

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS  
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #5  
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
February 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.  
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room  
Alamosa, Colorado 81101**

**Present:** David Schmittel, President; George Whitten, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Kit Caldon, Manager; Corey Hill, Manager, and, Peggy Godfrey, Ex-Officio Member.

**Absent:** Dale Gerstberger, Manager

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

**Guests:** John Werner, Phil Ortega, Jeff Phillips and Rebie Hazard.

**Meeting Called to Order**

President Schmittel called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of the Agenda**

President Schmittel asked for additions or a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Kit Caldonn to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by George Whitten and unanimously approved.

**Executive Session**

President Schmittel asked for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the potential purchase of real property. A motion was made by George Whitten to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Kit Caldon and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ampe stated the Board was entering into executive session. All discussion would relate to the potential purchase of real property. The Board would take no formal position.

**Action on Executive Session Discussion**

Pete Ampe stated the Board was in executive session and had voted to come out. Discussion was related to a potential purchase of real property.

**Discussion Regarding Replacement Sources**

President Schmittel asked for the discussion regarding replacement sources. Chris Ivers presented a preliminary response function based of an average water year. Mr. Ives provided some of the potential options the Board needs to discuss in order to remedy depletions and make replacements.

John Werner voiced his concerns of drilling a well on the Saguache Creek and how it could impact the surrounding property. Mr. Werner stated he would be in favor of a 20% pumping reduction.

Discussion was held on having a well injury payment agreement in place on property that has a conservation easement. A member of the public requested the Board invite a representative from the Colorado Cattlemen's Association to attend one of the next meetings in order to get their insight. Another discussion was held on tying pumping to the amount of snow pack, a couple of examples were given.

Phil Ortega commented on the struggle of farming and the lack of profitability. The amount of pumped water and the amount of surface water being returned to the ground was compared as well as the potential credits. The possibility of purchasing the extra Santa Maria water or Farmers Union water and getting it into the Saguache Creek was discussed.

Mr. Werner highlighted a hydro magnetic project and suggested this Subdistrict support the study and work to get more measuring devices in the Saguache Creek.

President Schmittle stated the well injury payment agreement would be the least expensive way to meet the legal demands in remedying depletions. Discussion was held on the well injury payment agreements and the value of the water.

Another discussion was held on tying snow pack to pumping and a fallow program. Mr. Ivers provided last year's total well pumping, discussion followed regarding the amount of cutback, efficient farming practices, and less water to be pumped when fees are in place.

President Schmittle asked if water users on the Saguache Creek would be willing to sign up for Well Injury Payments if it were tied to the snow pack. John Werner stated they may need to try it for one year, however he cannot speak for the water users.

Peggy Godfrey announced Eric Harmon, a retired hydrologist from HRS would be presenting at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District's special meeting on Monday to present on the hydrology of the northern valley as well as phases 4 and 5 closed basin.

**New Business**

President Schmittle asked for new business. Chris Ivers reported on his meeting with Heather Dutton from CWCB concerning a potential loan. John Werner suggested a couple of the Board of Mangers attend the Saguache Creek water Users meeting.

**Next Meeting**

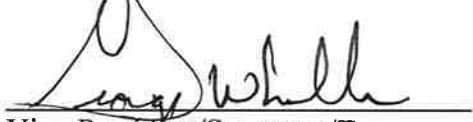
President Schmittle asked for the next meeting. A special meeting was scheduled for March 18, 2020 to be held at the Saguache County Road and Bridge. The annual meeting will be April 22, 2020.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

  
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President

  
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Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer