

CWCB Instream Flow Appropriation Himes Creek

(time: 00:17:05)

Beth Van Vurst provided background on the US Forest Service’s recommendation to the CWCB that it appropriate instream flow rights on Himes Creek for all unappropriated flows to protect the San Juan lineage of Colorado cutthroat trout. SWCD has been in discussions with the USFS, CWCB, and CPW regarding how the necessary flow could be quantified as an alternative to the recommendation by the USFS. DWCD shares in this request that CWCB quantify the flows necessary to protect the natural environment to a reasonable degree. CWCB staff may be recommending that the CWCB board appropriate the Himes Creek instream flow at its May meeting. This topic was recommended for further discussion in executive session.

Colorado River Discussions – Drought Contingency Planning

(time: 00:20:15)

Beth Van Vurst summarized correspondence from the Upper Colorado River Commission to the State of Arizona and Denver Water to the Central Arizona Project expressing concerns over what they say is the Central Arizona Water Conservancy District essentially gaming the Colorado River system. Denver Water threatened to pull funding for the System Conservation Pilot Program in 2019. Beth anticipates further discussion of these interstate issues over the course of the summer. There was board member discussion of the need for further quantification of water supply augmentation component (phreatophyte removal, cloud seeding) of drought contingency planning that could also include forest health.

New Business

Citizens Superfund Workgroup

(time: 00:30:10)

Laura Spann summarized the Citizens Superfund Workgroup’s efforts to draft a memo to deliver to the EPA outlining four major community priorities for the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site. SWCD, specifically Laura as a meeting participant, is listed as supportive of the memo. Board members voiced support for further emphasizing community voices in the superfund process. Charlie Smith moved to support the Citizen’s Superfund Memo as drafted. Bob Wolff seconded. The motion passed.

Executive Session

(time: 00:37:10)

Beth Van Vurst recommended that the board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the proposed CWCB instream flow appropriation on Himes Creek. The statutes covering this session are § 24-6-402(4)b, C.R.S., “conferences with an attorney for the district for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions” and § 24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S., “determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators”. Monte Naslund moved that the board go into executive session. Doug Stowe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Beth Van Vurst announced that the board was out of executive session, during which no action was taken. The board discussed the CWCB instream flow appropriation on Himes Creek. Rusty Hinger moved to direct staff and legal counsel to request that the CWCB board postpone their instream flow appropriation on Himes Creek until a precise flow rate can be determined. Doug Stowe seconded. The motion passed.

Next Meetings

Wednesday, May 23	8:00am	Special Board Meeting (SWCD only) and Special Joint Meeting with the CRWCD (Montrose)
Tuesday, June 5	9:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting

Robert Wolff, Board President