

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting—Teleconference
January 24, 2017**

Present:	Rusty Hingert† John Porter†	Monte Naslund† Jenny Russell†	Doug Stowe† J.R. Ford†
Absent:	David Guilliams	Steve Fearn	Bob Wolff
Staff:	Bruce Whitehead, SWCD Executive Director† Laura Spann, SWCD Programs Coordinator†		
Guests:	Steve Harris, Harris Water Engineering† Carrie Lile, Harris Water Engineering† Darlene Marcus, U.S. Representative Scott Tipton† Steve Garchar, Dolores County Commissioner† Beth Van Vurst, Fairfield and Woods†		

†Participated by phone.

John Porter called the work session to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was established. John Porter announced that this would be his last meeting as president, as Don Schwindt was appointed by the Montezuma County of Board of County Commissioners to fill the board position.

Questions/Comments from Audience

(time: 00:01:55)

There were no comments or questions.

New Business

Legislative Update & Position on Bills

(time: 00:03:15)

The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) State Affairs Committee met on January 9, 17 and 22 to discuss water legislation introduced thus far during the 2017 Legislative Session, which convened on January 11. As the alternate replacing John Porter, Laura attended these meetings this month. Bruce Whitehead explained the bills and relayed CWC discussion of the bills to the board. He referenced the summary document (Legislative Report #2017-03). The following bills were discussed:

SB 002 – Compulsory Review of Rules by Each Principal Department

CWC acted to monitor the bill.

SB 026 – State Engineer Statutes Cleanup

CWC acted to support the bill.

SB 036 – Appellate Process Concerning Groundwater Decisions

CWC postponed action until the next meeting.

SB 040 – Public Access to Government Files

CWC postponed action until the next meeting.

SB 049 – Exempt Drains Designated Groundwater Requirements

CWC postponed action until the next meeting.

SB 079 – Limit Amendments to Initiated Statutory Laws

CWC acted to monitor the legislation.

SB 083 – Rule Review Bill

CWC took no position on the bill.

SJM 1001 – Memorialize Congress to Fund Wildfire Response

CWC acted to monitor this legislation.

HB 1008 – Graywater Regulations Exemption for Scientific Research

CWC postponed action until early March unless the bill is calendared for committee earlier.

HB 1029 – Open Records Subject to Inspection Denial

CWC acted to monitor the bill.

HB 1030 – Update 1921 Irrigation District Act

CWC acted to support the bill.

HB 1033 – CWCB Grants Loans Dredge South Platte Basin Reservoirs

CWC postponed action until the next meeting. There was consensus to monitor this bill, and consider a board position at the February 7 meeting.

HB 1076 – Artificial Recharge Nontributary Aquifer Rules

CWC discussed this bill, and did not take action.

HJR 1003 – Water Projects Eligibility Lists

CWC discussed this resolution, and did not take action.

HJR 1004 – Funding Prevent Aquatic Nuisance Species

CWC acted to support this resolution. JR Ford moved to support HJR 1004. Monte Naslund seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The CWC State Affairs Committee supported the following motion to advocate to the administration, JBC, and General Assembly:

1. Colorado either find alternative or additional revenue sources to support water projects and programs or implement fiscal management structures that both project current revenues for their statutorily intended uses and that accommodate more consistent and predictable annual appropriations.
2. Additionally, and specifically,
3. All water-related projects and programs should be evaluated on a common and consistent basis (i.e., eliminate the current, uncertain, and erratic Tier II funding category).
4. The current Tier II funded water programs, Native Species Conservation Trust, Aquatic Nuisance Species prevention and mitigation, and Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) are each too important to leave reliant on severance tax surpluses (Tier II). Each should be removed from Tier II and prioritized the same as and along with other CWCB severance tax funded programs.

There was board consensus to direct staff to prepare a resolution based on this motion for consideration at the February 7 meeting.

Other possible legislation being discussed by the State Affairs Committee include legislation to address three elements of Colorado water law viewed as at risk after the St. Jude's Supreme Court decision regarding diversions for piscatorial and recreation uses. Two working groups, one led by the River District and the other by Northern

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Water Conservancy District, are continuing to discuss draft bill language to address these concerns generated by the court ruling.

There was consensus to further consider board positions on proposed legislation at the special regular board meeting on February 7.

Next Meetings

Monday, February 6	3:00pm	Board Work Session
Tuesday, February 7	9:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 22	9:00am	Teleconference
Wednesday, March 8	9:00am	Teleconference



Robert Wolff, Secretary-Treasurer