

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference
March 20, 2013**

Present: John Porter* Steve Fearn* Bob Wolff
 J. R. Ford* Tim Kelly* Monte Naslund*
 Doug Stowe* John Taylor*

**(Participation by phone)*

Absent: April Montgomery Fred Kroeger

Staff: Bruce Whitehead, Executive Director
 Jane Maxson, Office Manager
 Adam Reeves, MBSS
 Steve Harris, Harris Water Engineering

Guests: none

President John Porter called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

Swearing in of New Board Member

Adam Reeves, MBSS, administered the oath over the phone and Doug Stowe, who is replacing Larry Deremo representing Dolores County, was sworn in as SWCD's newest director.

Questions/Comments from Audience

Old Business

The ALP & OM&R Association sent a letter in response to the proposal from SWCD regarding the ALP water rights held by SWCD. The offer included a flow rate and fill/refill amount that meets project needs as currently constructed. They felt it was a fair proposal, but still had questions about paper fill and refill interpretations from the State Engineer's office. Discussions are also being held on the administrative protocol. SWCD will retain all of the water rights at least through the diligence period in August, 2013. There is a meeting scheduled next week with the State Engineers office and the Association to further discuss the protocol.

Bruce updated the board about the upcoming water seminar on April 5th. Board members were reminded to let Jane know if they will NOT be attending the dinner or need a hotel reservation on the 4th. Bruce passed on a suggestion from Christine Arbogast that the board members consider participation in a SWCD panel to discuss the importance of the board in their counties as a possible backup, if one of the scheduled presenters at the seminar had to cancel

Weather Modification

The City of Durango opted out of the weather mod program this year which decreases program contributions by \$6300 (would equal \$12,600 with SWCD match). Staff and San Juan RC&D found this out only recently. The State has secured the lower basin funds for late seeding. The board will need to make a decision at the April 4th board meeting on what the final SWCD contribution should be. Bob Wolff gave a short historic perspective on changes in the City due to Jack Rogers' departure.

New Business

***Legislative Update and Position**

Bruce Whitehead reported on the following, based on Report #9:

SB41 Protection of stored water

Going to Governor for signature

SB19 Promotion of Water Conservation Measures

CWC will support as amended SWCD will support as amended

SB191 Acquisition of rights of way by pipeline companies

CWC will monitor

SB181 Construction Bill (CWCB)

House Ag Committee struck "improve", Section 15 from the bill.

HB1248 Pilot projects for leasing of water for municipal use

CWC will meet with author regarding issues

Numerous oil and gas bills are yet to be introduced.

John Porter turned the floor to Doug Stowe to update the Board regarding the Gunnison Sage Grouse potential listing issue and how would it impact irrigated lands. The Fish & Wildlife comment period ends April 2. Discussion occurred. It was agreed that the board would meet via teleconference on March 28 at 9:00 to review a memo prepared by MBSS regarding the potential listing. The agenda for March 28th will include the potential listing of the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and habitat, as a possible action item for the board.

Executive Session, if necessary

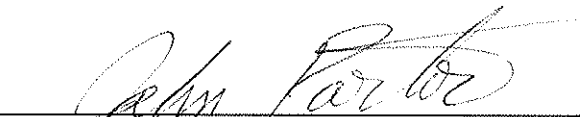
A session was not necessary.

Next Meeting

Mar 28	9:00 am	Special Teleconference
Apr 4	10:00 am	Board Meeting
Apr 5	8:30 am	Spring Seminar
Apr 17	9:00 am	Teleconference
May 1	9:00 am	Teleconference

Adjournment

President John Porter adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.



John Porter, President