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 15, 2018, at the offices of the Colorado River District, 201 Centennial Street, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Directors participating during all or part of the meeting:
Tom Alvey, President David H. Merritt, Vice President
Steve Acquafresca Mike Ritschard
Marc Catlin Karn Stiegelmeier
Kathy Chandler-Henry William S. Trampe
Tom Gray Martha Whitmore
Rebie Hazard Alden Vanden Brink

Directors not participating:
John Ely Stan Whinnery

Others participating during all or part of the meeting:
Hunter Causey, Water Resources Engineer, CRWCD
John Currier, Chief Engineer, CRWCD
Laurie DePaolo, Executive Assistant, CRWCD
Peter Fleming, General Counsel, CRWCD
Alesha Frederick, Business Support Specialist, CRWCD
Denise Hussain, Records Admin/Info. Specialist, CRWCD
Zane Kessler, Communications Director, CRWCD
Andy Mueller, General Manager, CRWCD
Martha Moore, Public Affairs Specialist, CRWCD
Lorra Nichols, Paralegal, CRWCD
Ian Philips, Chief Accountant, CRWCD
Jim Pokrandt, Community Affairs Director, CRWCD
Ray Tenney, Deputy Chief Engineer, CRWCD
Chris Treese, Manager, External Affairs, CRWCD
Jason Turner, Senior Counsel, CRWCD
Orla Bannan, Western Resource Advocates
Bob Simpson, Williams+Simpson
Danny Williams, Williams+Simpson
Torie Jarvis, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, Q/Q

Quorum.
President Alvey found a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:03 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.
State Affairs:
SB 18-194 CONCERNING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLORADO NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION FUND.
Short title: Gifts, Grants, Donations to DNR
Chris Treese noted that this bill was postponed indefinitely in the Senate Finance Committee on March 15, 2018 and described the bill as not well crafted.

SB 18-205 CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP AS AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, IDENTIFYING THE UNPROCESSED SEEDS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP AS A COMMODITY UNDER THE "COMMODITY HANDLER ACT" AND INDUSTRIAL HEMP AS A FARM PRODUCT UNDER THE "FARM PRODUCTS ACT."
Chris Treese noted that the provisions of this bill are largely technical to assist in industrial hemp production by classifying hemp and its seeds as a “farm product” and “commodity,” respectively, under the Colorado Farm Products Act and the Commodity Handler Act.

Director Catlin noted that passage of this bill would help eliminate the risk of breaking any federal laws against hemp production.

Director Whitmore moved, seconded by Director Acquafresca to support SB 18-205. Motion carried unanimously.

Zane Kessler provided the following status updates:
HB 18-1008, Mussel-free Colorado Act, passed Senate Finance and is now in Appropriations Committee.
HB 18-1073, Water District Ability to Contract Water Assets (reservoir space), passed both the House and Senate.
HB 18-1151, Colorado Water Conservation Board Approve Deficit Irrigation Pilot Projects, passed House after being greatly reduced in geographic applicability.
SB 18-170, Reservoir Releases for Fish and Wildlife Mitigation, also known as “Northern Water’s mitigation bill,” passed the Senate with the ‘savings clause” intact, as directed by the board.

Federal Issues:
Chris Treese noted that the reauthorization of operational funding for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program and the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program has passed the House. The Senate has a hearing scheduled for the end of March.

San Juan Wilderness Bill – Chris Treese noted that there are two areas within the Colorado River District’s boundary that are included in the wilderness bill, both in Ouray County. Treese reported that as this bill amends the 1993 Colorado Wilderness Act acceptable water rights language is included. Treese also indicated staff is working with Director Whitmore to ID water rights that are potentially implicated by the two Ouray County designations.

Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness and Camp Hale Act – Chris Treese reported Congressman Polis (D-CO) is the primary sponsor of a wilderness designation bill that would include acreage in Eagle and Summit counties, and that he shared previously board-approved water rights language for this bill as well.

Water Rights Protection Act of 2017 – Chris Treese reported that Senator Barrasso (R-WY) is the primary sponsor of this bill in the Senate, and that Senator Gardner may add his name as a co-sponsor. Treese noted that he will continue to monitor the bill closely as the Senate bill does not comport with the House version which the River District supports.
General Manager’s Update.
Andy Mueller shared these highlights:
1. Ray Tenney secured the Clean Water Act permit in preparation for the Ritschard Dam Crest Rehabilitation Project scheduled for the end of this summer.
2. Wolford Mountain Reservoir butterfly valve and main gate replacement work is planned for this year.
3. External Affairs department has scheduled many of the District’s annual State of the River public meetings, and he encouraged directors to attend when possible.
4. Grant Program applications will be reviewed at the April quarterly board meeting.

General Counsel’s Report.
Peter Fleming’s report included updates on:
1. Busk Ivanhoe case is on track for settlement and that the Board will hear more about the status of the case at the April quarterly board meeting.
2. All briefing has been completed in the Dolores River instream flow case. We are waiting for the Judge to schedule oral argument or enter a ruling on the CWCB’s motion for summary judgment.
3. Aaron Million has filed for two diversion points on the Green River in Utah with plans to pump that water from Utah, through Wyoming, to Colorado’s northern Front Range for use there.
4. Patti Wells, longtime Denver Water General Counsel has announced her retirement for the end of August.

Adjourn.
There being no other business before the Board, President Alvey adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

[Signature]
Tom Alvey, President

ATTEST:
Andrew A. Mueller, Secretary/General Manager