

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference
March 9, 2016**

Present: John Porter, President† Steve Fearn, Vice-President† Bob Wolff, Secretary-Treasurer†
David Guillian† Rusty Hingert Doug Stowe†

Absent: J.R. Ford Monte Naslund Jenny Russell

Staff: Bruce Whitehead, SWCD Executive Director
Laura Spann, SWCD Office Manager
Steve Harris, Harris Water Engineering
Adam Reeves, Maynes, Bradford, Shipp & Sheftel

Guests: Mike Preston, Dolores Water Conservancy District†

†Participated by phone.

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

Questions/Comments from Audience

There were no comments or questions.

Old Business

Legislative Update & Position on Bills

(time: 00:01:05)

The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) State Affairs Committee met on February 29 and March 7 to discuss water legislation introduced thus far during the 2016 Legislative Session. Bruce Whitehead explained the bills and relayed CWC discussion of the bills to the board. He referenced the summary document (Legislative Report #2016-08). The following bills were discussed:

HB 1109 – Application of State Water Law to Federal Agencies

CWC took a position of support at a previous meeting. Amendments have been proposed by environmental interests, and the Attorney General's Office has raised concerns about implied federal authority regarding reserved water rights or bypass flows. After much discussion and a motion to reconsider the SA position, the Committee agreed to "support the legislation if Section 4 of the revised bill is removed." Section 4 is the disputed language regarding any authority that Federal agencies "might have" to impose bypass flows in a federal permit evaluation.

HB 1283 – Water Loss Audit Report Performance Standards

CWC voted to oppose the legislation. There was SWCD board consensus to support this position of opposition.

HB 1005 – Residential Precipitation Collection

CWC could not reach a majority to oppose, support or take no position on the bill. In effect, CWC has no position on the bill. The bill continues to move forward.

HB 1256 – South Platte Water Storage Study

CWC supports this bill. Bruce Whitehead, Steve Harris, and Mike Preston testified remotely in support of the legislation on Monday.

SB 037 – Public Access Digitally Stored Data Under CORA

CWC opposed this bill, and it was postponed indefinitely.

SB 128 – Amend Augmentation & Substitute Water Supply Plans

CWC opposed this bill, and it was postponed indefinitely.

HB 1313 – Authority of Local Government Master Plan to Include Water Plan Goal

CWC continues to discuss this bill. Bob Wolff moved to oppose HB 1313. Steve Fearn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 1314 – Treat Preexisting Groundwater Depletions Replaced

CWC continues to discuss this bill. There was SWCD board consensus to remain neutral.

HB 1337 – Appellate Process For Decisions About Groundwater

CWC continues to discuss this bill. There was SWCD board consensus to remain neutral.

SB 145 – Colorado River District Subdistrict Formation

CWC continues to discuss this bill. Steve Fearn moved to support SB 145. Bob Wolff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

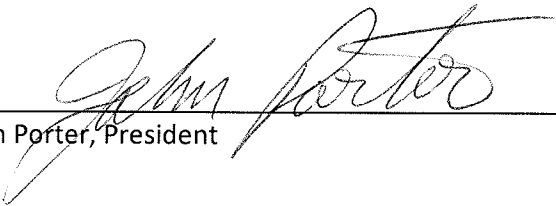
Regarding proposed legislation, there is a draft water banking bill being circulated to alter Arkansas basin guidelines. Bruce provided a quick summary on the 113 proposed ballot initiatives. A few of the proposals could “raise the bar” for the initiative process, and change future signature petition requirements. There was general consensus to support any such initiatives.

Next Meetings

Thursday, March 10	8:30am	Board Work Session
Wednesday, March 23	9:00am	Teleconference
Thursday, March 31	9:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting
Friday, April 1	8:00am	Annual Water Seminar

Adjournment

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



John Porter, President