

**QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #3
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
September 5, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room
Alamosa, Colorado 81101**

Present: LeRoy Salazar, President; Nathan Coombs, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Sam Vance, Manager; Doug Bagwell, Manager; and, Dwight Martin, Ex-Officio Member.

Excused: Ruben Sandoval, Manager, and, Warren Crowther, Manager.

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

Guests: Perry Sowards, Chuck Finnegan.

Meeting Called to Order

President Salazar called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. President Salazar led the opening prayer.

Approval of the Consent Agenda Including June 6, 2019 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

President Salazar asked for changes or a motion to approve the consent agenda. President Salazar added setting up a special meeting in October to discuss water sources. A motion was made by Sam Vance to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Nathan Coombs and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Salazar asked for public comment. Perry Sowards was present to discuss with the Board the details of his requested appeal. Mr. Sowards had reported to the Board at an earlier quarterly meeting and requested an update on his appeal request. President Salazar stated the water in question did come out of the confined aquifer and did have an effect on sustainability. Nathan Coombs requested Mr. Sowards gather documentation to show the Board how the water was actually used and to have the State submit something in writing stating they agreed with how the water was used. This information should be submitted to the Board and Amber Pacheco for review and consideration. Discussion was held on the way wells are being assessed and classified.

Program Manager's Report

President Salazar asked for the Program Manager's Report.

- ***Financial Update:*** Amber Pacheco presented the financial update and highlighted the total amount due to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. Ms. Pacheco provided the current Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement for January through August 2019.
- Ms. Pacheco provided an update on the other Subdistricts and stated they will begin using another term for forbearance in the northern end of the San Luis Valley because the term forbearance was confusing to some water right owners. Discussion was held on holding a work session with Subdistrict No. 6 and the need to work closely with the other Subdistricts.

Attorney's Report

President Salazar asked for the Attorney's Report. Pete Ampe reported receiving two (2) letters from the State Engineer. Mr. Ampe stated one letter addressed the partial year Annual Replacement Plan and the other letter provided answers to the some of the questions that came up during the District/Subdistricts meeting he attended in July.

Presentation of Preliminary 2020 Budget

President Salazar asked for the preliminary 2020 budget presentation. Amber Pacheco presented a preliminary 2020 response function run. Ms. Pacheco reported on the water in storage and discussion was held on well owners, forbearance agreements and the cost of water. Ms. Pacheco presented the preliminary 2020 budget and discussed what amount of funds would need to be collected in 2020 from fees to cover the preliminary budget amounts. Ms. Pacheco explained the preliminary 2020 budget will go to the Rio Grande Water Conservation Board of Directors if the Board of Managers approves it. The District will hold a public budget hearing in early December to approve the budget.

Deb Sarason reported the Division of Water Resources will be sending out letters to all non-exempt wells not already in compliance with the Rules to remind them they must have an augmentation plan or get covered by the Subdistrict by March 14, 2021.

A motion was made by Sam Vance to approve the 2020 preliminary budget. The motion was seconded by Nathan Coombs and unanimously approved.

Discussion was held on a vacancy for the Contract seat on the Board of Managers and the requirements to qualify for the seat. Discussion was also held about terms for the current Board of Managers and when they expire.

Executive Session-Partial Forbearance Agreements

President Salazar asked for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss partial forbearance agreements. A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Sam Vance and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ampe stated the Board was entering into executive session. All discussion would relate to partial forbearance agreements. The Board would take no formal position while in executive session.

Other Discussion

Cleave Simpson brought a new concept to the Board being referred to as a conservation easement on the aquifer and asked if the Board would consider a partnership with a conservation group surrounding the idea. Mr. Simpson explained how they envision it would work. Discussion was held on some of the potential benefits of an aquifer conservation program.

Next Meeting

A work session was scheduled for October 17, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2019, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.



President



Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer