Southwestern Water Conservation District Board of Directors Special Meeting via Zoom December 06, 2023

Present:

Dagan Chadd (joined during 3.0)

Kenny Heldman

Gerald Koppenhafer

JR Ford

David Guilliams (joined during 3.0)

Rusty Hinger Amy Huff Jenny Russell Charlie Smith

Staff:

Mo Rock, Programs Coordinator

Steve Wolff, General Manager

Consultants:

Beth Van Vurst, General Counsel, Van Vurst Law

Guests:

Bruce Whitehead ALP

Ed Millard

Laura Spann, CWCB

Pete Nylander, SUIT

1.0 Call to Order - Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

President Jenny Russell called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

2.0 Review and Approve Agenda

There was unanimous consent to approve the agenda.

3.0 Request for SWCD 2022 Grant Extension

As a follow-up to our October discussion, Mo Rock explained that the applicants for Yamaguchi Project that was approved for a grant from the SWCD Board in 2022, and then extended to 2023, requested another 1-year extension for 2024. The board discussed extending this project and the Gateway Project (a 2023 project) at their October meeting, but neither of these projects had made a formal request at that time. Since this grant is being pushed into a two-year extension, it will require a motion from the board. Staff also requested the Board approve the extension on the Gateway Project as well.

Rusty Hinger motions to extend both grants through 2024, but that no further extensions would be allowed on either grant. Kenny Heldman seconded. The motion passes.

4.0 Discussion and Consideration of Potential Recommendations from the Colorado River Drought Task Force (short list) and Sub-Task Force

Steve Wolff and Beth Van Vurst presented the draft recommendations that have been developed by the Colorado River Drought Task Force and provided their thoughts for the SWCD Board. There was a general discussion about the recommendations. The Board took no actions relative to the Task Force recommendations.

Public Comment:

Ed Millard asked about item B (Funding for Aging Infrastructure) and Item I (Water Banking). Steve spoke to item B, stating that this one was specific to aging infrastructure. Steve was unsure how this may move forward, and what funding may be available, but was hoping to get clarification tomorrow. Beth said that item I, Water Banking, had been withdrawn.