

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting—Teleconference
March 8, 2017**

Present: Bob Wolff, President Doug Stowe, Vice-President† David Guilliams
Rusty Hingert† Monte Naslund† Jenny Russell†
Don Schwindt

Absent: J.R. Ford Charlie Smith

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

Guests: Steve Garchar, Dolores County Commissioner†
Marcel Gaztambide, San Juan Citizens Alliance†
Carrie Lile, Harris Water Engineering†
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: 00:01:35)

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 27 and March 6 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:

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

CWC acted to oppose the bill, but acknowledge the conflicts between state and federal law regarding federal facilities. After hearing from bill sponsors, a subcommittee was formed to address the issues that spurred proposal of this legislation. Bruce is co-chairing the subcommittee with Representative Valdez.

SB 40 – Public Access to Electronic Files

CWC acted to oppose the bill with concerns about impacts to small Districts, the possibility of data-mining for profit by outside interests, and project security-related issues. If the bill moves forward, the Water Congress staff will continue to push for amendments that address those concerns.

The State Affairs Committee continues to discuss proposed legislation regarding a pilot program to allow seaplanes to land on Colorado waterways, which has not passed in previous years due to concerns regarding the risks of aquatic nuisance species.

HB 1219 – Extension of CWCB Ag Water Leasing Pilot Program

CWC discussed this bill, which would expand the current pilot program to allow for more pilot programs from 10 to 15, and extend the program through 2034.

SB 202 – Species Conservation Trust Fund

CWC acted to support this bill.

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

CWC has postponed action on this bill, after an opportunity to speak with the sponsor and seek additional comments from the CWC Water Quality Committee.

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

CWC acted to support this bill.

HB 1033 – CWCB Grants Loans Dredge South Platte Basin Reservoirs

CWC acted to oppose this bill, as there is already funding available from CWCB available for these purposes.


Meeting Date: Thursday, June 15

(time: 00:00:00)

David Guilliams moved to change the board meeting date to Thursday, June 15. Don Schwindt seconded. The motion passed.

Next Meetings

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