

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS  
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1  
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
March 28, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.  
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa CO 81101  
And by Zoom/Teleconference**

**Present:** Jake Burris, President; Clay Mitchell, Vice President; Tony Holcomb, BOM; Chris Miner, BOM; Jamie Hart, BOM; Miguel A. Diaz, BOM; James Cooley, BOM; Michael Jones, BOM; Brett Hemmerling, BOM; and Mike Kruse, Ex-Officio Member.

**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; Crystal Benavidez, HCP Coordinator/Program Assistant; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

**Guests:** Deb Sarason, Jason Lorenz, William Myers, Peggy Godfrey, Les Alderete, Sally Wier, Patrick Brownell, Greg Higel.

**Meeting Called to Order**

President Burris called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Pete Ampe offered a public apology to the Board for snapping at the last meeting. 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 Miguel Diaz 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:

- *Discussion of Potential Program Idea*

Tony Holcomb reported on CREP being one of the best tools available to the Subdistrict. He presented on his idea to purchase well motors and sprinklers from those that participate in the CREP program. He explained how the program would allow the Subdistrict to get three (3) circles for the price of one (1) well buy out. Discussion was held on the need to have permanent retirement, the Subdistrict's inability to incentivize CREP and the need to utilize federal money. Jamie Hart suggested the Board review and consider each program idea prior to making a decision.

- *Discussion for Potential SB Round 3 Incentive Funding*

Taylor Chick presented the round two (2) SB incentive budget. He reported funds would need to be allocated by June. Discussion was held on the number of wells that could get accepted into the program without surface water.

- *Well Purchase Program (WPP) Rankings-Bid Acceptance*

James Cooley, Clay Mitchell and Mike Kruse recused themselves. Taylor Chick summarized the budgeted amount for conservation programs. He presented a summary of the received bids including the asking price, number of quarters/wells, average diversions, aquifer identification, acres, surface water, and revegetation plan.

- *Fallow Rankings-Bid Acceptance*

Taylor Chick presented the 2024 fallow bid summary and explained the calculations. He thanked Linda Ramirez for her assistance in collecting the applications. Mr. Chick went over the bid amounts, the five (5) year average, the price per acre foot, the total acre foot to be retired and the total bid amount. Discussion was held on the short-term impact of the program, the need to invest in permanent retirement of groundwater withdrawals, the acre foot amount of water savings and which contracts to consider.

A motion was made by Miguel Diaz to accept the fallow program bid No.'s 1-42 for this year. The motion was seconded by Jamie Hart. Tony Holcomb was opposed, Clay Mitchell, James Cooley and Mike Kruse recused. The motion passed.

Taylor Chick provided the amount to fund the accepted Fallow Program bids and the amount remaining in the budget. Jamie Hart asked staff to monitor the pumping of the bids that were not accepted.

A motion was made by Tony Holcomb to deny all of the applications in the WPP. The motion was seconded by Chris Miner.

Discussion was held on the bids received, and the potential to put the funds toward incentivizing the SB Program. Mr. Chick presented the 2024 WPP bid rankings.

The motion was voted on, Michael Jones and Miguel Diaz voted no, James Cooley recused himself, the motion passed.

Mike Kruse commented on the work that went into requesting WPP applications and asked for an explanation on not accepting any of them. Discussion was held on alternative programs available to those who applied for the WPP.

- *Resolution for Use of CD for SB Incentive Payout*

President Burris explained a potential delay in funding of the Subdistricts incentive portion on SB program contracts. He described how an amendment to the resolution would allow for the incentive payment be made immediately.

A motion was made by Michael Jones to accept the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Brett Hemmerling and unanimously approved.

Mr. Chick updated the Board on the status and timing of the model run. Mike Kruse suggested the Subdistrict hire someone to review the model numbers. Discussion was held on the amount of depletions the Subdistrict may owe to Saguache Creek. Michael Jones asked if the subcommittee could provide an update at the next meeting. Peggy Godfrey reported on her reappointment to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board. Pete Ampe updated the Board on the appointment of Jason Olman as the new State Engineer.

- *Fallow Contract Review*

Taylor Chick presented a draft 2024 Contract to Fallow. He highlighted the standard language, information collected, terms and conditions and how to proceed if they go outside of their contract.

### **Board of Managers Open Discussion**

President Burris asked for Board of Managers open discussion. Mr. Chick reported mistakenly paying out a Fallow Contract. He explained how he would be seeking reimbursement. Mr. Chick reported on the potential to have another CREP termination for failure to irrigate during revegetation.

A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to proceed with how the contract is written. The motion was seconded by James Cooley and unanimously approved.

### **New Business**

President Burris asked for new business. There was none.

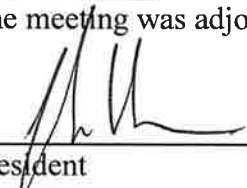
### **Next Meeting**


A special meeting was scheduled for April 11, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

  
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President

  
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Secretary/Treasurer