

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

Present: Robert 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

Guests: Steve Garchar, Dolores County Commissioner†
Beth Van Vurst, Fairfield and Woods†

†Participated by phone.

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

Questions/Comments from Audience

(time: 00:05:20)

There were no comments or questions.

Old Business

Legislative Update & Position on Bills

(time: 00:05:45)

The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) State Affairs Committee met on March 13 and 20 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 1233 – Protect Historical Consumptive Use Analysis

CWC acted to support the bill, which applies statewide.

HB 1248 – CWCB Construction Fund Projects

CWC acted to support the bill.

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

CWC acted to oppose this bill. Several amendments were made to the bill, and a CWC subcommittee was formed. CWC elected not to reconsider its position on the bill.

SB 040 – Public Access to Government Files

CWC acted to oppose this bill. CWC has drafted an amendment to suggest if the bill moves forward.

SB 235 – Pilot Project Seaplanes in State Parks

CWC acted to oppose this bill, citing concerns with the potential for the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

HB 1254 – Noneconomic Damages Cap Wrongful Death of Child

CWC is discussing this bill.

HB LLS 1074 – Finance Water Pollution Control Program

CWC is discussing this draft bill.

HB LLS 1038 – Real Estate Development Demonstrate Water Conservation

CWC is discussing this draft bill.

Other possible legislation that may be introduced includes a bill concerning a Dedication of Reservoir Releases for Instream Flow Purposes, being discussed by the Northern Water Conservancy District in relation to NISP operations.

Water Quality Control Commission Regulation Nos. 34 & 35 (June Rulemaking Hearing) *(time: 00:41:00)*

Beth Van Vurst provided background on the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission’s June rulemaking hearing in Durango to consider proposed revisions to standards and stream classifications in the San Juan and Dolores river basins submitted by the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, Town of Silverton and Animas River Stakeholders Group. The Dolores Water Conservancy District will file for party status. Doug Stowe moved to file for party status for the Water Quality Control Commission hearing to consider revisions to Regulations numbers 34 and 35. Charlie Smith seconded. The motion passed.

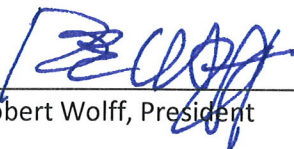
Final Approval, Letter to BOCCs (Board Terms)

(time: 00:45:45)

Legal counsel requested board approval of the draft letter to the nine Board of County Commissioners informing them of the manner in which board appointments are made, and what happens when a pre-term board replacement happens. Board members provided revisions. Rusty Hinger moved to approve the draft letter as revised, and authorize legal counsel to send the letter to the nine Boards of County Commissioners. Doug Stowe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meetings

Thursday, April 6	10:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting
Friday, April 7	8:30am	SWCD Annual Water Seminar
Thursday, June 15	10:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting



Robert Wolff, President