

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
JANUARY 18, 2021 SPECIAL 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, Bill Hudson, Doug Secrist, and Joe Tedder.

Also present were: Erin Wilson, Brenna Mefford, Jeff Kane, Joe Crabb, Renee Lewis, and Chris Mannara.

Call to Order

The Special Meeting for the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by Chairman Al Pfister at 4:02 p.m.

Revisions to Agenda

The Board considered Revisions to the Agenda. Chairman Pfister requested Consideration of Letter of Support – Matching Funds for San Juan Basin Integrated Water Management Plan, Phase III and Consideration of Running Iron Ranch/Weber Lease Update be added to the agenda. Director Hudson requested additional time to review the materials associated with the Letter of Support – Matching Funds for San Juan Basin Integrated Water Management Plan, Phase III agenda item. Following some discussion, a motion was made by Chairman Pfister and seconded by Director Secrist to add said items to the end of the agenda. The motion passed 5 – 1 with Director Hudson opposed.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The Board considered Declarations of Conflicts of Interest. Chairman Pfister stated he would recuse himself from the Consideration of Letter of Support – Matching Funds for San Juan Basin Integrated Water Management Plan, Phase III agenda item as he has a potential conflict of interest.

Public Comment

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

Consideration of Report – Study Alternative Uses for West Fork Reservoir and Canal Water Rights – Wilson Water Group

The Board considered Report – Study Alternative Uses for West Fork Reservoir and Canal Water Rights – Wilson Water Group (copy attached). Erin Wilson and Brenna Mefford presented Consideration of Report – Study Alternative Uses for West Fork Reservoir and Canal Water Rights – Wilson Water Group, stating a comprehensive overview of their work thus far and soliciting feedback from the Board for the final report. The Board provided feedback and directed Ms. Wilson and Ms. Mefford to provide the final report by February 8, 2021 for presentation on February 15, 2021.

Consideration of Treasurer’s Report

The Board considered the Treasurer’s Report (copy attached). Director Hudson presented the Treasurer’s Report, stating the highlights of the deposits, expenses, and ending balances. Director Hudson also stated that in reviewing the District’s Property and Liability Insurance Policy, it was brought to his attention the District may not need the No Fault Water Intrusion portion of the policy. Following some discussion, a motion was made by Director Secrist and seconded by Chairman Pfister to cancel the No Fault Water Intrusion portion of the District’s Property and Liability Insurance Policy while maintaining the remaining portions of the policy, so long as the water intrusion portion does not apply to the Running Iron Ranch property in any way and can be reinstated in the future. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Draft Strategic Plan

The Board considered Draft Strategic Plan (copy attached). Renee Lewis presented Consideration of Draft Strategic Plan, stating she had incorporated all of the revisions as directed by the Board during the December 3, 2020 work session with the exception of moving some of the introductory and background information regarding the District ahead of the Strategic Objectives. Director Secrist asked if the original Appendices would also be in the final version of the Strategic Plan, and the Board agreed they would all remain. Director Hudson stated he would like to replace the word “led” with “participated” in the sentence “Beginning in 1996, SJWCD led a multi-agency public/private effort to improve and restore the streambed habitat in the lower Blanco.” The Board also agreed to replace “SJWCD community” with “constituents’ where appropriate. A motion was made by Chairman Pfister and seconded by Director Secrist to approve the Draft Strategic Plan as amended above and present again for final approval at the February 15, 2021 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of 2021 Colorado Water Congress Membership

The Board considered 2021 Colorado Water Congress Membership (copy attached). Director Hudson presented Consideration of 2021 Colorado Water Congress Membership, stating the Board may want to consider allowing this membership to lapse for 2021 as one of the primary benefits, the annual Colorado Water Congress Convention, would only be available virtually this year due to the COVID – 19 pandemic. While acknowledging the impacts of the COVID – 19 pandemic on the networking ability

of the District and its Board Members, a majority of the Board noted other benefits of the membership and agreed payment of the annual dues should be remitted as soon as possible.

Consideration of Executive Session Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e) – for the purposes of receiving advice from legal counsel on specific legal questions and determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators related to Wilson Water Group – Study Alternative Uses for West Fork Reservoir and Canal Water Rights

The Board did not consider this item as an Executive Session was not necessary.

Consideration of Letter of Support – Matching Funds for San Juan Basin Integrated Water Management Plan, Phase III

The Board considered Letter of Support – Matching Funds for San Juan Basin Integrated Water Management Plan, Phase III (copy attached). Chairman Pfister presented Consideration of Letter of Support – Matching Funds for San Juan Basin Integrated Water Management Plan, Phase III, stating that Mountain Studies Institute/Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership has requested the District provide said letter documenting financial support of the project. Chairman Pfister then recused himself stating he has a potential conflict of interest in this matter. Following some discussion regarding the procedural aspects of potentially executing the letter, Director Hudson stated he would still like more time to review the materials for this item and was uncomfortable with Chairman Pfister continuing to participate in the discussion as he had recused himself. A motion was made by Director Porco and seconded by Director Tedder to accept the Letter of Support – Matching Funds for San Juan Basin Integrated Water Management Plan, Phase III as presented, format on District letterhead, and execute by Director Nossaman as Vice-President. The motion passed 5 – 1 with Director Hudson opposed.

Consideration of Running Iron Ranch/Weber Leases Update

The Board considered Running Iron Ranch/Weber Leases Update. Chairman Pfister presented Consideration of Running Iron Ranch/Weber Leases Update, stating the Webers rejected the counter offer from Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) and SJWCD regarding renewal of the leases; as such, they will all expire January 3, 2023. The Board directed Chairman Pfister to continue working with PAWSD as the liaison in this matter.

Other Business

Jeff Kane provided an update regarding the motion he is drafting to request the reappointment of Director Wheeler. Mr. Kane also reminded the Board that Directors Porco and Secrist's terms now expire in 2024, and this should be corrected on the

SJWCD website. Director Tedder inquired about attending the upcoming Water Law in a Nutshell virtual class. Director Secrist stated he was attending and highly recommended the class. A motion was made by Director Hudson and seconded by Chairman Pfister to have the District reimburse the Water Law in a Nutshell registration fees for Directors Tedder and Secrist. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Lewis
Recording Secretary
For the Board of Directors