

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting—Special Meeting
Hampton Inn
Montrose, Colorado
May 23, 2018**

Present: J.R. Ford† David Guilliams Jenny Russell†
Don Schwindt Charlie Smith Doug Stowe
Bob Wolff

Absent: Rusty Hinger Monte Naslund

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

Guests: Ashley Greco, Representative Scott Tipton’s Office

†Participated by phone.

Robert Wolff called the work session to order at 8:00 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

Questions/Comments from Audience

(time: 00:01:30)

The board welcomed Ashley Greco, Rep. Scott Tipton’s Office.

Old Business

CWCB Instream Flow Appropriation Himes Creek

(time: 00:02:00)

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. This recommendation was to come before the CWCB board at their May 23-24 meeting. At the last teleconference, SWCD staff and legal counsel were directed to draft a letter to CWCB requesting a delay in their appropriation of Himes Creek until a specific flow rate were to be proposed. However, SWCD has been in discussions with the USFS, CWCB, and CPW, and the group has agreed to postpone the appropriation. This topic was recommended for further discussion in executive session.

Colorado River Discussions

(time: 00:05:00)

Water Bank Working Group

Bruce Whitehead, Don Schwindt, and Carrie Padgett attended the late-April Water Bank Work Group meeting in Grand Junction. SWCD representatives have urged the WBWG to study and consider the secondary impacts of voluntary compensated dry-up of agriculture. The group has developed a statement of purpose and a website accessible via the River District page. Don encouraged SWCD to continue involvement in the WBWG.

Inter- and Intra-State Drought Contingency Planning

Beth Van Vurst summarized correspondence to the State of Arizona regarding that state’s water management and urging completion of the Lower Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan. The Board of Water Works of Pueblo, CO pulled their project from the System Conservation Pilot Program list for the coming year. These developments, along with diminishing hydrology, has spurred along drought contingency planning for both the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins. This topic was recommended for further discussion in executive session.

New Business

Colorado Water Congress Representation

(time: 00:17:30)

Steve Fearn represented southwestern Colorado on the Colorado Water Congress board, and with his unexpected passing, CWC has solicited applications by June 8 to fill the vacancy. Applicants must be a current member of the CWC and reside in the geographic region of the San Juan and Dolores watersheds in southwestern Colorado. Other previous board members were Fred Kroeger and John Porter. SWCD Board members were encouraged to consider applying since SWCD is a significant funding partner of the CWC in southwestern Colorado. Bob recommended this topic for discussion at the June 5 board meeting.

Executive Session

(time: 00:22:15)

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 and Colorado River discussions, specifically inter- and intra-state drought contingency planning. 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." David Guilliams 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 and Colorado River discussions, specifically inter- and intra-state drought contingency planning.

The meeting was adjourned, with a joint meeting of the Southwestern Water Conservation District and the Colorado River District scheduled to convene at 11:00 am at the Montrose Pavilion.

Next Meetings

Tuesday, June 5	9:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 7	9:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting (Hinsdale County)
Tuesday, September 11	9:00am	Budget Committee Workshop
Tuesday, October 2	9:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 4	9:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting

Robert Wolff, Board President