

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING – MARCH 17, 2025, 4 pm

Attendance

A Special Meeting of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Monday, March 17, 2025, at 4 pm in person at 46 Eaton Drive and on Zoom.

The following Directors were present in person: Bill Nobles, Joe Tedder, Rod Proffitt, Rob Hagberg, Candace Jones, Chuck Riehm, and Susan Nossaman. Also present in person was Sally High (SJWCD Executive Assistant). Prospective Director John Kappelman was present for the board's approval that he be recommended to Judge Wilson for appointment.

Attending on Zoom were Jeff Kane (SJWCD Attorney), Alex Handloff (San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership), and Gene Tauges (Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District).

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by President Candace Jones at 4:02 pm. A quorum was present.

Revisions to Agenda and Approval of Agenda

Director Jones requested that Agenda Item #9 be combined with #6, as both consider the Running Iron Ranch. Director Nobles moved to approve the agenda as revised. Director Proffitt seconded. The approval of the agenda was unanimous.

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

Directors identified no conflicts of interest.

Consideration of Motion to the Court Regarding Board Member Appointment and Reappointments

Directors considered the intentions of John Kappelman, Rob Hagberg, and Chuck Riehm to serve on the Board of Directors. John Kappelman submitted a letter of intent to Judge Wilson. His letter was in the Board Packet. Director Hagberg moved to strongly recommend him to the court. Director Proffitt seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Director Proffitt moved to approve Director Hagberg's reappointment. Director Nobles seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Director Hagberg moved to approve Director Riehm for reappointment. Director Nobles seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Consideration of Executive Session

Director Jones read the statute defining SJWCD's use of Executive Session.

Upon an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present, the San Juan Water Conservancy District will go into executive session pursuant to section 24-6-402(4) of the Colorado Revised Statutes to discuss matters concerning the transfer or sale of real, personal or other property interest pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(a) of the Colorado Revised Statutes, to confer with the District's attorney for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., and to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S., all regarding the potential sale of the Running Iron Ranch on the initiative of the Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District.

Director Nossman moved to enter Executive Session. Director Nobles seconded. A roll call vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Alex Handloff was placed in the Zoom waiting room. John Kappelman left the room. The SJWCD Board of Directors entered Executive Session with their attorney.

Director Hagberg moved to leave Executive Session. Director Riehm seconded. A unanimous roll call vote ended Executive Session. Alex Handloff was re-admitted to the meeting on Zoom. Gene Tauges asked to join the meeting during Executive Session, but was not admitted to Zoom until after Executive Session. John Kappelman had left the waiting area.

Consideration of Action

In Executive Session, SJWCD Directors discussed the Weber grazing lease and maintenance at Running Iron Ranch. They received clarification and legal advice from Jeff Kane. Director Nobles moved to authorize Director Jones to contact PAWSD to request that the number of relevant issues for a future joint work session be narrowed, that it include discussion of the maintenance of the property, and that it not include a presentation about the proposed sale. Director Hagberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Attorney's Report

Regarding River Ridge LLC / Caribou Ditch and Spring, a Statement of Opposition was included in the Board Packet. After gaining no relevant information in consultation with the counsel representing River Ridge LLC, Kane filed the Opposition, as requested by

the Board. A consultation report is expected in a few months, after which Kane will advise the board about how to proceed.

Regarding Boot Jack Ranch, Kane provided the Court with preliminary comments last week and expects to provide more comments in future weeks. He consulted with CWCB's counsel and found it helpful. CWCB has engineers to review the decrees and the information they provide is useful for Kane in advising SJWCD.

Regarding the Treasure Pass Ditch cases, decrees have been received. Kane will review and advise at a future meeting.

Consideration of Treasurer's Report

Director Tedder included in the Board Packet an AIR form and a Budget vs Actual spreadsheet through March 11. The February legal expenses were less than expected. Director Riehm moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Director Nossaman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Trust for Public Lands

Director Riehm reported that he learned from Charlie O'Leary at Trust for Public Lands (TPL) that the Project was within the TPL's mission. Charlie had described the Project to higher-ups in TPL. Charlie encouraged Director Riehm to consult with Colorado Parks and Wildlife about eventual management of the property as a State Park. Director Riehm invited other directors to join him in the CPW conversation in Durango.

Discussion of Yeh Engineering Activities

Director Cooper shared (in email) Yeh's intention to present a preliminary report soon. Yeh is looking for specific documents about soil suitability. Directors expect Yeh to send a report and engage in a Question and Answer session in coming weeks.

Updates from Directors

- Details of preparations for the SWWCD Compact Compliance event on Tuesday, March 25, were briefly discussed.
- Director Hagberg reported about his attendance of the 2-3-2 Meeting and Chama River Congreso, both at Ghost Ranch. SJWCD's participation is valuable. Knowledge gained from a film series, "Thinking Like Water," was significant to Director Hagberg. Plans to interrupt water loss through preventing and repairing "head cuts" made an impression.
- Director Hagberg attended the SWWCD Grant Meeting to discuss the way the Conservation District consolidated seventeen B2E applications and received \$25.6 million for southwest Colorado. The federal B2E funds are currently "in limbo," but folks are optimistic about funds being freed up in the future. Available now are \$3,000 grants for small projects requiring an engineer.

- Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition (PARC) issued an on-line survey to identify public needs. Individuals within the PARC territory are encouraged to complete and return the survey.
- SJWCD will pay \$15 to Southwest Organization for Sustainability to participate in Earth Day in Centennial Park on Saturday, April 19.
- SJWCD will participate in the We Are Water celebration (National Science Foundation and University of Colorado) at the Durango Power House on May 10. Directors Riehm and Hagberg will staff the exhibit.

Consideration of “Threats to our Water” Film Premiere at Pagosa Lodge

Directors considered preparations for the “Threats to our Water” Film release event at Pagosa Lodge on Tuesday, May 20. Director Riehm moved that a not-to-exceed budget of \$2,000 be approved for event expenses. Director Hagberg seconded. Alex Handloff suggested that a discussion of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan could enhance the event. Director Tedder asked that a discussion of the schedule for the event follow the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership Friday, March 21, 11 am, at the Archuleta County Administration Building. The motion for the \$2,000 budget request passed unanimously.

Consideration of an Americorps Intern Opportunity

Blue Elements, a nonprofit organization promoting Americorps work, recommended Monica Nigon to serve as an Americorps intern with SJWCD. Monica is a Western State University (Gunnison) graduate student seeking a Masters Degree in Environmental Management. A 900-hour commitment would cost SJWCD approximately \$7,500. Monica lives in Pagosa Springs. Director Riehm moved to authorize Directors Jones and Riehm compile the application. Director Hagberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Record of Proceedings from Regular Meeting

Director Riehm moved to approve the Regular Meeting Record from February 17. Director Nossaman seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Regular Meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 14, at 4 pm. There being no further business to come before the Board, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

By /s/ Sally High

Executive Assistant for Board of Directors

DISTRICT SEAL