

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 9, 2025, 4 pm

Attendance

A Regular Meeting of San Juan Water Conservancy District was held Monday, June 9, 2025, at 4 pm, in person at 46 Eaton Drive and on Zoom.

The following Directors were present in person: Candace Jones, John Kappelman, Rob Hagberg, Randy Cooper, Bill Nobles, and Susan Nossaman; Colorado State Senator Cleave Simpson; Bill Hudson (PAWSD and Pagosa Daily Post); Alex Boehmer (PAWSD); Archuleta County Commissioner John Ranson; J.R. Ford (Southwestern Water Conservation District); Monica Nigon (Western State University graduate intern). Also present in person was Sally High (SJWCD Executive Assistant).

Attending on Zoom were Directors Chuck Riehm, Rod Proffitt, Joe Tedder; Josh Pike (Pagosa Sun); Gene Tautges (PAWSD); and Kalei Pitcher (Real Estate Broker). Two entities, “iPhone” and “iPhone 446,” declined to identify themselves and were not admitted to the meeting.

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) was called to order by President Candace Jones at 4:00 pm. A quorum was present.

Revisions to Agenda and Approval of Agenda

No changes to the agenda were needed, although Director Jones explained that Monica Nigon will join the meeting in person after her class ends. Director Hagberg moved to approve the agenda. Director Nobles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

Directors identified no conflicts of interest.

Opportunity for Public Comment (3-minute limit)

Bill Hudson expressed his opinion about PAWSD’s ability to sell Running Iron Ranch.

Discussion with Senator Cleave Simpson

Senator Simpson joined SJWCD at the table and was introduced. Director Jones provided a history of the Conservancy District, its water rights, its broad legally-defined mandates, its territory, and the search for a suitable location for a reservoir. SJWCD’s history of Colorado Supreme Court decisions and the origin of the 11,000-acre foot

maximum storage capacity was explained. The 3-way agreement among Colorado Water Conservation Board, SJWCD, and PAWSD was described, as well as its restructuring and the contentious relationship between PAWSD and SJWCD. Director Jones stated that SJWCD was seeking a way to “get PAWSD out” of its financial responsibility to make payments to CWCB and move the planning process for a reservoir forward. The need for an independent firm (water) yield analysis and cooperation from PAWSD in water measurements were mentioned. Senator Simpson asked directly what SJWCD wanted from him. Director Jones stated that the total money needed for SJWCD to retain ownership of the Running Iron Ranch property was approximately \$10.4 dollars. Directors Hagberg and Nobles added that the overall health of the upper San Juan River, its broad watershed, and its varied water uses are at stake. They stated that the reservoir project should be a state-level, federal-level project. Director Cooper stated accurate cost estimates to build the reservoir, after the ownership issue is resolved.

Consideration of Executive Session

Director Cooper moved that the board not enter Executive Session without counsel. Director Hagberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Actions Regarding Running Iron Ranch (RIR)

Directors considered legal documents received and the PAWSD timeline to sell RIR. Director Jones had spoken with CWCB. The litigation initiated by PAWSD is moving forward. No actions were needed.

Consideration of Request for Proposal for Reservoir 30% Design

Directors considered the Yeh Engineering Final Report. Director Cooper stated that the Request for Proposal had not been written, but that Yeh had recommended three design firms: HDR Inc., Wright Water Engineers, and Bohannon Huston. Directors Cooper and Riehm will reach out to the three engineering firms and the Colorado Division of Natural Resources / Dam Safety in the next two weeks. Grant applications are being explored for the estimated \$200,000 cost for the 30% design.

Discussion of Americorps Funding for Monica Nigon’s Internship Project

SJWCD will “pivot back” to the original agreement with Blue Elements / Americorps. The federal funding was restored, so Director Jones plans to confer with Blue Elements soon. Monica should be able to return to the prior project timeline described to SJWCD.

Consideration of Treasurer’s Report

Directors considered the June 4 Budget vs Actual / Year to Date spreadsheet provided by Treasurer Tedder. The correct AIR form was received too late for distribution. Directors discussed the following line items in the spread sheet: Legal Services, Public

Education, Support Services, and Engineering. At this time, Director Tedder does not expect 2025 expenses to overrun the total budget and does not recommend a budget amendment. The board will continue to monitor for developments that may require a budget amendment. No motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Consideration of Proposed Scope of Work by Graduate Intern Monica Nigon

Monica described progress in identifying details and sites for the SJWCD's planned Wet Meadow Restoration Project. Varied agencies, professional individuals, and potential partnerships have been helpful.

Consideration of Additional Water Enhancement Partnership (WEP) Grant Funding and the Film #3 Accounting

Director Tedder included in the Board Packet an AIR form describing the accounting of CWCB funding for the Watershed film project. He will file the final report to CWCB. SJWCD's funding of WEP's film project will be deferred until SJWCD's 2025 budget outlook is clarified.

Updates from Directors

- Directors Hagberg and Riehm attended the Chama Peak Land Alliance field trip in the Carson National Forest at 10,000 feet elevation. Director Hagberg reported that a project similar to SJWCD's proposed Wet Meadow Restoration resulted in successful restoration of water in the land in a short period of time.
- Director Hagberg urged directors to attend the upcoming SJRFHP field trip on June 20 in the Fawn Gulch area.

Consideration of Approval of Record of Proceedings from 5/12 Special Meeting

Director Nobles moved to approve the Regular Meeting Record from April 14. Director Hagberg seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Additional Opportunity for Public Comment

J.R. Ford, Southwestern Water Conservation District, expressed his opinions that (1) the reservoir project should be downsized, scaled to the SJWCD community, and (2) the reservoir project did not have proven community support.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

A Special Meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 21, at 4 pm. There being no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
By /s/ Sally High

Executive Assistant for Board of Directors
DISTRICT SEAL

FINAL