

**Southwestern Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Special Meeting via Zoom  
Feb 29, 2024**

**Present:** Dagan Chadd                      Kenny Heldman                      Gerald Koppenhafer  
JR Ford                                      Rusty Hinger                         Jenny Russell  
David Guilliams                         Amy Huff                             Charlie Smith

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Mo Rock, Programs Coordinator  
Steve Wolff, General Manager

**Consultants:** Garin Vorthmann, Colorado Legislative Strategies, SWCD State Affairs Lobbyist  
Beth Van Vurst, General Counsel, Van Vurst Law  
Peter Butler, SWCD consultant for water quality matters

**Guests:** Laura Spann, Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Monique DiGorgio, Western Landowners Alliance  
Naomi Dobbs, Congresswoman Boebert's Office

**1.0 Call to Order – Roll Call and Verification of Quorum**

President Jenny Russell called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.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 Questions & Comments from the Public**

There were no questions or comments from the public.

**4.0 State Legislative Update & SWCD Position on Bills**

Steve Wolff and Garin Vorthmann discussed the following bills and provided the following state legislative updates:

- SB24 – 005 Prohibit Landscaping Practices for Water Conservation

Steve and Garin gave an update on the two bills (one introduced and one drafted) addressing WOTUS and the SCOTUS Sackett Decision. Steve recommends waiting to take a position to see where these two bills are going to go, the two bills are:

- SB24 – 127 Regulate Dredged and Fill Material State Waters – houses state based permitting program within DNR
- Draft being promoted by Speaker McCluskie, which is similar to SB24-127 but houses program in CDPHE and may be more expansive in its scope.

Other bills discussed include:

- HB24 – 1152 Additional Dwelling Units – Water Concerns, amendments being discussed

- Jenny Russell asked about the size of communities this applied to, Beth believes it's for communities with over 1,000 residents.
- Colorado Water Congress has taken a position of amend on this bill
- This bill is a 'piece' of last years' failed land use bill

Garin also stated that the state legislators worked through the Colorado River Drought Task Force recommendations, they are currently sorting budgetary and statutory bills, and a bill should be introduced in the coming weeks. Garin mentioned that the industrial water rights proposal (failed to become a recommendation) during the Task Force meetings is being drafted in legislation in a much more limited scope. Please see Garin's CLS report for a full list of bills.

President Jenny Russell asked if the public or board had any questions. No one had questions.

### **5.0 Adjournment**

President Jenny Russell adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

March 14, 2024 12:00 p.m. Special Board Meeting

March 27, 2024 All day Annual Southwestern Water Seminar

March 28, 2024 Noon Special Board Meeting



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**Charlie Smith, Secretary/Treasurer**

**Approved on 4/10/2024**