



the CWCB for watershed restoration to support post-fire recovery and mitigation efforts. JR Ford moved to support SB21-054 (Transfers for Wildfire Mitigation and Response). Don Schwindt seconded. The motion passed.

HB21-1008 (Forest Health Project Financing) clarifies the authority of several governmental entities, including SWCD and the Colorado River Water Conservation District, allowing financial participation in cooperative forest health plans. As the board directed at the April meeting, SWCD was successful in securing an amendment to clarify that existing authorities that SWCD has to participate in forest health plans would not be limited by this bill. Charlie Smith moved to support the HB21-1008 (Forest Health Project Financing) as amended. Rusty Hinger seconded. The motion passed.

Don Schwindt moved to monitor HB21-1043 (Study Underground Water Storage Maximum Beneficial Use). JR Ford seconded. The motion passed. The board directed Chris Treese to engage on the bill to ensure opportunities to study underground water storage in southwestern Colorado are considered.

Chris Treese and Beth Van Vurst explained that HB21-1046 (Water Share Right Mutual Ditch Corporation) is the subject of an on-going stakeholder review process and is unlikely to proceed as introduced. Accordingly, they recommended a position of monitor until the actual form and direction of the bill is known. Rusty Hinger moved to monitor HB21-1046 (Water Share Right Mutual Ditch Corporation). Charlie Smith seconded. The motion passed.

Chris Treese directed the board to his memo which outlines several other proposed legislative concepts that have been discussed but for which no bills have yet been introduced this session. Chris also described HB21-1042 (Water Storage Tanks Grant Program) and confirmed that the board did not want to consider this bill further.

## 5.0 Old Business

### 5.1 Proposed extension of C.R.S. 37-92-305(3)(c) to Water Division 7 (time: 00:33:50)

With assurance that proposed legislation to end Water Division 7's exclusion from an otherwise statewide statutory protection for water rights enrolled in an approved water conservation program is very unlikely this year, Chris Treese recommended that the SWCD board delay action or even firm direction until a permanent General Manager has been hired. Proponents of the proposed extension of C.R.S. § 37-92-305(3)(c) to Division 7 described their intentions to provide additional opportunities for protections to water users and clarified that they are not attempting to open a back door for demand management. Proponents expressed their desire to coordinate closely with SWCD in the future if there is interest in extending this statutory protection to water users in Division 7. Opponents described concerns that there was inadequate stakeholder input on this legislative concept when first considered by SWCD in February 2020, and that extension of C.R.S. § 37-92-305(3)(c) may facilitate water rights speculation in southwestern Colorado.

## 4.0 New Business

### 4.2 Proposed Change in Legislative Biweekly Special Meeting Dates (time: 00:45:45)

Upon the recommendation of Laura Spann and Chris Treese, the Board agreed to change the dates of SWCD's biweekly special board meetings focused on state legislation from every other Wednesday to every other Thursday at 9:00 a.m. to ensure the board has the most up-to-date information.

### 4.3 Proposed Timing and Delivery of Board Legislative Packets (time: 00:49:00)

Chris Treese and Laura Spann proposed sending board packets on Tuesdays prior to the bi-weekly Thursday meetings for arrival on Wednesday afternoon by FedEx. There were no objections to changing distribution of the public SWCD legislative report to every two weeks, instead of weekly as was done in the past.

**5.0 Old Business**

**5.2 Proposed SWCD Account Signatories (Bank of Colorado, COLOTRUST)** (time: 00:53:00)

As recommended by staff, Don Schwindt moved to designate Jenny Russell, Charlie Smith, and Amy Huff as signatories for SWCD's accounts with Bank of Colorado and COLOTRUST. Rusty Hinger seconded. The motion passed.

**3.0 Questions & Comments from the Audience (cont.)**

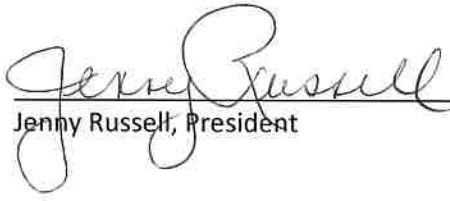
(time: 00:56:30)

Jenny Russell provided the public with another opportunity to ask questions or provide comments to the Board. Ed Millard asked if SWCD had reviewed the potential impacts on southwestern Colorado of the proposed federal legislation H.R. 803 Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021 (Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act). If SWCD had not reviewed this bill, Ed asked that it be on a future SWCD agenda for board consideration.

**6.0 Adjournment**

(time: 00:58:40)

Monte Naslund moved to adjourn the meeting. Rusty Hinger seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

  
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Jenny Russell, President