

March 11, 2020

6.0 Legislative Update & Position on Bills

(time: 00:16:50)

The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) State Affairs Committee met on March 2nd and March 9th to discuss water legislation introduced thus far during the 2020 Legislative Session. Frank Kugel and Beth Van Vurst explained the bills, relayed questions, concerns and other feedback that have been raised regarding these bills to the board and referenced the SWCD 2020 Legislative Update dated 3-9-20.

The following bills were discussed: SB20-189 (Local Government Pesticide No Preemption), HB20-1119 (State Government Regulation of PFAS), HB20-1215 (Sunset Water Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board), HB20-1338 (Operational Severance Tax Transfer to Agriculture Value-Added), HB20-1344 (Study Artificial Recharge Max Beneficial Use Water), and HB20-1072 (Study Emerging Technologies for Water Management).

It was mentioned that the following bills were postponed indefinitely: HB20-1172 (No Abandonment of Water Rights for Efficiencies), HB20-1287 (Colorado Rights Act), and HB20-1327 (Water Diversions from Rio Grande Basin).

The board voiced concern that HB20-1338 would add another demand to an already dwindling severance tax fund that is used to support the Water Supply Reserve Fund, among other water programs. Doug Stowe moved to oppose HB20-1338 (Operational Severance Tax Transfer to Agriculture Value-Added). Monte Naslund seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

7.0 Update: 2020 Annual Water Seminar Planning

(time: 00:52:10)

Bob Wolff proposed that the board discuss postponing SWCD's Annual Water Seminar to assist in slowing the transmission of COVID-19. Frank Kugel summarized his coordination with La Plata County Emergency Manager Butch Knowlton. Local officials are currently in the containment phase, and they are developing a database of planned public gatherings. If cases appear locally, officials will move to the mitigation phase, which would include a ban on public gatherings of a significant size. It was suggested that SWCD's consideration of this public health situation be communicated to potential attendees, speakers, and the general public. There was board consensus to refund seminar registration fees at any time, monitor the public health situation closely, and inform presenters and attendees that SWCD will further consider whether to postpone or cancel the Annual Water Seminar at the March 25th teleconference, if not sooner.

8.0 Adjournment

Bob Wolff adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting

March 25, 2020	9:00am	Special Board Meeting & Teleconference
April 2, 2020	TBD	Regular Board Meeting
April 3, 2020	8:30am	SWCD Annual Water Seminar
April 15, 2020	9:00am	Special Board Meeting & Teleconference



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Robert Wolff, Board President