

**Southwestern Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting—Teleconference  
April 11, 2019**

**Present:** JR Ford† Rusty Hingert Jenny Russell†  
Charlie Smith Don Schwindt† Doug Stowe†  
Bob Wolff†

**Absent:** Monte Naslund David Guilliams

**Staff:** Steve Harris, Harris Water Engineering  
Laura Spann, SWCD Programs Coordinator

**Guests:** Sue Hansen, Montrose County Commission†  
Marcel Gatzambide, San Juan Citizens Alliance†  
Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering†  
Mike Preston, Dolores Water Conservancy District†  
Beth Van Vurst, Fairfield and Woods†

†Participated by phone.

**1.0 Call to Order**

*(time: 00:00:15)*

Robert Wolff called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

**2.0 Questions/Comments from Audience**

*(time: 00:02:00)*

Marcel Gatzambide, San Juan Citizens Alliance, asked that SWCD take into consideration several comments on the proposed rule redefining “Waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Act. Specifically, Marcel explained that the rule is not guided by science nor intended to protect clean water, but rather promotes economic development by minimizing regulation. It would not protect ephemeral and other features that are part of the hydrologic system. Without state or tribal regulations providing those protections, any support for the rule would make southwestern communities more vulnerable. He requested that SWCD’s comment letter be made available publicly.

**3.0 Old Business**

**3.1 Colorado River Discussions – Interstate and Intrastate Drought Contingency Planning** *(time: 00:04:30)*

Beth Van Vurst reported that the federal legislation authorizing implementation of the Colorado River drought contingency planning has passed the House and Senate, and awaits the president’s signature. Monte Naslund moved to support Don Schwindt request to CWCBC to be placed on the CWCBC demand management workgroup focused on agriculture. Doug Stowe seconded. Don will represent SWCD on the workgroup. The motion passed. The Joint West Slope Roundtable meeting for May 2 was postponed to late June.

**3.2 Update on Executive Director Job Announcement**

*(time: 00:06:30)*

The job posting for the executive director is available on swwcd.org, along with accompanying materials. Publicizing the open position will begin this afternoon. Steve Harris clarified that no background checks will be conducted prior to the June 4 board meeting, and applicant references may be requested at a later point in the process.

**3.3 Waters of the United States Proposed Rule**

*(time: 00:12:45)*

Steve Harris summarized the draft comment letter from SWCD regarding the proposed rule redefining “Waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Act. Specifically, the letter provides general support for the revised

April 11, 2019

definition, addresses the definition of a tributary, qualification of irrigation ditches, water body connectivity, and post-fire remediation. Comments are due on April 15, 2019. Steve responded to board questions.

Jenny Russell moved to add a statement to SWCD's comment letter on the proposed WOTUS letter summarizing SWCD's general support for clean water. Charlie Smith seconded. The motion passed.

Jenny Russell moved to remove the first paragraph under the "Comment on Tributary Definition" to allow for a broad range of ephemeral streams. Charlie Smith seconded. There were comments regarding the importance of maintaining clean water in areas affected by historical mining. The motion was amended to remove just the first two sentences of the paragraph. The motion failed 2-5.

Doug Stowe moved to direct staff and legal counsel to submit SWCD's comment letter regarding the revised WOTUS rule with the revision supporting clean water. Monte Naslund seconded. The motion passed 5-2.

#### **4.0 Adjournment.**

President Bob Wolff adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

#### **Next Meetings**

April 30, 2019	9:00 a.m.	Board Teleconference
May 29, 2019	11:00 a.m.	Board Teleconference
June 4, 2019	9:00 a.m.	Regular Board Meeting



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Robert Wolff, Board President