

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Special Meeting via Zoom
April 8, 2021**

Present: JR Ford David Guilliams Rusty Hinger
Amy Huff Jenny Russell Don Schwindt
Charlie Smith

Absent: Monte Naslund Doug Stowe

Staff: Laura Spann, Programs Coordinator

Consultants: Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering
Chris Treese, Independent Consultant
Beth Van Vurst, Van Vurst Law, General Counsel

Guests: Orla Bannan, Western Resources Advocates
Ken Beegles, Southwest Basin Roundtable
Marcel Gaztambide, San Juan Citizens Alliance

1.0 Call to Order – Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

President Jenny Russell called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum established.

2.0 Review and Approve Agenda

(time: 00:00:45)

Laura Spann recommended adding agenda item 3.1, San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program - Transfer of SWCD's Fiscal and Contracting Responsibilities for Water Development Committee. Rusty Hinger moved to approve the agenda as revised. Amy Huff seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

3.0 Questions & Comments from the Audience

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

3.1 San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs - Transfer of SWCD's Fiscal and Contracting Responsibilities for Water Development Committee

(time: 00:01:45)

Laura Spann reported that the San Juan Water Commission will be taking on fiscal and contracting responsibility for the Water Development Committee. It is anticipated that the transition will occur over the coming months.

4.0 Old Business

4.1 State Legislative Update & Position on Bills

(time: 00:04:00)

Chris Treese directed the board and public to his "Money Memo," which focused on the state budget and related legislation. Chris explained that the proposed state budget bill includes an increase of 12% over 2020. In the last nine months, the revenue forecast used to build the state budget bill has increased fourfold.

He described SB21-220 (Reverse Transfers from Severance Tax Operational Fund), which reverses five transfers made from the Department of Natural Resources to the General Fund during the 2020 COVID-19 budget crisis. SB 220 specifically replenishes the Species Conservation Trust Fund, Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Aquatic Nuisance Species fund, the Colorado Water Conservation Board's (CWCB) Water Efficiency grant program cash fund; the Inter-Basin Compact Committee's operating fund, and the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF). Don Schwindt moved that SWCD support SB21-220 (Reverse Transfers from Severance Tax Operational Fund). JR Ford seconded. The motion passed.

Chris Treese described HB21-1260 (General Fund Transfer to Implement Colorado's Water Plan), which allocates \$20 million from the general fund to the CWCB to be spent to implement the state water plan, including five million dollars for the WRSF Basin Accounts. With severance tax and mineral royalty revenues still lagging, Chris suggested this is a particularly important bill. Charlie Smith moved that SWCD support HB21-1260 (General Fund Transfer Implement State Water Plan). Amy Huff seconded. The motion passed.

5.0 Executive Session

(time: 00:15:15)

Beth Van Vurst recommended that the board move into executive session for the purpose of discussing agenda item 5.1, the general manager hiring process, including an update on the general manager hiring process and continued deliberations regarding applicants for the position. The statutes covering this discussion in executive session are § 24-6-402(3.5), § 24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S., "determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators," and § 24-6-402(4)(f)(1), C.R.S., "personnel matters." Chris Treese was invited to join the executive session as an independent contractor tasked with coordinating the general manager hiring process. Rusty Hinger moved that the board go into executive session. Don Schwindt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Summary and Action Items from Executive Session

(time: 00:17:00)

Beth Van Vurst announced that the board was out of executive session at 10:24 a.m. Beth reported that in executive session the board discussed agenda item 5.1, the general manager hiring process, including an update on the general manager hiring process and continued deliberations regarding applicants for the position. No action was taken during the executive session.

There was board consensus to schedule a SWCD special board meeting on Thursday, May 13th from 9:00-11:00 a.m. to discuss SWCD's strategic plan.

7.0 Adjournment

President Russell adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.



Jenny Russell, President