

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #5
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
January 7, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
Saguache County Road and Bridge
Saguache, CO 81149**

Present: David Schmittel, President; George Whitten, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Dale Gerstberger, Manager; Corey Hill, Manager; and, Peggy Godfrey, Ex-Officio Member.

Absent: Kit Caldon, Manager.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Amber Pacheco, Program Manager; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Cody Redden, Tyrell Mares, Deb Sarason, David Hofmann, Tim Lovato, Steve Carlson, John Werner.

Meeting Called to Order

President Schmittel called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda

President Schmittel asked for additions or corrections to the agenda and thanked Amber Pacheco for all of the work she has done for Subdistrict No. 5. Amber Pacheco announced Chris Ivers was promoted to Program Manager and will assume the responsibilities and duties for Subdistricts No. 4 and 5.

Discussion Regarding Replacement Ideas

President Schmittel asked for a discussion on potential replacement sources. Ms. Pacheco provided an update on the discussions during a meeting with the land owner of a potential real estate purchase. Ms. Pacheco highlighted the different ideas and scenarios that could benefit the Subdistrict. Clinton Phillips reported on a survey his office completed on the property identified for a potential reservoir and what the next steps would be. Mr. Phillips updated the Board on the pipeline idea as well as some of the potential regulations and permits that may be required. Discussion was held on the amounts of water which could be needed at different times and the timeframe to construct a reservoir and pipeline. Ms. Pacheco stated the Subdistrict would accept bids from different construction companies interested in completing these projects. Ms. Pacheco suggested discussing further details of potential offers in an executive session at the next meeting. Discussion was held on the capacity of a well that will be needed as well as the route and length of a potential pipeline. George Whitten highlighted the importance of measuring devices in Saguache Creek. Surface water owners were asked for their thoughts on the Well Injury Payment program. John Werner suggested a well cut back and/or well owners change the type of crops or limit the number of pumping days. David Hofmann explained the reasons that would not solve the problems and described some of the miscommunication. Ms. Pacheco reported on the sign-up bonuses some of the Subdistricts in the south end of the Valley offer for forbearance agreements. Ms. Pacheco also reported on some of the benefits forbearance agreements offer in other Subdistricts. David Hofmann asked if any of the Subdistrict Board Members had signed forbearance agreements; Pete Ampe stated they are not able to sign up until they have an approved Plan of Water Management.

Direction for Staff

President Schmittel requested staff keep moving forward. Pete Ampe suggested directing staff to proceed with discussions with the land owner of the potential real estate purchase and work on getting an agreement completed. Discussion was held on hiring someone to use different methods to find a spot with water for a well.

New Business

President Schmittel asked for new business. Amber Pacheco reported being in the process of mailing Farm Unit update requests and stated this would be the information used to calculate

fees. Ms. Pacheco stated anyone with Rio Grande Canal shares are allowed credit for those shares, however, they need to identify how many shares they have and how they are being used.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly Meeting was scheduled for January 22, 2020, beginning with an executive session to begin at 12:00 p.m. and the regular meeting starting at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.



President



Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer