

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

Present: John Porter, President† Steve Fearn, Vice-President† J.R. Ford†
Preston Goetzke† Rusty Hinger† Monte Naslund†
Doug Stowe† Bob Wolff, Secretary-Treasurer†

Absent: 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: Darlene Marcus, Field Rep. For Congressman Scott Tipton†
Mike Preston, Dolores Water Conservancy District†

†Participated by phone.

President John Porter called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was present. John welcomed Rusty Hinger to the board. Rusty, from Mineral County, will be officially sworn in at the full board meeting on Thursday, April 3, along with Jenny Russell who is replacing April Montgomery for San Miguel County.

New Business

Legislative Update & Position on Bills

The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) State Affairs Committee met on March 17 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: #2014-09 and #2014-10. The following bills were discussed:

HB 1320 – Increase Water Right Diligence from 6 to 10 Years

CWC did not take a position on this bill. SWCD board members and staff discussed the bill.

President John Porter left the call. Vice-President Steve Fearn took over as chair of the meeting.

HB 1332 – South Platte River Basin Water Management

CWC tabled action on this bill until April 7. There was consensus for SWCD to abstain.

HB 1333 – Water Conservation Board Construction Fund

This is the Colorado Water Conservation Board's projects funding bill. The bill includes \$1.575 million for the Colorado Water Conservation Board to participate in the construction of Long Hollow Reservoir, and allows the board to receive and expend funds from its water allocation in the Animas-La Plata Project. CWC voted unanimously to support the legislation.

SB 023 – Transfer Water Efficiency Savings to Instream Use

CWC reconvened a subcommittee to discuss the bill further. CWC supported the bill, but before it went to the Senate floor, the Colorado River Water Conservation District and Farm Bureau decided to oppose the bill. SWCD and CWC did not change their positions of support.

Initiative #103 – State’s Duties with Public Trust Doctrine to Secure Rights to Protect Natural Resources

CWC is closely monitoring this initiative, which is scheduled for hearing before the Title Board next week.

Initiative #115 – Environmental Rights

CWC is closely monitoring this initiative, which is also based on the public trust doctrine.

Questions/Comments from Audience

Darlene Marcus, Field Representative for Congressman Scott Tipton, reflected on the Colorado Water Stewardship Project Webinar held on March 25. Bruce thanked Congressman Tipton for his introduction of the Water Rights Protection Act. Darlene reported on the status of the bill. On March 25, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed a rule that would give the federal government regulatory authority over millions of acres of wetlands and about two million miles of streams. The proposal, which is subject to a 90-day comment period, would lead to stricter pollution controls. There was discussion.

Interbasin Compact Committee Update

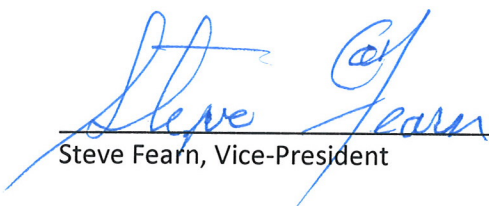
Steve Harris summarized the recent Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) meeting. Some Front Range representatives were amenable to a transmountain diversion with an interruptible supply, which may permit Western Slope entities to address risk management. Mike Preston, Bruce Whitehead and Steve Harris discussed the IBCC and Roundtable processes.

Next Meetings

Thursday, April 3	10:00am	Regular Board Meeting
Friday, April 4	8:30am	Spring Seminar
Wednesday, April 16	9:00am	Teleconference
Wednesday, April 30	9:00am	Teleconference

Adjournment

Vice-President Steve Fearn adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.



Steve Fearn, Vice-President