

**Southwestern Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting—Teleconference  
March 6, 2019**

**Present:** JR Ford David Williams Rusty Hinger  
Monte Naslund† Jenny Russell Charlie Smith  
Don Schwindt Doug Stowe Bob Wolff

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

**Guests:** Orla Bannon, Western Resources Advocates†  
Ken Curtis, Dolores Water Conservancy District†  
Marcel Gatzambide, San Juan Citizens Alliance†  
Chris Mannara, Pagosa Springs Sun†  
Michelle Magruder, Fairfield and Woods†  
Ed Millard, Southwest Basin Roundtable†  
Ken Norris, Montrose County†  
Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering†  
Mark Ragsdale, Colorado Division of Water Resources†  
Ryan Unterreiner, Colorado Parks & Wildlife†  
Beth Van Vurst, Fairfield and Woods

*†Participated by phone.*

**1.0 Call to Order**

*(time: 00:00:30)*

Robert Wolff called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was established. Beth Van Vurst clarified that after the executive session is complete, there will be a report out in open session and the board may elect to take action. The public was offered a call back after the executive session is complete.

**2.0 Questions/Comments from Audience**

*(time: 00:07:30)*

Marcel Gatzambide, San Juan Citizens Alliance, requested any publicly available information regarding SWCD's development of the SWCD Project Water Rights. Bruce Whitehead provided background on these conditional Animas River water rights, and offered to meet with Marcel and Peggy to further clarify where their development stands.

**3.0 Old Business**

**3.1 Legislative Update & Position on Bills**

*(time: 00:09:00)*

Staff relayed the current status of state water-related legislation supported or monitored by SWCD. They referenced the most recent summary document (Legislative Report #2019-08). The following bills were discussed in more detail:

**HB 1006 – Wildfire Mitigation Wildland-urban Interface Area**

CWC again postponed action on this bill, after hearing from the sponsor that an amendment may be introduced to expand the current grant program to allow HOAs to apply for funding.

**HB 1108 – Non-Resident Electors and Special Districts**

CWC opposes this bill. Charlie Smith moved to oppose HB 1108 (Non-Resident Electors and Special Districts). Doug Stowe seconded. The motion passed.

**HB 1200 – Reclaimed Domestic Wastewater Point of Compliance**

CWC supports this bill.

**HB 1213 – Urban Drainage Flood Control District Director Compensation**

CWC discussed this bill.

**HB 1218 – Loaned Water for Instream Flows to Improve Environment**

There was significant SWCD discussion and public comment on the bill. There was board consensus to bring up questions on the proposed changes at the upcoming State Affairs meeting, as well as invite CWCB representatives and staff to our March 20 board teleconference to educate the board on the current program.

**3.2 Colorado River Discussions – Upper & Lower Basins Drought Contingency Planning** (time: 00:46:05)

Beth Van Vurst reported that the Upper Basin states are in a position to adopt the DCP. However, Arizona and California are still not on board. Within California, the Imperial Irrigation District is insisting that the federal government provide \$200 million to restore the Salton Sea. In Arizona, the governor has signed legislation ratifying Arizona’s DCP, but within the state, a number of agreements need to be executed. On March 4, the comment period opened for the governors of the seven basin states to provide input to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation regarding next steps should the drought contingency plan not be unanimously adopted. The deadline for those comments is March 19.

**4.0 Executive Session**

(time: 00:51:30)

Beth Van Vurst recommended that the board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters regarding employee communications and performance. 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)(f), C.R.S., “personnel matters.” David Guilliams moved that the board go into executive session. Doug Stowe seconded. The motion passed.

Beth Van Vurst announced that the board was out of executive session at 12:31pm, during which no action was taken. The board discussed personnel matters regarding employee communications and performance.

Bob Wolff announced that Bruce Whitehead has informed the Board that he would be retiring effective immediately. Several board members thanked Bruce for his service, leadership, and significant contributions to advancing SWCD’s mission in his more than 11 years as executive director.

JR Ford moved to postpone the Annual Water Seminar and instead hold the board retreat planned for May on April 4-5. Doug Stowe seconded. The motion passed.

**Next Meetings**

- March 20, 2019      Board Teleconference
- April 4, 2019      Regular Board Meeting
- April 5, 2019      Annual Water Seminar




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Robert Wolff, Board President