhancement Partnership**

Directors considered funding Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership at the level in the 2025 budget. Al Pfister described WEP's recent accomplishments and intention to acquire more money in 2025 in order to complete the work already underway. Director Riehm moved and Director Cooper seconded. Approval was unanimous.

### **Consideration of Funding Water Information Program**

Directors considered Funding the Water Information Program (WIP) and recognized Elaine Chick, Director of WIP, for hosting a table at the recent film event. Director Nobles moved to fund WIP for the amount in the 2025 budget. Director Riehm seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Consideration of Funding Weather Modification Program**

Directors considered funding the Weather Modification Program for the amount in the 2025 budget. Director Riehm was asked to print and sign the contract, and then send it to Southwestern Water Conservation District. Director Nossaman moved to fund the Weather Modification Program. Director Cooper seconded. Approval was unanimous.

### **Consideration of Yeh Engineering Proposal**

Directors Cooper and Jones conferred with Yeh Engineering about services needed to move a reservoir project forward at Running Iron Ranch. A proposal was received from Yeh that included a desk study and an 8-week timeline. The proposal was in the Board Packet. Existing geotechnical study results and needed geotechnical research needed in the future will be identified. SJWCD will present a Service Agreement consistent with the Yeh Proposal. Director Cooper moved to engage Yeh. Director Riehm seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Board Member Reports and Updates**

- Director Cooper attended the Weather Radar event and workshop at the Durango Airport. Improved weather radar capacity in Durango and a station in Alamosa leave Pagosa Springs unserved. Grant money may be available

in the future to remedy the lack of capacity at the Archuleta County Airport. Director Cooper had contacted the authorities at the local airport.

- Director Nobles represented SJWCD at the initial PARC meeting. The meeting was well attended by a number of organizations He will keep SJWCD updated.
- Director Jones described the Colorado Division of Water 7 Measurement Rules. CWCB has announced a grant for possible funding of measurement devices in Archuleta County.
- Director Jones described the opportunity to volunteer with the WIP Education Committee. Interested directors should contact Elaine Chick.
- Director Tedder represented SJWCD at the most recent SJHFHP meeting, in Director Hagberg's absence.

### **Discussion of Appearance of New Leak in Office Ceiling**

Director Jones stated that she would contact Brittany, the owner of the building. Davis Engineering found part of the damaged map, but needs to recreate the full map. Davis Engineering can reprint the damaged map, but the cost is still unknown. SJWCD doesn't know who will pay for the replacement map.

### **Consideration of Approval of Records of Proceedings from 10/14/24, 10/29/24, and 11/7/24 Meetings**

Director Riehm moved to approve the all three Records of Proceedings. Director Cooper seconded. Approval was unanimous.

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

*Objective 1: Advance the San Juan River Headwaters Project (SJRHP) as one resource for meeting agricultural, municipal, environmental, and recreational water needs of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) community. (Directors Riehm, Nobles, Proffitt)*

*Objective 2: Identify complementary and supplemental uses for the Running Iron Ranch property and initiate programs with suitable partners to develop the particular use cases. (Directors Hagberg, Riehm, Proffitt)*

*Objective 3: Educate the SJWCD community about water resource issues facing the Upper San Juan River Basin and define the public position on the construction of a reservoir. (Directors Tedder, Nossaman, Hagberg, Nobles)*

Director Tedder stated that a brainstorming Work Session would be scheduled to plan the third film.

### **Schedule Next Meeting and Adjournment**

A Special Meeting may be necessary later in December 2024. Friday, January 3, was named as a tentative date (tbd) for a brainstorming Work Session for Objective 3 to discuss the third film. A Work Session was scheduled for Monday, January 6, at 4 pm. A Special Meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 20, at 4 pm.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7 pm. Director Riehm moved to adjourn. Director Cooper seconded. Unanimous approval.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

By /s/ Sally High

Executive Assistant for Board of Directors

DISTRICT SEAL