

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
February 27, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa CO 81101
And by Zoom/Teleconference**

Present: Jake Burris, President; Clay Mitchell, Vice President; Sheldon Rockey, Secretary/Treasurer; Brett Hemmerling, BOM; Tony Holcomb, BOM; Chris Miner, BOM; Jamie Hart, BOM; James Cooley, BOM; Michael Jones, BOM; and Mike Kruse, Ex-Officio Member.

Absent: Miguel A. Diaz, BOM.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins P.C.; Taylor Chick, Program Manager; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Kylie Gregg, Office Manager; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Deb Sarason, Margaret Goehl Trujillo, Jason Lorenz, Sally Wier, William Myers.

Meeting Called to Order

President Burris called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. A quorum was present, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda

President Burris asked for changes, additions or a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Clay Mitchell and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Burris asked for public comment. There was none.

Discussion and Possible Action

President Burris asked for discussion and possible action items:

- Wool Pellet Study Sponsorship

Taylor Chick presented the sponsorship request from Sherry Haugen. He explained the fall in the wool market and Ms. Haugen's idea to introduce wool into soil. Mr. Chick reported on some of the potential benefits and an experimental study with the CSU Extension Center. He provided the dollar amount being requested to help purchase moisture sensors and reported the Subdistrict would receive a sponsorship plaque in return. Michael Jones reported the study seemed preliminary and more information was needed. Chris Miner, Sheldon Rockey and Jamie Hart made comments in support of the effort to think outside the box.

A motion was made by Sheldon Rockey to support the Wool Pellet Study and sponsor \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Chris Miner and unanimously approved.

- Participation Contract Deadline Extension

Taylor Chick highlighted the January 15, 2024 participation contract deadline. He reported receiving another participation request on February 7, 2024 and asked the Board how to proceed. Mr. Chick presented the Rules and Regulations and pointed out the deadline section.

A motion was made by Jamie Hart to accept/approve the Participation Contract deadline extension to March 1st. The motion was seconded by James Cooley and unanimously approved.

- Participation Contract

Taylor Chick presented the proposed Participation Contract for Sun House Ventures. He provided the WDID, the location of the well, how the well is decreed and his recommendation of conditional approval of the contract.

A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve the Participation Contract. The motion was seconded by Clay Mitchell and unanimously approved.

- Fallow Program

Michael Jones explained an idea to form a one year fallow program. He reported the change would be from long term well purchases to short term fallowing. Mr. Jones described the Plan of Water Management (POWM) as the long term strategy. He presented a well retirement alternative outlining the current strategy and the alternative short term fallow method. Mr. Jones stated the program could be offered as an experiment to see if there would be participation. Discussion was held on where the funds would come from to fund the new program, continue to offer the Well Purchase Program (WPP) and the need to bridge the gap and be flexible. Mr. Jones reminded the Board of the lengthy process ahead to get the new POWM approved and the need to retire additional wells. Discussion was held on using the bidding process vs flat rate, ways to discourage additional pumping, administration of the program and how to monitor the pumping of surface water. The Board decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

- 2023 Annual Report

Taylor Chick presented the projected stream flow forecasts and how Subdistrict No. 1 ended the season. He provided the acre foot amount of groundwater withdrawals last year, the amount of water brought into the Subdistrict and what impacted the depletions. Mr. Chick explained how credits are managed, presented the calculated recharge decree credits for Subdistrict No. 1 during 2023 and the projected creditable amounts. He also presented the estimated net groundwater consumptive use table. Mr. Chick highlighted the post plan depletions, Subdistrict No. 1's monthly stream replacement obligations for 2023 Annual Replacement Plan (ARP) and the total acre feet of surface water exchanged between Farm Units. He presented the Ditch Service Diversion Table, cropping patterns, the remaining amount and sources of water available in both Forbearance Contracts and surface water in the reservoirs. Mr. Chick reminded the Board the Subdistrict did not utilize the Closed Basin Project water for winter time depletions. Mike Kruse asked for a discussion on the 14,000-acre feet of water being stored and the cost to the Subdistrict. Mr. Chick reported using stored water rather than Closed Basin Project water due to the production shortage. He went over his monthly operation reports to the Division of Water Resources (DWR) and the monthly stream replacement obligation for the 2023 ARP. Mr. Chick highlighted the CREP Contract terminations, the amount paid this year for both CREP and Fallow Contracts, permanent land and water purchases and how the Subdistrict offered to purchase irrigation wells through the WPP. He gave the total number of wells and acre feet of water retired through the WPP program. Taylor Chick and Linda Ramirez were thanked for their efforts.

A motion was made by Sheldon Rockey to approve the Annual Report as presented. The motion was seconded by James Cooley and unanimously approved.

Board of Managers Open Discussion

President Burris asked for Board of Managers open discussion. There was none.

New Business

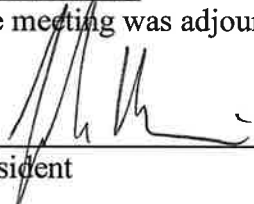
President Burris asked for new business. There was none.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.



President



Secretary/Treasurer