

**QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS  
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #6  
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
May 8, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.  
RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM  
AND BY ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE**

**Present:** Tyler Faucette, President; Virgil Valdez, Vice-President; Ronald Reinhardt, Secretary/Treasurer; Mario Curto, Manager; Rodney Reinhardt, Manager; Gerald Faucette, Manager; Peter Clark, Manager; Robert Middlemist, Manager; Austin Miller, Manager; Virginia Christensen, Manager; and, Armando Valdez, Ex-Officio Member.

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

**Guests:** David Hofmann, Mitch Miller, and, Michelle Lanzoni.

**Meeting Called to Order**

President Faucette called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Virgil Valdez led the opening prayer.

**Board of Manager Terms**

President Faucette asked for Board of Manager terms. Pete Ampe swore in Virginia Christensen. Mr. Ampe announced the reappointments by the Board of Directors of Gerald Faucette, Robert Middlemist, and Tyler Faucette to Subdistrict No. 6 Board of Managers.

**Approval of the Agenda**

President Faucette asked to move item No. 4 up to No. 2. He asked for any other changes/amendments or a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

President Faucette asked for any changes/amendments or a motion to approve the following consent agenda items:

- February 14, 2024-Annual Meeting Minutes
- February 14, 2004-Executive Session Minutes
- March 15, 2024- Special Meeting Minutes
- March 15, 2024-Executive Session Minutes
- April 12, 2024-Special Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**Public Comment**

President Faucette asked for public comment. There was none.

**Attorney's Report**

President Faucette asked for the Attorney's report. Pete Ampe gave an update on the Dredge and Fill Bill. Discussion was held on what constitutes an agriculture ditch and what ditches may or may apply to the Bill. Mr. Ampe updated the Board on the Subdistrict No. 1 Plan of Water Management No. 4 trial, the SWAG trial, and reported on the approval of the Annual Replacement Plans. He also reported on the new State Engineer.

**Engineers Report-Clinton Phillips**

President Faucette asked for the Engineers report. Clinton Phillips presented a map of the wells in the response area and chart of the change compared to the 2015 baseline and 2022. He highlighted the decline and the bounce back in model layer four (4). Mr. Phillips reported including the hydrographs in the Board packets. Discussion was held on the pumping of the "Mumm" well. Ronald Reinhardt asked for the groundwater withdrawal history on the well.

## **Program Manager Update**

President Faucette asked for the Program Manager update.

- **Financial Report**

Angelo Bellah presented the financial report. He highlighted the costs and expenses covered by the District for formation, the reimbursements made and the remaining balance. Mr. Bellah presented the Balance Sheet. He went over the assets, balance in the checking account, accounts receivable, liabilities and equity, as well as the current liabilities and cash flow expenses. Mr. Bellah highlighted the equity, net income and total liabilities and equity. He presented the Profit and Loss Statement and went over the ordinary income/expenses, gross profit and expenses. Mr. Bellah noted the reimbursement revenue from the ATM grant, water leases, and provided an update on the forbearance agreement payments. He reported the set aside payments would be made after the irrigation season and stated he would provide the Board with an estimated total to be paid out on forbearance agreements.

A motion was made to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

- **Update on 2024 Annual Replacement Plan Operations**

Angelo Bellah updated the Board on the acre foot of water used during the 2024 irrigation season on the Rio Grande, Alamosa and Conejos Rivers. He provided the current reservoir account balances, gave an update on the contracts for the 2025 ARP, and reported the Alamosa Creek Canal and TPR SWSP's would be discussed further in executive session.

## **Alamosa ATM/Water Sharing Agreement**

President Faucette asked for Alamosa ATM/Water Sharing Agreement. Clinton Phillips presented a map of the service areas. He reported on a grant from CWCB for a rotational fallow program. Mr. Phillips gave an overview on what they were being tasked with. He presented a table with the canal or ditch name, the average annual acre feet of HCU values and the monthly percentages. Discussion was held on the impact due to concrete ditches. Mr. Phillips explained the diversion section of the report and provided the total number of wells in the area. President Faucette highlighted the struggle to get water to where they need it on the Alamosa River. Discussion was held on possible ways to make it work, the amount of work and data already done on the project and if the costs are justifiable. Mr. Phillips described the information contained in a ditch wide analysis. Pete Ampe reported an ATM would not be required to operate continuously but on an as needed basis. President Faucette asked that direction to staff regarding the matter be given near the end of the meeting.

President Faucette recused himself and asked Virgil Valdez to run the meeting.

## **Offer to lease pumping**

Vice President Valdez asked for offer to lease pumping.

- **Mitch Miller**

Angelo Bellah stated Mitch Miller was present to answer questions. He reported sending the Board an overview of the proposal. Mr. Bellah provided a recap of the meeting held with Mr. Miller on April 25th regarding a possible lease of his irrigation well. He explained three potential options. Mitch Miller provided the acre foot of HCU on the property and explained what was included in the purchase with the City of Alamosa. Mr. Bellah described some of the potential benefits to the Subdistrict. Pete Ampe provided an update on model run 7. Mr. Ampe reported on the change to how fish wells are represented in the model and the possibility for the Subdistrict depletions to increase. Discussion was held on a possible joint cost share agreement with Subdistrict No. 3. Mr. Bellah presented a map showing the location of the well and the distance to the river and the Norton Drain. Mr. Miller explained why he would like to move forward with an agreement prior to the City going to court. He stated the agreement would begin with current value price and adjust yearly. Mr. Miller also explained why he would rather enter into a lease agreement with the Subdistrict, but would consider a lease to purchase. Gerald Faucette voiced his concern with an agreement in perpetuity. Staff was directed to do due diligence on costs while Mr. Miller contemplates the amount he would be interested in selling it for.

- **Tyler and Rochelle Faucette**

Angelo Bellah reported including a letter from the Faucette's in the Board packets. He gave an overview of the letter on an offer to negotiate a conservation agreement with Subdistrict No. 6 in exchange for a reduction on a portion of the amount historically pumped per year. Mr. Bellah

described the terms of the agreement being suggested in the letter. Tyler Faucette provided further details of his offer and highlighted the issue of not knowing how to value fish farm water. Ron Reinhardt stated it was a reasonable offer but was not sure if it was money the Subdistrict needed to spend. Gerald Faucette recused himself from the conversation. Discussion was held on the Subdistrict sustainability and the possibility of getting the well changed to an augmentation well. Clinton Phillips reported on how it may or may not affect the model/depletions and that it would need to be looked at for sustainability. Discussion was held on possibly bringing other Subdistricts in on the offer and how it would be funded/budgeted. Vice President Valdez reported he would reach out to Subdistrict No. 3 and the Trinchera Subdistrict to see if they have any interest. He turned the meeting back over to President Faucette.

**Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice Regarding Negotiations for the Lease/Purchase of Real Property**

President Faucette asked for a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal advice regarding negotiations for the lease/purchase of real property. A motion was made at 4:35 p.m. to enter into executive session to receive legal advice regarding negotiations for the lease/purchase of real property. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ampe stated the Board was entering into executive session pursuant to section 24-6-402(4) to receive legal advice regarding negotiations for the lease/purchase of real property and the Board would take no formal action or position during the executive session

**Direction for Staff**

President Faucette asked for direction for staff. In connection with the ATM, staff was directed to reach out to those individual parcels as discussed to determine interest, to gage interest from the Capulin Ditch, and if none then reach out to the Terrace Main and Alamosa to determine interest. Staff was also directed to draft a letter to the Monte Vista Canal Board to express interest.

**New Business**

President Faucette asked for new business. There was none.


**Next Meeting**

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Treasurer