

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

September 1, 2020

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 Tuesday September 1, 2020.

Directors participating during all or part of the meeting:

David H. Merritt, President	Martha Whitmore, Vice President
Steve Acquafresca	Tom Gray
Kathy Chandler-Henry	Stan Whinnery
Al Vanden Brink	Rebie Hazard
Karn Stiegelmeier	Doug Monger
Mike Ritschard	

Directors not participating:

Marc Catlin	John Ely
William S. Trampe	Tom Alvey

Other participating during all or part of the meeting:

Andrew A. Mueller, General Manager, CRWCD
Peter Fleming, General Counsel, CRWCD
Audrey Turner, Chief of Operations, CRWCD
John Currier, Chief Engineer, CRWCD
Jason Turner, Senior Counsel, CRWCD
Zane Kessler, Director of Governmental Affairs, CRWCD
Ray Tenney, Deputy Chief Engineer, CRWCD
Dave Kanzer, Deputy Chief Engineer, CRWCD
Mike Eytel, Sr. Water Resources Specialist, CRWCD
Laurie DePaolo, Executive Assistant, CRWCD
Hunter Causey, Sr. Water Resources Engineer, CRWCD
Don Meyer, Sr. Water Resources Engineer, CRWCD
Jim Pokrandt, Director, Community Affairs, CRWCD
Ian Philips, Chief Accountant, CRWCD
Eleanor Hasenbeck, Water Policy & Communications Fellow, CRWCD
Lorra Nichols, Paralegal, CRWCD
Alesha Frederick, Director of Information & Outreach, CRWCD
Gracie Wright, Contract Administrator, CRWCD
Luci Wilson, Accountant, CRWCD
Liz Smith, Commissioner, Gunnison County

Quorum.

President Merritt found a quorum and called the meeting to order 12:32 p.m.

Andy Mueller proposed the addition of Proposed Wavier of CRWCD Water Marketing Contract Application

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.

Fee, re: Contract with Colorado Water Conservation Board as item 2.a. on the agenda. The Board accepted the proposal.

Approval of Increased Releases from Elkhead Reservoir to Benefit Yampa River Endangered Fish Critical Habitat.

Andy Mueller reported as a result of continuing low flows and a recent call placed on the Yampa River, staff is recommending that the Board authorize a release of up to 750 acre-feet of water from Elkhead Reservoir to help alleviate the call on the river and help water users resume diversions for agricultural purposes. Mr. Mueller also reported that the Colorado Water Trust will be leasing approximately 250 acre-feet of water from the River District for endangered fish flows. Tri-State Generation & Transmission is also contemplating releasing up to 500 acre-feet of its Elkhead Reservoir water to assist in the effort.

Director Gray moved, seconded by Director Monger, to approve staff's recommendation to release up to 750 acre-feet of Elkhead Reservoir water to assist water users on the lower Yampa River. Motion carried unanimously.

Authorization of Agreement with Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program, re: Increased Releases from Ruedi Reservoir to Benefit the 15 Mile Reach (A General and Enterprise Matter).

John Currier reported that as a result of continuing low flows and poor hydrology in the Colorado River, staff is recommending that the Board authorize a release of up to 1,500 acre-feet of River District water from Ruedi Reservoir to benefit endangered fish flows in the 15-Mile Reach and potentially benefit agricultural water users in the Grand Valley. This release would be independent of a potential water contract with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for an additional 1,500 acre-feet of Ruedi Reservoir water for endangered fish flows. It was also reported that the Colorado Water Trust is contracting for an additional 1,000 acre-feet for endangered fish flows.

Director Acquafresca moved, seconded by Director Whitmore, to approve staff's recommendation to release up to 1,500 acre-feet of Ruedi Reservoir water to benefit endangered fish flows in the 15-Mile Reach and other water users, independent of a potential water contract with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for an additional 1,500 acre-feet of Ruedi Reservoir water. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Waiver of CRWCD Water Marketing Contract Application Fee, re: Contract with Colorado Water Conservation Board.

John Currier reported that the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) will be contracting for 3,500 acre-feet of Ruedi Reservoir water for winter releases in the Fryingpan River to prevent the formation of anchor ice and protect fish habitat. The CWCB has requested that the CRWCD contract application fee be waived.

Director Whitmore moved, seconded by Director Chandler-Henry, to waive the CRWCD contract application fee for a Ruedi water marketing contract with the CWCB for 3,500 acre-feet of water. Motion carried unanimously.

General Manager's Report.

Andy Mueller reported that he has presented information about the District's ballot initiative to various boards of county commissioners and several organizations at their request.

Adjourn.

There being no other business the Board, President Merritt adjourned the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

David H. Merritt

David H. Merritt, President

ATTEST:

Andrew A. Mueller

Andrew A. Mueller, Secretary/General Manager