

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 17, 2016

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, March 17, 2016, at the offices of the Colorado River District, 201 Centennial Street, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Directors participating during all or part of the meeting:

Jon Stavney, President	Gary Martinez
Marc Catlin	David Merritt
John Ely	Doug Monger
Tom Gray	Mike Ritschard
Rebie Hazard	Martha Whitmore
John Justman	

Directors not participating:

Tom Alvey, Vice-President	Alden Vanden Brink
William Trampe	Stan Whinnery

Others participating during all or part of the meeting:

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

Quorum.

President Stavney found a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

ERMOU Project Investigation.

John Currier reported that the River District's share of Eagle River MOU Project Alternatives Study – Phase 2, needs to be increased by \$80,500 to cover the expanded scope of work requested by the Eagle River MOU partners.

Director Merritt moved, seconded by Director Ely, to amend contract CA15035 with Wilson Water Group upwards by \$80,500, to a total of \$160,000. Motion carried unanimously.

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.

State Issues.

SB 16-145 CONCERNING AN ALTERNATIVE MECHANISM FOR CREATING A SUBDISTRICT OF THE COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

Chris Treese reported that the River District's bill for creating an alternative statutory procedure for forming a subdistrict of the River District received a unanimous vote of support from the Colorado Water Congress. The only entity that has raised a concern about the bill is Northern Water. Their concern is that if a subdistrict is formed it could result in another West Slope entity with whom they would have to negotiate with in order to pursue their own project or program. An amendment is being drafted to clarify that SB 145 is merely an alternative mechanism for creating a subdistrict and does not expand the authority of a subdistrict. The proposed amendment satisfied Northern Water's concern.

Director Whitmore moved, seconded by Director Caitlin, to **support SB 145**. Motion carried unanimously.

HB 16-1313 CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MASTER PLANS TO INCLUDE POLICIES TO IMPLEMENT STATE WATER PLAN GOALS AS A CONDITION OF DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS.

This bill authorizes, but does not require, local government master plans to include goals specified in the state water plan, including water conservation goals, and to include policies that condition development approvals on implementation of those goals.

Director Whitmore moved, seconded by Director Ritschard, to **monitor HB 1313**. Motion carried unanimously.

HB 16-1337 CONCERNING THE APPELATE PROCESS GOVERNING A DISTRICT COURT'S REVIEW OF FINAL AGENCY ACTIONS CONCERNING GROUNDWATER.

Chris Treese reported that this bill only pertains to areas with designated groundwater basins, none of which is on the West Slope. This bill addresses how appeals of the Groundwater Commission's decisions are made and upon what basis they are heard by the court.

Director Monger moved, seconded by Director Whitmore, to **monitor HB 1337**. Motion carried unanimously.

HB 16-1382 CONCERNING THE CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN USES OF WATER AS BEING BENEFICIAL.

Chris Treese reported that this bill addresses the most concerning elements of the Colorado Supreme Court's ruling in the St. Jude's case, in which the District filed an amicus brief. The primary goal of this bill is to affirm that recreational, aesthetic and piscatorial uses for fish habitat and fish propagation are beneficial uses of water. A primary concern of the River District is that the municipal-recreation contracts that are used to deliver water from Ruedi and Green Mountain Reservoirs for the benefit of the endangered fish in the 15-Mile Reach are not impacted by the St. Jude's decision.

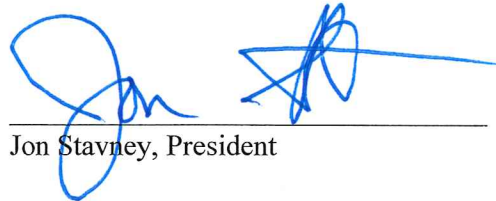
Director Whitmore moved, seconded by Director Ritschard, to **support HB 1382**. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Catlin, Gray, Hazard, Justman, Martinez, Merritt, Monger, Ritschard, Stavney and Whitmore. Director voting against motion: Ely. Motion carried.

Updates:

Chris Treese provided the Board with updates on HB 1228 (the FLEX Round III bill), and HB 1109, state administration of water rights acquired by the federal government through permitting conditions. Eric Kuhn reviewed briefly a proposed bill to provide statewide water banking that is still in the drafting stage.

Adjourn.

There being no other business before the Board, President Stavney adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m.



Jon Stavney, President

ATTEST:



R. Eric Kuhn, Secretary/General Manager

