

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference
May 11, 2016**

Present: Steve Fearn, Vice-President John Porter, President† Bob Wolff, Secretary-Treasurer
J.R. Ford† David Guillianst Rusty Hingert
Jenny Russell† Doug Stowe†

Absent: Monte Naslund

Staff: Bruce Whitehead, SWCD Executive Director
Laura Spann, SWCD Office Manager
Beth Van Vurst, Fairfield and Woods†

Guests: Darlene Marcus, U.S. Representative Scott Tipton†

†Participated by phone.

Vice-President Steve Fearn 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: 00:02:00)

The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) State Affairs Committee met to discuss water legislation introduced during the 2016 Legislative Session, which adjourned today, May 11. The Interim Water Resources Committee will meet in June (Gunnison Water Workshop) and August (CWC Summer Conference in Steamboat Springs), with additional meeting dates and locations to be determined. The Committee will consider proposed legislation, including the following bills that were postponed indefinitely during this legislative session: HB 1283 (Water Loss Audit Report Performance Standards), HB 1382 (Divert Water Piscatorial Aesthetic Beneficial Use), and HB 1392 (Water Banks Administration).

Bruce Whitehead explained the bills and relayed CWC discussion of the bills to the board. He referenced the final summary documents (Legislative Report #2016-15 and #2016-15). The following legislation was discussed:

HB 1458 – Species Conservation Trust Fund Projects

CWC acted to support this legislation.

HJR 1021 – Congress Streamline Water Project Permit Process

CWC acted to support this legislation.

HJR 1023 – Public Input and GA Review Before New Nutrient Requirements

CWC is monitoring this legislation.

SB 200 – Create Director Water Project Permit Coordination

CWC acted to support this legislation.

SB 218 – State Severance Tax Refunds

CWC monitored this legislation, which was introduced late in the session.

HB 1468 – State Severance Tax Refunds

CWC has not discussed this legislation, as it was introduced late in the session.

Bruce also highlighted the status of the following bills:

HB 1005 – Residential Precipitation Collection

CWC supported this bill, which will go to Governor Hickenlooper for signature.

HB 1228 – Ag Protection Water Right Transfer Mechanism

The bill will go to Governor Hickenlooper for signature, and is not applicable to Western Slope water divisions.

HB 1256 – South Platte Water Storage Study

CWC supported this bill, which will go to Governor Hickenlooper for signature.

SB 145 – Colorado River District Subdistrict Formation

CWC supported this bill, which will go to Governor Hickenlooper for signature.

SB 174 – CWCB Construction Fund Project

CWC supported this bill, which will go to Governor Hickenlooper for signature. Bruce attended the House Agriculture Committee hearing, and was asked to testify regarding Lake Nighthorse recreation even though the topic was not specifically related to the bill.

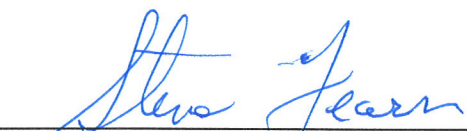
Regarding proposed ballot initiatives, two proposed measures focus on local sovereignty and environmental rights, but the public trust issue has been removed from the language. There are a number of other initiatives that would increase the requirements for ballot initiatives in Colorado. CWC will continue to follow progress on these ballot initiatives closely, poll the public, and submit a funding request to SWCD in support of the Colorado Water Stewardship Project.

Next Meetings

Tuesday, June 7	10:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 19	9:00am	Board Work Session
Tuesday, August 9	10:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, September 15	12:30pm	Joint SWCD/River District Meeting (Ridgway 4-H Event Center)

Adjournment

Vice President Steve Fearn adjourned the meeting at 9:40am.



Vice President, Steve Fearn