

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING – JULY 24, 2023, 4pm

Attendance

A Special Meeting of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Monday, July 24, 2023, at 4 pm in person at 46 Eaton Drive Suite 5 and on Zoom.

The following Directors were present in person: Al Pfister, Susan Nossaman, Doug Secrist, Chuck Riehm, Rob Hagberg, and Bill Nobles.

Also present were Sally High (SJWCD Executive Assistant) and Josh Pike (Pagosa Springs SUN).

Attending on Zoom were Director Rod Proffitt, Attorney Jeff Kane, Engineer Rick Ehat, and the Pagosa Springs SUN.

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by Chairman Al Pfister at 4:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Revisions to Agenda

The Board considered Revisions to Agenda. To accommodate Rick Ehat's schedule, Item #10 was moved to #7.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The Board considered Declarations of Conflict of Interest. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

Public Comments (limited to 3 minutes please)

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

Consideration of Attorney's Report

The Board Packet did not include a written Attorney's Report. Jeff Kane stated that he was following developments in relevant water cases, specifically the Status Conference regarding Boot Jack Ranch's water applications and the FOIAs regarding Treasure Pass trans mountain diversions. No change in the cases was reported.

Consideration of Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report included an AIR form updating key points about expenditures and forecasted overruns in the budget and a current Budget vs Actual spread sheet. Director Hagberg moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Director Riehm seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Hiring an Engineering Contractor / Consultant

Directors considered the hiring of Rick Ehat (Ehat Consulting LLC) to advance the process toward design and engineering of San Juan River Headwaters Project. The draft contract to hire Rick Ehat was amended to address clarifications received from Director Jones and Attorney Kane. Attorney Kane spoke briefly about the necessary changes to the contract that he submitted. Directors spoke favorably about moving forward with few questions. Wording was added to more clearly define the timeline of the work to be completed within the 2023 calendar year. A preliminary report will be delivered on October 15, so that the 2024 budget can be considered. A draft final report will be delivered by December 1, ahead of the final approval of the 2024 budget. Mr. Ehat said he could begin the work immediately. Director Hagberg moved to approve the contract with amendments. Director Riehm seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Updates from Chairman

- Director Pfister reported that a letter to the Southern Ute Tribe resulted in advice to postpone a presentation about the San Juan River Headwaters Project until the Tribal Council was less busy with water issues.

- Director Pfister attended a Region 9 webinar about funding opportunities for infrastructure. If any board member wants the PowerPoint, Director Pfister can share it.
- The Park Ditch Board of Directors decided to build Parshall Flumes to measure water entering and leaving the Running Iron Ranch property. Directors Jones and Pfister assisted them in preparing an application for funding from the Roundtable.
- Colorado State Engineer, Kevin Rein, will be in Pagosa Springs on August 9 to present details about the state's new expectations of water use measurement. The public presentation will be at the Aragon Community Center from 4 to 6 pm. Agricultural (and other) water users will pay for new measuring devices.
- Aspen Springs Metro District has stated that they are not interested in pursuing a treated water station with PAWSD and SJWCD, because their accountant perceives financial burdens.

Consideration of Hiring a Grant Writer

Directors previously approved hiring Renee Lewis (RGL Consulting) to pursue appropriate grants and to write and submit applications. A contract with RGL Consulting was to be based on her contract for similar services with PAWSD. Director Pfister reminded directors that the PAWSD contract needed to be rewritten for SJWCD's purposes. He stated that a copy in Word will be sent to the board so that changes can be tracked. Directors were asked to send recommended changes to the Executive Assistant (shigh.sjwcd@gmail.com) by Monday, August 7.

Consideration of Contract to Lease 20-Acre Parcel

Directors considered the lease document prepared by Archuleta County and included in the Board Packet. Director Proffitt submitted several changes in wording to clarify key points. For example, Director Proffitt clarified that SJWCD and PAWSD are "tenants in common," not "joint tenants." Director Proffitt's suggestions were also included in the Board Packet. Director Pfister asked the

board whether or not he should schedule a meeting with PAWSD. Directors voiced approval of that action, but no motion was needed.

Consideration of Travel Vouchers and Reimbursement Rates

Directors considered the document used to report travel and other expenses. They agreed to use the State of Colorado reimbursement rate for travel. The Executive Director was asked to re-scan the document and send to all board members. Director Hagberg moved to approve the action. Director Nobles seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Consideration of Letter Supporting Park Ditch Application to Roundtable

Director Pfister included a draft letter to Southwest Basin Roundtable and Colorado Water Conservation Board on behalf of the Park Ditch request for funds to build two Parshall Flumes. Director Nobles moved to approve sending the letter to Roundtable. Director Riehm seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Consideration of Directors' Reports on Three Strategic Objectives

Objective One: Advance the San Juan River Headwaters Project (SJRHP) as one resource for meeting agricultural, municipal, environmental, and recreational water needs of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) community.

A meeting with Rick Ehat will be scheduled after the engineering contract is finalized.

Objective Two: Consider strategies beyond water storage for meeting agricultural, municipal, environmental, and recreational water needs of the SJWCD community.

Director Jones wrote a "talking points" document so that directors can answer questions about SJWCD in a consistent manner. Directors deemed it suitable for inclusion on the SJWCD website which is undergoing significant revision. Directors understood and approved of use of the modifiable talking points document.

Objective Three: Educate the SJWCD community about the water resources of the Upper San Juan River Basin and related issues, including SJRHP, water resource planning, water conservation, and the work of SJWCD.

An AIR form in the Board Packet described progress made in revisions to the website and Josh Kurz's "Where Does Your Water Come From?" project. An infographic revision of Kurz's 2022 water map and an article inviting the public to three presentations were presented to the Pagosa Sun. A "Water Story Map" will be ready for board review by mid-August. The three public presentations are scheduled for:

Thursday, August 3, 6:30 pm, San Juan Outdoor Club meeting at PLPOA Clubhouse

Thursday, August 17, 12 noon, Rotary Club meeting at the Den Restaurant

Tuesday, October 3, 6 pm, Lifelong Learning Series at Ruby Sisson Library.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

By /s/ Sally High

Executive Assistant for Board of Directors

DISTRICT SEAL