

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting—Teleconference
April 30, 2019**

Present:	JR Ford† Don Schwindt†	Monte Naslund† Doug Stowe†	Charlie Smith Bob Wolff
Absent:	David Guilliams	Rusty Hinger	Jenny Russell
Staff:	Laura Spann, SWCD Programs Coordinator†		
Guests:	Orla Bannan, Western Resources Advocates† Clyde Church, La Plata County Commissioner† Keith Caddy, Montrose County Commissioner† Sue Hansen, Montrose County Commissioner† Steve Harris, Harris Water Engineering Marcel Gatzambide, San Juan Citizens Alliance† Ann McCoy-Harold, U.S. Senator Cory Gardner† Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering† Roger Rash, Montrose County Commissioner† Beth Van Vurst, Fairfield and Woods Ryan Unterreiner, Colorado Parks & Wildlife†		

†Participated by phone.

1.0 Call to Order

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

2.0 Questions/Comments from Audience

(time: 00:02:05)

There were no public comments or questions.

3.0 Old Business

3.1 Legislative Update & Position on Bills

(time: 00:02:30)

SWCD's State Affairs representatives relayed the current status of the following water-related bills: HB 1218 (Loaned Water for Instream Flows to Protect Natural Environment), HB 1271 (Augmentation of Instream Flows), HB 1006 (Wildfire Mitigation Wildland-urban Interface Areas), and HB 1327 (Authorize and Tax Sports Betting Refer Under Taxpayers' Bill of Rights). Charlie Smith moved to support HB 1327. The motion failed for lack of a second. The 2019 legislative session will end on May 3.

3.2 Update from Keystone Policy Center's Water Plan Funding Committee

(time: 00:09:20)

Steve Harris reported that SWCD has been invited to participate in the Keystone Policy Center's Water Plan Funding Committee, which is an effort supported by the Gates and Walton Foundations to investigate potential options to fund Colorado's Water Plan. The group membership has now expanded, and is analyzing options for a potential ballot measure. The next meeting is Friday, May 3. Laura Spann plans to attend the first meeting to report back to staff and the board.

3.3 BLM SWSP Application for Treasure Pass Transmountain Diversion Ditch

(time: 00:11:30)

Beth Van Vurst reported that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has, through the filing of Substitute Water Supply Plan (SWSP) application, asked the Colorado Division of Water Resources to approve a temporary change of water right decreed for the Treasure Pass Transmountain Ditch. The requested temporary changes are 1) from direct flow to storage in Beaver Park Reservoir and 2) irrigation near Del Norte to augmentation across the

April 30, 2019

San Luis Valley. SWCD counsel and staff have concerns that the BLM has not provided any supporting documentation to justify the change nor demonstrated that the change does not expand historical use of the water right and injure water users in the San Juan river basin. The BLM has not provided historical diversion records, engineering report, terms and conditions or any other measures to ensure water users are not injured. It is expected that a change of water right application to water court will soon follow. SWCD counsel and engineer recommended that SWCD submit comments based on those concerns outlined in the memo provided in the board packet. San Juan Water Conservancy District will also be providing comments. Monte Naslund moved to authorize counsel and engineer to submit comments on the BLM SWSP for the Treasure Pass Transmountain Diversion Ditch based on the concerns outlined in the memo. Doug Stowe seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed.

3.4 Colorado River Discussions – Interstate and Intrastate Drought Contingency Planning (time: 00:18:30)

Steve Harris reported that CWCB is still populating the demand management workgroups. There was discussion regarding SWCD's additional outreach and research for demand management, which will be planned in more detail at the June board meeting.

3.5 Interim Executive Director Update

(time: 00:23:30)

Given the Joint West Slope Roundtable meeting on June 20, there was consensus to move the executive director interviews to June 17-18-19. Laura will follow up with board members regarding availability on June 17.

Steve Harris reported that there are three applicants so far for the SWCD executive director position. At a previous board meeting, there was board interest in reviewing and possibly adjusting current employee benefits, specifically health insurance. Steve's recommendations would be to provide the current benefits package, with the caveat that with rising costs, health insurance benefits may be evaluated by an insurance broker upon SWCD's next renewal of the policy.

The tentative board meeting and teleconference scheduled for May 8 may be cancelled.

4.0 Adjournment.

President Bob Wolff adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Next Meetings

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



Robert Wolff, Board President