

**Southwestern Water Conservation District &  
Colorado River Water Conservation District  
Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Ridgway, CO September 15, 2016**

**SWCD Board Present:** John Porter, President (Montezuma) Steve Fearn, Vice President (San Juan)  
Monte Naslund (Montrose) Jenny Russell (San Miguel)  
Doug Stowe (Dolores) Robert Wolff (La Plata)

**SWCD Board Absent:** J.R. Ford (Archuleta) David Guilliams (Hinsdale)  
Rusty Hinger (Mineral)

**CRWCD Board Present:** Jon Stavney, President (Eagle) Tom Alvey, Vice-President (Delta)  
Marc Catlin (Montrose) Tom Gray (Moffat)  
John Justman (Mesa) David Merritt (Garfield)  
Doug Monger (Routt) Martha Whitmore (Ouray)  
Bill Trampe (Gunnison)

**CRWCD Board Absent:** John Ely (Pitkin) Rebie Hazard (Saguache)  
Gary Martinez (Summit) Mike Ritschard (Grand)  
Alden Vanden Brink (Rio Blanco) Stan Whinnery (Hinsdale)

**SWCD Staff Present:** Bruce Whitehead, Executive Director  
Laura Spann, Office Manager

**SWCD Consultants:** Carrie Lile, Harris Water Engineering  
Steve Harris, Harris Water Engineering  
Beth Van Vurst, Fairfield and Woods

**CRWCD Staff Present:** Eric Kuhn, General Manager  
Dan Birch, Deputy General Manager  
Peter Fleming, General Counsel  
John Currier, Chief Engineer  
Ray Tenny, Deputy Chief Engineer  
Chris Treese, External Affairs Manager  
Jason Turner, Senior Counsel  
Audrey Turner, Administrative Chief  
Mary Kalmes, Chief Accountant  
Ian Philips, Accountant  
Jim Pokrandt, Community Affairs Director  
Dave Kanzer, Deputy Chief Engineer  
Laurie DePaolo, Executive Assistant  
Denise Hussain, Records Administrator/Information Specialist

**Guests:** Betsy Bair, U.S. Senator Cory Gardner  
Ken Curtis, Dolores Water Conservancy District  
Brent Gardner-Smith, Aspen Journalism  
Aaron Derwingson, The Nature Conservancy  
Ben Tisdell, Ouray County Commissioner  
Ann McCoy-Harold, U.S. Senator Cory Gardner  
Ed Warner, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

SWCD Board President John Porter and CRWCD Board President Jon Stavney called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

## **1. Introduction by Board Presidents**

### **a. Goals of the Meeting**

*(time: 00:00:30)*

Jim Stavney and John Porter welcomed both boards and the public to the meeting. Introductions were made.

### **b. District Activities and Updates by Bruce Whitehead & Eric Kuhn**

*(time: 00:03:30)*

Bruce Whitehead, SWCD Executive Director, reported on construction of the pipeline from the upper end of Ridges Basin Reservoir that could result in the first delivery from the Animas-La Plata Project, settlement of the Animas La Plata Project water rights, potential use of the instream flow program to settle USFS federal reserved rights claims, and River Protection Workgroup activities. Eric Kuhn, CRWCD General Manager, reported on the fish screen installation at Elkhead Reservoir, Wolford Reservoir bank stabilization and settlement discussions, River District strategic plan update, rehabilitating aging infrastructure in the Gunnison basin, assessed valuation across the District peaked in 2010, and Roundtable communications.

## **2. Upper and Lower Basin Contingency Plans**

*(time: 00:33:00)*

Eric Kuhn provided background on the Upper Basin contingency plan agreed upon by the Upper Colorado River Commission, which includes extended reservoir operations, supply augmentation via cloud seeding and phreatophyte removal, and demand management. This year (or next year) the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation may be ready to sign a MOA for extended CRSP reservoir operations. Board members asked questions.

## **3. Colorado Water Plan Implementation**

*(time: 00:50:00)*

### **a. Joint West Slope Roundtables Risk Study**

Eric Kuhn directed board members to his memo regarding the first phase of the Joint West Slope Roundtable Risk Study. Among the conclusions, the study found that contingency planning is essential; extended drought operations for CRSP reservoirs reduces the risk, but in more severe droughts, demand management is also required. Some of the demand management volumes in the model are very large and many not be feasible, so Colorado users need to consider the trade-offs and alternative strategies. The River District is proposing to move forward with a second phase of the Risk Study, and is requesting that SWCD and the West Slope Roundtables continue as partners.

## **4. Compact Water Bank Update**

*(time: 00:54:45)*

Dan Birch provided background on the development of the Water Bank Working Group, which began nine years ago. Interruptible supply agreements would prevent a compact shortage, or in the case of a compact shortage, provide water for critical post-compact uses. Feasibility studies were conducted by the Working Group to evaluate pre- and post-compact water use on the Western Slope. Recently, Grand Valley Water Users Association has agreed to initiate a large scale pilot program for 2016-17. The program budget is estimated at \$1,000,000. There was extensive board and staff discussion regarding the appropriate current and future role of the Western Slope water bank, as well as foreseen and unforeseen impacts of agricultural demand management.

## **5. Instream Flow Program – Future Use Allocation**

*(time: 01:58:50)*

Bruce Whitehead summarized SWCD's concerns regarding recent CWCB instream flow filings low in river systems below population centers or close to the state line, and their potential impacts on future development opportunities in Western Slope communities. SWCD, the River District and other stakeholders have held several meetings to discuss possible inclusion of a future use allocation in the instream flow program to address local concerns regarding future development. CWCB initially participated in the discussions, but then stepped out. Board members highlighted specific concerns with the instream flow program. A recent meeting held at the CWC summer meeting had increased participation and interest from other parts of the state.

## 6. Dolores River Instream Flow Filing

*(time: 02:03:00)*

Beth Van Vurst and Peter Fleming summarized the River District and SWCD's objections to the CWCB's Dolores River instream flow filing, currently in Division 4 water court. Board members commented on the impact of the Dolores River instream flow filing in their counties.

## 7. Federal and State Issues

*(time: 02:19:00)*

Chris Treese directed board members to his legislative affairs (state and federal) memo, and highlighted recent developments. The bi-annual Water Resources Development Act is moving forward, and includes an aquatic nuisance species amendments and system conservation funds. All proposed bills may likely receive the support of the Interim Water Resources Review Committee at their final meeting next week. DWR's proposed "clean up" bill will likely move forward, along with the CWCB's proposal to restore water-related funding.

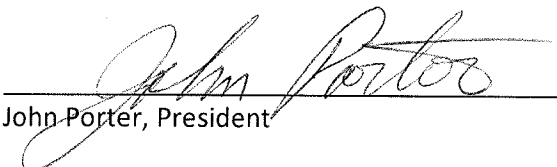
## 8. Mutual Interests & Cooperative Efforts

*(time: 02:35:00)*

Board presidents thanked the audience and expressed gratitude for cooperation between the two districts.

## Adjournment

Presidents Jim Stavney and John Porter adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

  
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John Porter, President