

## MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

### SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND OF THE COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS COLORADO RIVER WATER PROJECTS ENTERPRISE

February 16, 2012

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Pursuant to notice duly and properly given, a special joint meeting telephone conference of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) and of the Colorado River Water Conservation District acting by and through its Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise was held on Thursday, February 16, 2012, at the offices of the Colorado River Water Conservation District, 201 Centennial Street, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

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#### **Directors participating during all or part of the meeting:**

Thomas R. Sharp, President	James Newberry, Vice-president
Steven Acquafresca	William S. Trampe
Stephen M. Mathis	Jon Stavney
Andrew A. Mueller	Warner Dewey
Gary Martinez	Rebie Hazard

#### **Directors not participating:**

David H. Merritt	Tom Gray
John Ely	Kai Turner
Tom Alvey	

#### **Others participating during all or part of the meeting:**

Eric Kuhn, General Manager, CRWCD  
Dan Birch, Deputy General Manager, CRWCD  
Peter Fleming, General Counsel, CRWCD  
Chris Treese, Manager, External Affairs, CRWCD  
Laurie DePaolo, Executive Assistant, CRWCD  
Jim Pokrandt, Communication & Education Specialist, CRWCD  
Jason Turner, Associate Counsel, CRWCD  
Audrey Turner, Administrative Chief, CRWCD  
John Currier, Chief Engineer, CRWCD  
Danny Williams, Corporate Advocates, Inc.

#### **Quorum.**

President Sharp found a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

#### **External Affairs.**

##### **State Issues:**

#### **HOUSE BILL 12-1278: CONCERNING GROUNDWATER IN THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN.**

This bill authorizes a study of South Platte groundwater conditions.

##### **Recommendation: Monitor**

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<sup>1</sup>An audio recording has been made of the meeting. The motions described herein may not necessarily represent a verbatim transcription. The audio recordings are available for listening at the CRWCD offices during regular office hours. These minutes are the official record of the Colorado River Water Conservation District's meeting.

**SENATE BILL 12-142: CONCERNING THE CREATION OF PILOT PROJECTS TO EMPOWER THE STATE ENGINEER TO REDUCE AUGMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.**

The bill authorizes the state engineer to reduce, temporarily, augmentation requirements in areas where groundwater levels are at or near historically high levels of groundwater saturation through the creation of 3 pilot projects. Concerns were raised by the Board that this legislation might undermine currently decreed plans for augmentation and determinations made by the water court.

**Recommendation: Oppose**

Director Acquafresca moved, seconded by Director Trampe to **oppose HB 12-1278 and SB 12-142**. Motion carried unanimously.

**HOUSE BILL 12-1290: CONCERNING THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION DESIGNATION BENEFITING THE COLORADO FOR HEALTHY LANDSCAPES FUND THAT APPEARS ON THE STATE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURN FORMS.**

The bill creates the Colorado for Healthy Landscapes fund (fund) in the state treasury. The bill would provide for a “check off” on individual state income tax returns. Monies collected would be provided to the Healthy Landscapes Fund. However, currently there is no space left on the tax form for this “check off.” If passed it would be added when space becomes available.

**Recommendation: Monitor**

Director Trampe moved, seconded by Director Martinez to **monitor HB 12-1290**. Motion carried unanimously.

**Legislative Watch List:**

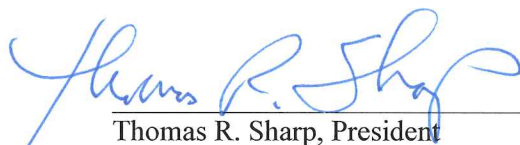
Chris Treese reported on the various general governance (“good government”) and oil & gas bills and recommended that those bills remain on the “Watch List” since they do not have a direct impact on the River District’s interests. The Board agreed by consensus to place all such bills on a “watch list” and directed staff not to actively participate in these bills nor report regularly on these bills.

**Federal Issues:**

Ruedi Debt Update: Mr. Treese provided an update to the Board on his recent trip to Washington D.C. and his meeting with the Ruedi stakeholders, Bureau of Reclamation, and Department of the Interior to discuss the current and increasing debt on Ruedi Reservoir. Several proposals were discussed with the Bureau of Reclamation on how best to deal with the increasing debt. Mr. Treese reported that Reclamation and Interior were generally negative regarding alternatives proposed by the Colorado parties to recalculate the debt. No consensus was reached. Bill McDonald will follow up with Reclamation to determine its willingness to consider debt recalculation. The Colorado parties will continue to meet and discuss the various options.

**Adjourn.**

There being no other business before the Board, President Sharp adjourned the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

  
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Thomas R. Sharp, President

ATTEST:

  
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R. Eric Kuhn, Secretary/General Manager