

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting—Teleconference
February 22, 2017**

Present: Bob Wolff, President† Doug Stowe, Vice-President† J.R. Ford†
Rusty Hingert Charlie Smith†

Absent: David Guilliams Monte Naslund Jenny Russell
Don Schwindt

Staff: Bruce Whitehead, SWCD Executive Director
Laura Spann, SWCD Programs Coordinator

Guests: Steve Garchar, Dolores County Commissioner†
Jessica Pace, The Durango Herald†
Mike Preston, Dolores Water Conservancy District†
Beth Van Vurst, Fairfield and Woods†

†Participated by phone.

Bob Wolff called the teleconference to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

Questions/Comments from Audience

(time: 00:01:50)

There were no comments or questions.

Old Business

Legislative Update & Position on Bills

(time: 00:02:00)

The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) State Affairs Committee met on February 13 and 21 to discuss water legislation. Bruce Whitehead explained the bills and relayed CWC discussion of the bills to the board. He referenced the most recent legislative summary report. The following bills were discussed:

HB 1008 – Graywater Regulations Exemption for Scientific Research

CWC postponed action until early March.

SB 040 – Public Access to Electronic Files

CWC is opposed to the bill. The State Affairs Committee continues to discuss the bill, and recent amendments that have been introduced. The Secretary of State is supportive of the legislation, but the Water Congress has taken a position of opposition to the bill with concerns about impacts to small Districts and the possibility of data mining for profit by outside interests.

HB 1177 – Mediation for Disputes Arising Under CORA

CWC acted to oppose the bill.

HB 1190 – Limited Applicability of St. Jude’s Colorado Water Case

CWC continues to discuss this bill. JR Ford moved to support HB 1190. Doug Stowe seconded. The motion passed.

SJR 013 – Public Input and General Assembly Review Before New Nutrient Requirements

CWC continues to discuss this bill.

HB 1033 – CWCB Grants Loans Dredge South Platte Basin Reservoirs

CWC postponed action on this bill until February 27. There was board consensus to monitor the bill.

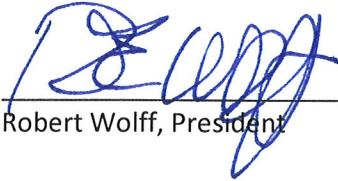
Other possible legislation includes a bill that would allow for seaplanes to land on lakes and reservoirs in Colorado. The proponents are now proposing a “pilot program” for two lakes to be identified by the Wildlife Commission, and the bill could include a training component for pilots and self-regulation. Past attempts at similar legislation did not pass due to concerns about aquatic nuisance species. Mike Preston, Dolores Water Conservancy District, has submitted written opposition to the proposed legislation with concerns about aquatic nuisance species.

SB 117 – Recognize Industrial Hemp as Ag Product for Ag Water Right

CWC opposes this bill. There was additional discussion regarding hemp as an agricultural product.

Next Meetings

Wednesday, March 8	9:00am	Teleconference
Wednesday, March 22	9:00am	Teleconference
Thursday, April 6	10:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting
Friday, April 7	8:30am	SWCD Annual Water Seminar



Robert Wolff, President