

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Special Meeting via Teleconference - No Quorum
March 3, 2022

Present: Amy Huff Jenny Russell Don Schwindt
Charlie Smith

Absent: Dagan Chadd JR Ford David Guilliams
Rusty Hinger Monte Naslund

Staff: Laura Spann, Programs Coordinator
Steve Wolff, General Manager

Consultants: Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering
Garin Vorthmann, Colorado Legislative Strategies

Guests: Orla Bannan, Western Resource Advocates

1.0 Call to Order – Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

President Jenny Russell called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was not established.

2.0 Review and Approve Agenda

There was unanimous consent to approve the agenda.

3.0 Questions & Comments from the Public

There were no questions or comments from the public.

4.0 State Legislative Update & SWCD Position on Bills

(time: 00:02:00)

Steve Wolff and Garin Vorthmann provided the following state legislative updates:

- The fiscal note for HB22-1151 (Turf Replacement Program) explains the four-million-dollar appropriation that would fund the turf replacement programs outlined in the bill. Colorado Water Congress and the Colorado River District are supporting the bill, which passed out of House Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee on February 28th and has now been assigned to the House Appropriations Committee. SWCD acted to monitor this bill at their February 17th meeting. Generally, existing turf replacement programs compensate residents for turf replacement at \$1-2 per foot.
- Colorado Counties, Inc, continues to draft and revise amendments to SB22-114 (Fire Suppression Pond Water Rights) to address stakeholder concerns. SWCD acted to support this bill with the proposed amendments at their February 17th meeting.
- An adopted amendment softened language in SB22-126 (Prioritize Water Storage Projects South Platte Basin); however, the bill continues to prioritize South Platte projects. SWCD acted to oppose this bill at their February 17th meeting, along with the Colorado River District. The bill passed out of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee with unanimous support, and it has been scheduled for the Senate floor consent agenda.
- SWCD is following SB22-131 (Protect Health of Pollinators and People), which would authorize local governments to regulate pesticide uses.

Steve Wolff and Garin Vorthmann summarized draft legislation, not yet introduced, that would permit the designation of recreational in-channel values reaches (RIVR) of up to 400 yards to protect recreation uses across the state. This proposed legislation would allow water rights to be leased, loaned, or purchased to deliver to that reach, with sideboards being discussed on short-term and permanent transfers of water for this use.

5.0 Adjournment

President Russell adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.



Jenny Russell, President