

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
WORK SESSION – March 8, 2023, 1 pm

Attendance

A Work Session of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Wednesday, March 8, 2023, from 1 to 3 pm in person at 46 Eaton Drive Suite 5.

The following Directors were present in person: Al Pfister, Susan Nossaman, Bill Nobles, and Joe Tedder. Also present were Sally High, SJWCD Executive Assistant, and Kim Elzinga, contract writer.

Call to Order

A Work Session of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by Chairman Al Pfister at 1:15 pm. The purpose of the Work Session was to discuss implementation of the three objectives of the Strategic Plan. The focus was on the four agenda items of the joint work session with PAWSD tomorrow, March 9, at 4 pm.

SJWCD Report of Advancing the San Juan Headwaters Project

This agenda item appears last (#4 of 4) on the agenda tomorrow. The following points were discussed briefly.

- Its placement as the final agenda item was intentional and meant to minimize old disagreements.
- The 3-way agreement (among CWCB, PAWSD, and SJWCD) needs to be understood by all PAWSD and SJWCD board members. Attorney Kane communicated with the PAWSD attorney who recognizes the need for all Directors to understand the agreement and the consequences of failing to meet agreed upon expectations.
- An obsolete PAWSD Dry Gulch Power Point presentation was shared. This is not the preferred Power Point created by Justin Ramsey (PAWSD) and Renee Lewis (SJWCD) more recently.
- In the past, PAWSD and SJWCD boards were comprised of the same people. The two water boards purchased the Running Iron Ranch property taking advantage of a CWCB fund to build new reservoirs. SJWCD took responsibility

for the long-term management of the property and PAWSD agreed to make interest payments.

- Acquainting the PAWSD board with SJWCD's three Strategic Objectives is needed. Mention of funding opportunities for Objective 1 and Objective 2 will illustrate forward movement.
- SJWCD needs for PAWSD to "go on record" and to state their intentions regarding support for a reservoir and the future of the property.
- The Wilson Water Group study will be used to establish water demands for all 4 water uses. PAWSD's "study" only takes municipal use into account. It does not consider a drying climate, drought, fire, or other water uses.
- Relevant historic context of controversy and debate was discussed in depth.
- "Reservoirs are insurance policies."
- The 2017 (failed) mill levy proposal for \$2 million was specifically for acquiring Lavery property and USFS land exchange.

Discussion of Extending PAWSD's Water Lines to Aspen Springs

PAWSD proposes extending the treated water line and establishing additional fill stations, at a cost estimated to be \$1.5 million. Details will be clarified tomorrow.

PAWSD Report of Proposed Workforce Housing on Running Iron Ranch Property

- Container homes?
- Decreases chances of state park designation.
- Will PAWSD's water customers pay for employee housing?
- The proposal is far from clearly defined and far from financially feasible.

Discussion of Leasing the 20-acre Parcel for Public River Access

Potential partnerships were briefly discussed. Details to be defined in future.

Objective Three. Director Tedder introduces Kim Elzinga who is contracted to write 6 articles to educate the public about SJWCD's reason for its existence and its mission.

- Kim intends to present the board with a proposal to manage a SJWCD Facebook page.
- Kim states that her 6 articles will be strategic and improve the public image of SJWCD. The Pagosa Sun is the priority, but articles will be submitted to other publications. Articles will be placed on website with background materials and images. Kim states that numerous improvements to the website are needed.

Navigation and user-friendliness need improvement. Article topics will be prioritized with board participation.

- Kim is interviewing directors. Articles will be reviewed and approved by email. SJWCD policy requires that directors must approve articles published.
- In conjunction with a series of articles, Josh Kurz may create a video, conduct adult field trips, and student-voiced announcements on KWUF.

Chairman Pfister adjourned the work session at 3:01 pm.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

By /s/ Sally High

Executive Assistant for Board of Directors

DISTRICT SEAL