

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference
February 26, 2014**

Present: John Porter, President† Steve Fearn, Vice-President† J.R. Ford†
April Montgomery† Doug Stowe†

Absent: Preston Goetzke Monte Naslund Bob Wolff, Secretary-Treasurer
Mineral County (vacant) Fred Kroeger, Emeritus

Staff: Bruce Whitehead, SWCD Executive Director
Laura Spann, SWCD Office Manager
Steve Harris, Harris Water Engineering
Barry Spear, Maynes, Bradford, Shipps & Sheftel (MBSS)

Guests: Ken Beegles, Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District

†Participated by phone.

President John Porter called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

Questions/Comments from Audience

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

New Business

Legislative Update & Position on Bills

The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) State Affairs Committee met on February 18 and 24 to discuss water-related legislation. Bruce Whitehead explained the bills and relayed CWC discussion to the board. He referenced the most recent Legislative Reports: #2014-07 and #2014-08. The following bills were discussed:

SB 142 – Pesticide Inspection Water and Wastewater Systems

CWC will monitor this bill.

SB 115 – State Water Plan Public Review & General Assembly Approval

CWC supports this bill as amended. The Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Committee passed amendments to the bill. The Interim Water Resources Committee will host the hearings, rather than the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) as the original version would have required. The Committee will then submit comments to the executive branch for inclusion in the Colorado Water Plan. Also, the executive branch will submit a concept of the plan to the Interim Water Resources Committee by November 1. Bruce answered board questions about the amendments.

SB 023 – Transfer Water Efficiency Savings to Instream Use

CWC supported this bill, but some members expressed concerns at the last meeting, specifically whether or not the instream use should be within an existing instream flow reach. CWC will reconvene a subcommittee to discuss the bill further. The bill has passed the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

SB 017 – Limitation on Development that Uses Ag Dry Up to Irrigate Lawns

CWC supports the amended version of the bill. A strike-below amendment was adopted to refer the bill to the Interim Water Resources Committee for discussion during the summer. Steve Harris added that he would bring a conservation goal before the Southwest Basin Roundtable for consideration at their March 12 meeting.

SB 145 – Concerning Incentives for the Conservation of Water

CWC opposes this bill, unless the bill is amended to send to the Water Resources Review Committee.

SB 147 – Increased Well Pumping Study South Platte River

CWC opposes this bill. Another bill may be introduced on the topic of groundwater pumping in the same basin.

Also, the CWCB is expected to introduce their annual project and funding bill in the coming weeks.

HB 1150 – State and Local Government Coordination Regarding Federal Land Decisions

This bill was postponed indefinitely in committee before the CWC could discuss it.

Initiative #83 – State’s Duties with Public Trust Doctrine to Secure Rights to Protect Natural Resources

Initiative #73 was withdrawn, revised and reintroduced as Initiative #83. Bruce referred board members to CWC’s “Water Stewardship Project” which gives information on the potentially disastrous impact of public trust initiatives on the Colorado water rights system. SWCD will consider a resolution regarding public trust doctrine initiatives at the April 3 meeting.

Initiative #75 (Previously 63, 70 and 72) – Right to Local Self Government

CWC has not taken a position, but has concerns and will continue to monitor.

Initiative #76 (Previously 69 and 71) – Recall of State and Local Officers

CWC has not taken a position, but has concerns and will continue to monitor.

Initiative #79 – Two-thirds Vote to Retain Judges

CWC has not taken a position, but has concerns and will continue to monitor.

Executive Session

An executive session was not necessary.

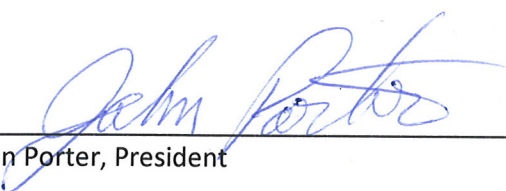
There was consensus to reschedule the next teleconference on Wednesday, March 12 for 10:00am, not 9:00am.

Next Meetings

Wednesday, March 12	10:00am	Teleconference
Wednesday, March 26	9:00am	Teleconference
Thursday, April 3	10:00am	Regular Board Meeting
Friday, April 4	8:30am	Spring Seminar

Adjournment

President John Porter adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.



John Porter, President