

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 18, 2019
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

The following were in attendance at the March 18, 2019 San Juan Water Conservancy District Board of Directors special meeting: Directors Al Pfister, Bill Hudson, Candice Kelly. Directors Susan Nossaman and Doug Secrist attended via phone. Also in attendance were Renee Lewis Kosnik (volunteer), Chris Mannara (Pagosa Springs SUN) Justin Ramsey (PAWSD) and James Dickhoff (Town of Pagosa Springs).

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:07pm by Board Vice President Al Pfister. A quorum was present.
2. Agenda approval: Agenda was approved as presented.
3. The minutes from the regular meeting of February 11, 2019, were approved unanimously with minor corrections about a motion concerning a SJWCD payment for cloud seeding, which failed; correcting a statement about deposits of Impact Fees, which are no longer being collected by the Town; a statement noting that population projections should be looked at ‘in two years’ rather than ‘every two years.’
4. No comments were offered by the public during ‘Public input.’
5. Meeting Chair Pfister convened a work session for the discussion of a proposed Independent Contractor Agreement with consultant Renee Kosnik. The Board made modifications to clarify the Scope of Work, with the intention that Ms. Kosnik’s work would focus initially on the Strategic Plan, assistance to the Board Treasurer, and assembling and distributing materials for Board meetings and work sessions. The Board indicated an intention to make amendments to the contract once the Strategic Plan is approved, and the Board’s goals are better defined.

A brief discussion was held about hiring an additional consultant to help with the creation of the Strategic Plan. Some members suggested that, with the help of Ms. Kosnik, the Plan seems to be moving forward without the need for an additional consultant. No decisions were made on that topic.

The Board convened back into its special session to continue with the agenda, at 5:15pm.

6. Director Kelly presented the Treasurer’s Report, and Director Pfister asked if future reports could include information about the remaining balances on each line item. A motion was then made to authorize Director Kelly to close the Impact Fee bank account at TBK Bank and consolidate the funds in the Impact Fee account at Colorado Trust, in a separate account in Colorado Trust. Passed unanimously.

The audit by Ronnie Farmer is moving forward, but we have not yet provided him with a list of District assets. Ms. Kosnik noted that Mr. Farmer is also doing the audit for PAWSD and may therefore already have information about the Running Iron Ranch, which is basically the only asset held by SJWCD.

7. Director Secrist gave a brief report about the work of the San Juan Forest Health Partnership.

8. The board conducted a lengthy discussion about the Growing Water Smart Working Group. James Dickhoff summarized the six recommendations proposed by the Working Group. Director Hudson suggested that the population forecast was based on conveniently available data, rather than upon the types of data typically used by comprehensive, professional forecasts. He also suggested that consultant Gabe Preston did not provide all the results promised in the original agreement letter with SJWCD, and that the horizon of the forecast seemed to be arbitrarily extended to 2050, when the data seen by the Work Group had extended only to 2038. Town Planner James Dickhoff and PAWSD District Manager Justin Ramsey spoke in support of the recommendations as presented, as did Director Pfister.

Because the discussion was related to an action item that appeared later in the agenda, Chair Pfister opened the action item to allow the formal approval of the Work Group results. Director Pfister made a motion to accept the Work Group recommendations. The Board discussed the motion and Director Kelly suggested that we wait until Mr. Dickhoff can provide a written document — a Letter of Intent — which clearly spells out the Board’s intentions. The vote on Director Pfister’s motion failed. Mr. Dickhoff promised to supply a written document prior to the next SJWCD Board meeting.

8. A discussion, about the purchase of a modem or router, led to a motion authorizing Director Kelly to work with the Computer Man to get recommendations concerning purchasing and installation of a device.

9. The Independent Contractor Agreement with consultant Renee Lewis Kosnik, as revised during the work session, was approved by a majority vote, with one dissenting vote. The projected payment in the contract will be \$9,500 unless otherwise agreed to by the Board and Ms. Kosnik.

10. The Strategic Plan Value Statements that have been developed in Board work sessions over the past couple of months were unanimously approved.

11. A letter from the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership requesting a \$450 donation to help fund their Environmental Film Festival was brought forward, and Chair Pfister, who serves on the board of the GGP, recused himself from the room. The remaining board members had questions about the request that were not addressed in the letter, so the Board agreed to schedule a special meeting on March 21, 2019 so that GGP representative Sally High could be present to answer questions from the Board.

12. The District received a letter from its attorney firm Newbold Chapman and Geyer, PC announcing the departure of Jeffrey Kane, who has been handling the SJWCD account for the firm. Director Secrist suggested the Board schedule a discussion with Mr. Kane before making a final decision about continuing with Mr. Kane, to clarify hourly rates and other details. A motion, to ask Mr. Kane to attend the April 15, 2019 meeting was passed unanimously, with the understanding that SJWCD President John Porco would send prepared questions to Mr. Kane, with Directors’ ability to add to the list of questions.

13. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Hudson
Board member