

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
OCTOBER 5, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

Attendance

All Board Members and attendees present participated via the District's Zoom account in accordance with the CDC and CDPHE recommendations regarding COVID – 19.

The following Directors were present: Al Pfister, Susan Nossaman, John Porco, Candice Kelly, Bill Hudson, Doug Secrist, Merlin Wheeler, and Joe Tedder.

Also present were: Dana Hayward, Justin Ramsey, Jeff Kane, Renee Lewis, and Chris Mannara.

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting for the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by Chairman Al Pfister at 5:02 p.m.

Revisions to Agenda

Chairman Pfister requested Consideration of Draft Strategic Plan Comments be moved up on the agenda ahead of Consideration of Attorney Report. Director Kelly requested Consideration of Director Kelly's Board Seat be added to the end of the agenda. Director Hudson requested Consideration of Agenda Item Reports be added to the end of the agenda. The Board agreed to all requests.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The Board considered Declarations of Conflicts of Interest. No conflicts were declared; however, Director Hudson disclosed that he might write an article for public dissemination regarding the meeting.

Public Comment

Chairman Pfister opened the meeting to public comment. No comments were offered.

Consideration of San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership Presentation

The Board considered San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership Presentation. Dana Hayward, Mountain Studies Institute, presented Consideration of San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP) Presentation, stating an overview of the program and recent accomplishments. Ms. Hayward also presented on the impacts of forest health on water quantity and quality and SJHFHP current efforts on this issue.

Director Secrist requested SJWCD increase its annual 2021 contribution to SJHFHP of \$1500.00 to \$2500.00 in an effort to further assist the group in its work on water quantity and quality related issues. The Board thanked Ms. Hayward for the presentation.

Consideration of Draft Strategic Plan Comments

The Board considered Draft Strategic Plan Comments (copy attached). Chairman Pfister presented Consideration of Draft Strategic Plan Comments, stating he proposes the Board discuss the comments submitted, both from the public and Directors Tedder and Wheeler, and have Renee Lewis incorporate what was agreed upon into the plan. Following a lengthy discussion regarding how best address the comments, the Board agreed some of the comments could be incorporated now and the remaining would need to be addressed after the completion of the study by Wilson Water Group on Alternative Uses for West Fork Reservoir and Canal Water Rights. The Board directed Renee Lewis and Directors Wheeler and Tedder to work on those comments that can be incorporated now and present for consideration by the Board at the November meeting. The Board also agreed a letter of acknowledgment noting this direction should be sent to each of the comment providers.

Consideration of Attorney Report

The Board considered Attorney Report. Jeff Kane presented Consideration of Attorney Report, stating an overview of recent work completed on behalf of the District including assisting in review of the contact with Wilson Water Group to Study Alternative Uses for West Fork Reservoir and Canal Water Rights, updating SJWCD water rights tabulation, and compiling and reviewing water rights decrees in preparation for working with Wilson Water Group on the above-mentioned study.

Consideration of Resolution 2020 – 02

The Board considered Resolution 2020 – 02 (copy attached). Director Hudson presented Consideration of Resolution 2020 – 02, stating he approved of the resolution as presented in the meeting materials. Chairman Pfister stated he would like to delete “and District water” from the last sentence of the last recital on page 1. The Board agreed to this revision. Chairman Pfister also proposed #4 of the resolution to read “To the maximum extent feasible and meeting fiduciary duties, a Director who is writing or speaking on topics that could reflect on the District, clarify that he or she is not speaking on behalf of the Board and that his or her views do not necessarily represent those of the Board or its other Directors.” Following a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to this revision. A motion was made by Chairman Pfister and seconded by Director Hudson to adopt Resolution 2020 – 02 as revised above. The motion passed unanimously.

Update Regarding Contract to Study Alternative Uses for West Fork Reservoir and Canal Water Rights – Wilson Water Group

The Board considered Update Regarding Contract to Study Alternative Uses for West Fork Reservoir and Canal Water Rights – Wilson Water Group. Chairman Pfister presented Update Regarding Contract to Study Alternative Uses for West Fork Reservoir and Canal Water Rights – Wilson Water Group, stating he had executed the contract with Wilson Water Group for the above-stated work including Tasks #1 – 3 and most aspects of Task #4 of the original proposal for the agreed upon amount of \$19,050.00. Chairman Pfister also stated he would send the fully executed copy to the Board as soon as possible.

Approval of August 17, 2020 Regular Meeting and September 21, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

The Board considered Approval of August 17, 2020 Regular Meeting and September 21, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes (copy attached). Chairman Pfister presented Approval of August 17, 2020 Regular Meeting and September 21, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes, stating he had reviewed the minutes and did not have any revisions. A motion was made by Director Hudson and seconded by Director Porco to approve the August 17, 2020 Regular Meeting and September 21, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Draft 2021 Budget

The Board considered Draft 2021 Budget (copy attached). Director Kelly presented Consideration of Draft 2021 Budget, stating she had provided as part of the Draft 2021 Budget presentation the 2020 Income and Expenses as of 10/4/20, the 2020 Anticipated Income and Expenses, and the Draft 2021 Budget as discussed with the Board during the August and September meetings. The Board agreed to change the anticipated expense for Wilson Water Group from \$16,000.00 to the now agreed upon amount of \$19,050.00. The Board also agreed to increase the annual 2021 contribution to SJHFHP from \$1,500.00 to \$2,500.00. Lastly, the Board directed Jeff Kane to research the District's ability to amend its budget in preparation for the November meeting. A motion was made by Chairman Pfister and seconded by Director Kelly to approve the Draft 2021 Budget as revised above and make it available for public dissemination by the statutory deadline of October 15th. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of SW Basin Implementation Plan Update – Identified Projects and Processes List

The Board considered SW Basin Implementation Plan Update – Identified Projects and Processes List (copy attached). Chairman Pfister presented Consideration of SW Basin Implementation Plan Update – Identified Projects and Processes List, stating an overview of the plan update thus far, future scheduling, and suggested the Board quickly consider projects it may want to propose for the Identified Projects and Processes List. Director Hudson proposed the additional gauging stations in the Pagosa Springs area project that is currently in the District's Draft Strategic Plan.

Chairman Pfister stated Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) may want to partner with SJWCD on this project and offered to contact PAWSD. Director Tedder also offered to assist in this effort. The Board agreed. The Board also agreed the San Juan River Headwaters Project, which is currently on the Identified Projects and Processes List, should be reviewed and possibly updated. Director Porco offered to review and possibly update this project description and the Board agreed.

Update Regarding Future Use of Running Iron Ranch

The Board considered Update Regarding Future Use of Running Iron Ranch. Chairman Pfister presented Update Regarding Future Use of Running Iron Ranch, stating an overview of the meeting he, Director Secrist, and PAWSD representatives had with the current leaseholders on the Running Iron Ranch. Following a question and answer session between the parties, it was agreed the current leaseholders have until November 2, 2020 to provide an offer for the two District's consideration regarding future leases on the property. The Board also agreed to suspend discussion with other interested parties until the current leaseholder's offer was considered.

Consideration of Director Kelly's Board Seat

The Board considered Director Kelly's Board Seat. Director Kelly presented Consideration of Director Kelly's Board Seat, stating she was planning to move out of state in the near future and would no longer be eligible to serve on the Board. The Board discussed filling her position as Treasurer and training that person as soon as possible. No decisions were made.

Consideration of Agenda Item Reports

The Board considered Agenda Item Reports. Director Hudson presented Consideration of Agenda Item Reports, stating he thought a small report or description for each agenda item included with the meeting materials would be helpful for the Board and presenters. The Board agreed and requested Renee Lewis provide a sample of said report in the November meeting materials for consideration.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Lewis
Recording Secretary
For the Board of Directors