

**SPECIAL TELEPHONE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
May 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
By Zoom/Teleconference Only**

Present: Brian Brownell, President; Jamie Hart, BOM; Miguel A. Diaz, BOM; Sheldon Rockey, BOM; Clay Mitchell, BOM; Chris Miner, BOM; Les Alderete, BOM; Tony Holcomb, BOM; Asier Artaechevarria, BOM; and Mike Kruse, Ex-Officio.

Absent: Carla Worley, Vice-President.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins P.C.; Cleave Simpson, General Manager; Marisa Fricke, Program Manager; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Tim Carden, Program Assistant; Michael Carson, Data Base Administrator; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Deb Sarason, David Hofmann, Dale Bartee, Brian Rue, and Peggy Godfrey.

Meeting Called to Order

President Brownell called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. A quorum was present.

Public Comment

President Brownell asked for public comment. Brian Rue acknowledged Marisa Fricke for her hard work dealing with Subdistrict No. 1. Brian Brownell was experiencing technical difficulties, Marisa Fricke and Pete Ampe conducted the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Marisa Fricke asked for amendments or an approval of the agenda. Marisa Fricke asked to add approval of the agenda to the agenda and requested to table item C (consideration and action on transferring water) until the June quarterly meeting. A motion was made by Chris Miner to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Sheldon Rockey and unanimously approved.

Consideration and Possible Action Items

Pete Ampe asked for the consideration and possible action items.

- *Calculation of Surface Water brought into Subdistrict boundary*

Marisa Fricke reported further discussion was needed for the wells outside of the Subdistrict boundaries that have contracted into the Subdistrict. They would like to include and contract in their surface water, Ms. Fricke asked how the Subdistrict would treat the shares of water. Clinton Phillips provided his thoughts on the legality of recharging the water, and commented on the water tributary to the Closed Basin Project, he also commented on the need to be consistent. Pete Ampe reported on the water that should be treated like everyone else and treating the sources that is tributary to the Closed Basin Project not being allowed to transfer to others or make a profit on it. Marisa Fricke reported on the three (3) individuals dealing with this situation, the matter was tabled and will be revisited at the June quarterly meeting. Ms. Fricke stated she would gather more information to present at the next meeting. Brian Rue explained his situation, Clinton Phillips and Pete Ampe agreed to work with Ms. Fricke to draft some written proposals to include broad parameters. President Brownell welcomed Mike Kruse as the new Ex-Officio of Subdistrict No. 1 Board of Managers.

- *Consideration to Extend Farm Unit and Surface Water Lease Deadline*

Marisa Fricke suggested due to the current circumstances surrounding COVID-19 the Board of Managers consider extending the Farm Unit and Surface Water Lease return due date to July 1st rather than June 1st. Discussion was held on the many ways the documents can be returned to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District as well as how Ms. Fricke will notify members of the extension of the due date.

A motion was made by Miguel Diaz to extend the Farm Unit and Surface Water Lease deadline to July 1, 2020 rather than June 1st. The motion was seconded by Sheldon Rockey and unanimously approved.

- *Emergency Abandonment Program*

President Brownell asked if there would be a way to entice individuals to abandon crop before they put a lot of expense in their crop. Discussion was held on how to make it work, how much money was available in the budget and how much participation the Subdistrict has had in the Half Usage program. Marisa Fricke reported receiving phone calls from individuals interested in the CREP and Half Usage programs. Different ideas to save water, amount of money available in the budget, as well as discussion on the extreme drought situation and need to get aggressive with the emergency programs were discussed. Ms. Fricke reported she would get a letter out and further actions to market the different programs available.

A motion was made by Asier Artachevarria to establish a one-year emergency fallow program which will pay \$200 per acre to cease all future irrigation use. You are eligible for the program even if you have irrigated prior to being accepted into the program, you are also eligible if you were previously enrolled in the Half Use program but you must abandon the Half Use program, they are not stackable. The Board will rank applications according to water savings if more applications are received then what is budgeted. The application date will be June 5, 2020, the Board will make their final discussions by June 10, 2020. The motion was seconded by Sheldon Rockey and unanimously approved.

- CREP Contract

Marisa Fricke updated the Board on a received CREP contract for one hundred and twenty-two (122) permanent acres in Saguache County which has been approved by FSA. She stated the owner is Mike Kruse and the contract was emailed out for review prior to this meeting.

A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to approve the Mike Kruse CREP contract. The motion was seconded by Tony Holcomb and unanimously approved.

Executive Session

President Brownell asked for a motion to enter into executive Session to receive legal advice regarding a potential purchase. A motion was made by Sheldon Rockey to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Miguel Diaz and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ampe stated the Board was entering into executive session. All discussion would relate to receiving legal advice regarding the potential purchase of real estate. The Board would take no formal position while in executive session.

Discussion and Possible Action from Executive Session

Pete Ampe Stated the Board was in executive session and had voted to come out. Discussion was related to receiving legal advice on the potential purchase of real estate. President Brownell announced the Board differed to make a motion at this time and asked staff to notify the individual there was no decision made at this time.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.


President


Secretary/Treasurer