

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 16, 2024, 4 pm

**Attendance**

A Regular Meeting of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Monday, September 16, 2024, at 4 pm in person at 46 Eaton Drive. Due to ongoing roof repairs and ceiling leaks at the SJWCD office, the meeting was held next door in the Archuleta County Corporation for Community Development (CDC) front room. The change in location was noticed at the SJWCD office door.

The following Directors were present in person: Susan Nossaman, Rob Hagberg, Rod Proffitt, 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 Jeff Kane (SJWCD Attorney) and Josh Pike (Pagosa Springs SUN).

**Call to Order**

The Special Meeting of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by President Candace Jones at 4:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Revisions to the Agenda and Approval**

The Board considered Revisions to the Agenda. The only revision needed was to call an Executive Session immediately following Public Comment. Director Nossaman moved to revise the Agenda. Director Riehm seconded. The vote to revise the Agenda passed unanimously.

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

No public comment was offered.

### **Consideration of Executive Session**

An Executive Session was needed pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes § 24-6-402(4)(b), and 24-6-402(4)(e). Director Hagberg moved to convene Executive Session at 4:09 pm. Director Riehm seconded. A roll call vote approved the motion unanimously. Mr. Hudson left the room and Mr. Pike was returned to the Zoom waiting room. At 4:55, Director Hagberg moved to end the Executive Session. Director Riehm seconded. The Executive Session ended with a unanimous roll call vote. The Special Meeting was again called to order. Mr. Hudson and Mr. Pike returned to the meeting.

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

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

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

Regarding the Boot Jack Ranch Lodge Pond water rights changes, a Status Conference was held on September 13. Boot Jack ranch offered no revised decree at that time and requested that another Status Conference be held in December. Attorney Kane will continue to monitor the case.

Regarding the Treasure Pass Ditch water rights changes requested by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a revised decree is expected in "another month or so." Southwestern Water Conservation District, also opposed the changes to this transmountain diversion and has conducted meetings with BLM and the revised decree will reflect their conditions.

Director Jones reminded Directors that, because of budget constraints, discretion may be exercised in the future if opposition to all transmountain diversions continues.

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

The Directors' Board Packet contained an AIR form and year-to date Budget vs Actual Spread Sheet through September 9. Director Jones reviewed the Treasurer's requested actions, since Director Tedder was unable to attend the

meeting. Director Hagberg moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and its requested actions. Director Cooper seconded. The motion passed unanimously. \$5,137 remains in Contingency. The preliminary 2025 Budget was discussed later in the meeting.

### **Consideration of Technical and Project Management Services / Authorization to Engage Professionals**

Directors received a Discussion Draft in the Board Packet. Designated Directors Riehm and Jones conferred with three water engineering firms. Five components defining next steps were included in the Discussion Draft:

- Feasibility, Scoping, and Planning Effort (overview of the next four items)
- Geotechnical Desk Survey
- Project Manager
- Civil Engineering Planner
- Administrative Support.

Director Jones explained the reasons for each of the five components. Director Cooper expressed agreement with the Geotechnical Desk Survey expectations, including the 5 preliminary questions to be answered. Director Cooper described an interest in staying involved in the geotechnical research process. Specifically named was Yeh and Associates, a geotechnical firm in Colorado Springs and New Mexico.

Director Hagberg moved to authorize Directors Cooper and Jones to engage a geotechnical engineer(s) and to bring a proposal to the October Regular Meeting. Director Proffitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the re-scoping of 2 items, Project Manager and Civil Engineering Planner, Director Jones suggested re-contacting Steve Harris (Harris Engineering) and Peter Foster (Wright Water Engineers) to learn of their willingness to engage with those jobs. Director Riehm moved to authorize Directors Cooper and Jones to contact Steve Harris and Peter Foster about Project Manager and Civil Engineering deliverables. Director Hagberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Administrative Support role will be considered in the future.

### **Consideration of Community Outreach Plan for Educational Video Series**

“The Value of Snow” was uploaded to SJWCD’s YouTube channel and sjwcd.org. The press release describing the first film’s release was submitted to the Pagosa SUN with 2 captioned still shots. The press release and the film will be sent to Elaine Chick at Water Information Program (WIP) and Mo Rock at Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD). They can revise the press release to include the participation of the Basin Roundtable and other relevant water organizations.

Director Jones requested that a video launch “party” with a guest speaker(s) be scheduled between November 19 and 24. Appropriate venues will be researched.

### **Discussion of Weber Request to Extend Grazing Lease at Running Iron Ranch**

Kathy Weber requested an extension, a renewal, of the Weber’s grazing lease. No action was required.

### **Discussion of Preliminary 2025 Budget**

Directors discussed the Preliminary 2025 Budget submitted by the Treasurer in the Board Packet. Line items specifically discussed were the three lines for Attorney’s Expenses (lines 17, 24, 27) and Engineering (line 14). Director Jones requested that Directors send specific line items that need attention and comments to Director Tedder and copy Director Jones. Because the Draft 2025 Budget must be submitted on October 15, SJWCD Directors must approve the Draft Budget before that date so that Director Tedder can submit it on time.

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

- Director Riehm’s notes from a recent meeting with PAWSD were included in the Board Packet.
- Directors Jones and Hagberg attended a webinar about the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation B2E and B2W grant programs. SWCD intends to submit a grant proposal to the B2E program for a portfolio of projects in southwest Colorado. The minimum amount for SWCD’s submission is \$300,00 and the deadline to submit is October 15. The B2W program is forthcoming and may include opportunities for infrastructure improvements like irrigation ditch efficiency and measuring devices now mandated in Colorado.

- The WIP partner meeting is September 25. It appears that no SJWCD Director is able to attend in person or by Zoom.
- Director Jones will attend C-9 Summit in Crested Butte on October 1 and 2.
- No local traction has been detected around the CSU Polaris project. Director Jones talked with Pam Flowers, Archuleta County planner, and James Dickoff, ToPS planner, about the Polaris Land Use Planning opportunity. Information about another webinar or chance to learn from CSU about the requirements for participation should be given to the town and county.
- The 2-3-2 Partnership meeting / field trip is September 18. Director Cooper expressed interest in attending.
- Water Law in a Nutshell is October 17 in Norwood.
- Cloud Seeding Stakeholders meeting on Zoom is September 24. Director Cooper expressed interest in attending.

### **Consideration of Approval of Record of Proceedings of August 19 Regular Meeting**

Director Hagberg moved to approve the Record of Proceedings of the August 19 Regular Meeting. Director Riehm seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

#### **Objective One**

Relevant information had been covered.

#### **Objective Two**

Director Hagberg added details to about the recent meeting between SJWCD and PAWSD. See Director Riehm's notes included in the Board Packet. Worker housing was again discussed, as a source of revenue. The solar farm with LPEA and a Nature Center with Audubon were discussed.

#### **Objective Three**

Relevant information had been covered.

A Budget Hearing and Special Meeting were scheduled for Monday, October 14, at 4 pm. October 15 is the deadline to submit the draft budget approval.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm. Director Hagberg moved to adjourn. Director Riehm seconded. Unanimous approval.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

By /s/ Sally High

Executive Assistant for Board of Directors

DISTRICT SEAL

FINAL