

MINUTES¹

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

March 8, 2013

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 Friday, March 8, 2013, at the offices of the Colorado River Water Conservation District, 201 Centennial Street, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Directors participating during all or part of the meeting:

James Newberry, President	Stan Whinnery
David H. Merritt	Andrew A. Mueller
William S. Trampe	Gary Martinez
Stephen M. Mathis	Tom Alvey

Directors not participating:

Steven Acquafresca	Thomas R. Sharp
Tom Gray	John Ely
Jon Stavney, Vice-President	Rebie Hazard
Kai Turner	

Others participating during all or part of the meeting:

Chris Treese, Manager, External Affairs, CRWCD
Peter Fleming, General Counsel, CRWCD
John Currier, Chief Engineer, CRWCD
Eric Kuhn, General Manager, CRWCD
Dave Kanzer, Senior Water Resources Engineer, CRWCD
Denise Hussain, Records Specialist, CRWCD
Dan Birch, Deputy General Manager, CRWCD
Laurie DePaolo, Executive Assistant, CRWCD
Jim Pokrandt, Communication and Education Specialist, CRWCD
Martha Moore, Public Affairs Specialist, CRWCD
Danny Williams, Corporate Advocates
Laura Locke, Corporate Advocates

Quorum.

President Newberry found a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

¹An 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.

External Affairs.

State Issues:

SB 13-019 CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

Mr. Treese noted that this bill has been amended with a “strike-below” that basically only retains Section 2, which prohibits the water judge from considering reduced historical consumptive use for a water right in Divisions 4 (Gunnison), 5 (Colorado), and 6 (Yampa-White) when the land on which the water is used is enrolled in an approved water conservation program, land fallowing program, or water banking program. Additionally, Section 1, the Legislative Declaration, has been re-written to reflect these changes. Time limitations have not yet been addressed.

Director Merritt moved, seconded by Director Mathis, to **support in concept SB 13-019** and to seek a time limitation amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

HB 13-1248 CONCERNING AN AUTHORIZATION OF PILOT PROJECTS FOR THE LEASING OF WATER FOR MUNICIPAL USE.

Mr. Treese reported that HB 13-1248 authorizes the Colorado Water Conservation Board to administer a pilot program consisting of up to 3 pilot projects, each up to 10 years in duration, limited to the lower Arkansas River Basin to demonstrate the practice of fallowing irrigated agricultural land and leasing the associated water rights for temporary municipal use.

Director Whinnery moved, seconded by Director Martinez to **monitor HB 13-1248**. Motion carried unanimously.

Updates from Chris Treese:

HB 13-1188 CONCERNING A COORDINATED SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO FEDERAL DECISIONS REGARDING FEDERAL LAND THAT HAVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON THE STATE.

Postponed indefinitely.

SB 13-041 PROTECTING STORED WATER.

As reported last week, the bill passed the Senate unanimously. An amendment has been added in the form of a legislative declaration stating that nothing in this bill will weaken or affect Colorado’s anti-speculation doctrine.

HB 13-1090 CONCERNING PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS DUE UNDER A CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT.

Postponed indefinitely.

SB 13-74 CONCERNING THE RESOLUTION OF AMBIGUITIES IN OLD WATER RIGHT DECREES REGARDING THE PLACE OF USE OF IRRIGATION WATER.

The bill passed the Senate and then the House Ag Committee on an 8-3 vote. We have made marginal improvements to this bill that the Board opposed. It does look like the bill will pass.

Federal Issues:

Mr. Treese reported that on March 5th he testified in favor of H.R. 678, Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act of 2013, as requested by Congressman Tipton and approved by the River District Board.

Updates from Peter Fleming:

The Green Mountain Reservoir Operations Protocol and the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement are closer to being signed. Mr. Fleming will visit with the Grand Valley Irrigation District board to address questions and comments next week. Colorado Springs Utilities has signed the Green Mountain Reservoir Operations Protocol.


Pitkin County has filed a Motion for Determination of Question of Law in the River District's West Divide Diligence case, 11CW93, Water Division 5.

Adjournment:

There being no other business before the Board, President Newberry adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.


James Newberry, President

ATTEST:


R. Eric Kuhn, Secretary/General Manager