

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
SPECIAL MEETING – JULY 15, 2024, 4 pm

**Attendance**

A Special Meeting of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Monday, July 15, 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, and Candace Jones.

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 Joe Tedder (SJWCD Treasurer) and Jeff Kane (SJWCD Attorney).

**Call to Order**

The Special 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)**

Bill Hudson (PAWSD and Pagosa Daily Post) rose to speak and stated that he was commenting as a private citizen, not a PAWSD director. Mr. Hudson said he was enjoying the cooperative relationship among Running Iron Ranch subcommittee

members. He distributed a line graph that showed the correlation between population growth and municipal water use between 2001 and 2023. He contended that there was no increase in PAWSD municipal water use as Archuleta Country population increased. Director Nobles asked Mr. Hudson if he accounted for water price changes and suggested that factor be reflected in the water demand graph. Mr. Hudson stated that he'd like to see PAWSD participate in the writing of the letters to Mitchell, Ris, Hickenlooper, and Bennet. Mr. Hudson was thanked for his comments.

### **New Director Randy Cooper's Oath of Office**

New Director Randy Cooper recited the Oath of Office, which will be kept in the Board Books and sent to Attorney Jeff Kane.

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

Jeff Kane briefly informed Directors about three water cases.

Regarding Boot Jack Ranch's Chippers Lake Pump Station and Lodge Pond water rights, Kane communicated with the Division engineer and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) attorney. CWCB also opposed the changes to Boot Jack's water rights. Kane is sending comments to Boot Jack's counsel today asking for a drawing (map) of other water rights structures, a tabulation of the various uses of irrigated areas that may reveal duplicative water rights, and all augmentation plans that may reveal overlaps.

Regarding BLM's Treasure Pass Ditch revised decree and their agreements with Southwestern Water Conservation District, Kane is expecting the agreed upon revised decree.

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

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

Director Tedder submitted an AIR form and a Budget versus Actual report. Both were sent to the Board in an email after the Board Packet. Director Tedder moved

to transfer \$1000 from the Contingency line item to Water Rights Defense. Director Hagberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Director Nobles moved to move \$413 from Contingency to cover the increase in Park Ditch dues. Director Cooper seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Director Hagberg moved to move \$250 from Contingency to cover the increase in office rent. Director Proffitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

\$6337 remain in the Contingency Funds.

An invoice for the first reimbursement from (CWCB) WSRF funds for the video project has been submitted.

The Colorado Special District Association representation was updated to list Director Tedder as Primary Representative and Director Jones as Alternate Representative. Director Hagberg moved. Director Nobles seconded. Approval was unanimous.

### **Consideration of Request for Proposals for Reservoir Project Manager**

Directors considered sending a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Reservoir Project Manager to engineering companies identified through SJWCD research. Directors received in the Board Packet a job description for a District Manager from Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District, a draft RFP, and a draft timeline. A goal is set to send the RFP to at least seven engineering firms, named in the discussion:

- Steve Harris Engineering
- Mike Davis Engineering
- Rick Ehat Engineering
- Wilson Water Group
- Russell Engineering
- SGM Engineering
- Wright Engineering.

July 19 is the target date to release the RFP. The “ambitious” timeline includes board consideration at the August 19 Regular Meeting and concludes with awarding the contract on August 29. Director Hagberg moved to approve the release of the RFP with revisions discussed. Director Cooper seconded. Director Proffitt offered an amendment stating that Directors Jones and Riehm be

authorized to revise and release the RFP. The amended motion passed unanimously.

### **Consideration of Letters to Becky Mitchell, Lauren Ris, Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet**

Directors considered sending the red-lined drafts to the four letters. Director Hagberg moved to finalize and send the letters. Director Proffitt seconded. Approval was unanimous.

### **Consideration of Response to LPEA about Solar at Running Iron Ranch / Appointment of a Director to Lead Discussion**

Directors considered responding appropriately to both LPEA and PAWSD about the proposed solar site at Running Iron Ranch (RIR). The proposed solar farm will potentially provide a revenue stream to PAWSD. The SJWCD representatives on the RIR subcommittee are Directors Hagberg and Riehm. Director Cooper moved to appoint Directors Hagberg and Riehm to communicate with both LPEA and PAWSD. Director Nobles seconded. Approval was unanimous.

### **Consideration of Approval of Record of Proceedings of June 17 Regular Meeting**

Director Nobles moved to approve the Record of Proceedings of the June 17 Regular Meeting. Director Hagberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Chair's Update and Board Outreach Reports**

Executive Assistant High described the changes to [www.sjwcd.org](http://www.sjwcd.org), moving toward full compliance with new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) laws for Special Districts. Directors had been encouraged to look at the changes before discussion. After testing several accessibility tools, [www.allaccess.com](http://www.allaccess.com) was installed at no cost. An icon on each page allows a disabled user to employ various adaptations to make information accessible. A disclaimer in the footer on each page allows a disabled user to report any difficulty found in accessing any information on the site. No requests for accessibility assistance have been received to date. These changes are within the budget of SJWCD. Movement toward full compliance, which will cost more money, will continue when needed.

- On August 7 and 8, Southwestern Water Conservation District will meet in Pagosa Springs. Director Jones, Steve Wolff and Mo Rock of SWCD, and Executive Assistant High are meeting weekly to organize the two-day meeting. So far it is agreed that SWCD will rent the small conference room at the Ross Aragon Community Center and rent two 14-passenger vans with drivers from Wilderness Journeys. They will purchase boxed lunches from Pagosa Baking Company for the 2 boards and invited guests on Wednesday. They will host a dinner at Riff Raff Rio for SWCD and SJWCD Board Members on Wednesday evening. SWCD will meet in the Community Center Conference Room as early as 7 am Thursday morning to set up and end the meeting as late as about 1 or 2 pm. Pagosa Baking Company will provide coffee and pastries for their board. All these arrangements are confirmed.
- Colorado Water Conservation Board's C9 Summit is in Crested Butte October 1-2. C9 means all nine Colorado Basins.
- Director Hagberg will attend San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership meeting Friday, July 19. All directors are welcome. A Zoom option is available.
- The Southwest Basin Roundtable will meet July 25 in Cortez. Director Jones will attend in person. All directors are welcome. A Zoom option is available.
- 2-3-2 Partnership (2 watersheds, 3 rivers, 2 states) will meet in Del Norte on September 18. All directors are welcome.

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

### **Objective One**

Director Proffitt reported on the Polaris Project, an opportunity to revive Growing Water Smart work. Polaris is a data-based planning tool created and coordinated by CSU. Archuleta County, the Town of Pagosa Springs, PAWSD, and SJWCD would need to collaborate and collect data to make this work.

### **Objective Two**

Director Hagberg agreed earlier in this meeting that he and Director Riehm, the Running Iron Ranch subcommittee would continue communications with LPEA and PAWSD about a potential solar project at Running Iron Ranch.

### **Objective Three**

Director Tedder, described the near-completion of the first film by Christi Bode. He will send all board members Video One – “The Value of Snow.” A public educational presentation, to include viewing “The Value of Snow,” will be planned. Appropriate captioning will be discussed with Christi. A Work Session will be scheduled with Christi, Josh Kurz, and any interested director.

A Regular Meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 19, at 4 pm.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

By /s/ Sally High

Executive Assistant for Board of Directors

DISTRICT SEAL