

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting & Budget Workshop
Teleconference
September 11, 2018**

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

Absent: Rusty Hinger Monte Naslund Jenny Russell

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

Consultants: Beth Van Vurst, Fairfield and Woods†
Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering†

Guests: Marcel Gatzambide, San Juan Citizens Alliancet†
Peter Fleming, Colorado River Water Conservation District†
Andy Mueller, Colorado River Water Conservation District†

†Participated by phone.

Robert Wolff called the work session to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

Questions/Comments from Audience

(time: 00:00:50)

There were no questions.

Old Business

Upper Basin & Intra-State Drought Contingency Planning Efforts

(time: 00:01:15)

Beth Van Vurst summarized recent efforts by the seven Colorado River basin states to finalize drought contingency plans by year end at the request of the Secretary of the Interior. Within the Upper Basin, the drought contingency plan consists of three principal efforts: 1) CRSP drought reservoir reoperations, 2) supply augmentation efforts (specifically phreatophyte removal and weather modification), and 3) temporary, voluntary, compensated demand management. The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) will likely be taking some action at the September or November board meeting regarding the drought contingency plan. SWCD has generally supported the DCP, but both SWCD and the Colorado River Water Conservation District (River District) has expressed concerns about the potential impacts of demand management to west slope agriculture and communities. Beth recommended discussing aspects of drought contingency planning negotiations in executive session. There was discussion of Lakes Mead & Powell operations, the importance of broadening the definition of water supply augmentation beyond weather modification, and even phreatophyte removal, to include other potential augmentation opportunities such as forest health.

Executive Session

(time: 00:15:00)

Beth Van Vurst recommended that the board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing upper basin and intra-state drought contingency planning efforts. 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." Doug Stowe moved that the board go into executive session. David Guilliams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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On behalf of the Colorado River Water Conservation District, Andy Mueller and Peter Fleming participated in the portion of executive session discussing drought contingency planning in the Upper Colorado River basin and within the State of Colorado. Their participation is permitted pursuant to the common interest agreement between the River District and SWCD.

Beth Van Vurst announced that the board was out of executive session, during which no action was taken. The board developed strategy for negotiations and instructed negotiators on upper basin and intra-state drought contingency planning efforts. Don Schwindt moved to direct staff and legal counsel to continue working with the River District, including at the September CWCB board meeting, the West Slope's position on Colorado River Compact issues and more particularly demand management, and to advance that position publically. Doug Stowe seconded. The motion passed.

Budget Workshop

Review of Proposed FY2019 Budget

(time: 00:22:00)

Bruce Whitehead and Laura Spann gave background on the government budget process, deadlines, and SWCD's internal process for developing 2019 estimated budgeted amounts. The board evaluated the draft FY 2019 budget line-by-line and discussed revenues and expenses in detail. The draft budget will be distributed to the board for the October 2 board meeting, and the budget hearing will be held during the board meeting scheduled for December 4.

Next Meetings

Tuesday, October 2 9:00am Regular Board Meeting



Robert Wolff, Board President