

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #3
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
January 28, 2020 at 9:00 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; Warren Crowther, Manager; Doug Bagwell, Manager; Ruben Sandoval, Manager; and, Armando Valdez, Ex-Officio Member.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins (via telephone); Cleave Simpson, General Manager; Amber Pacheco, Program Manager; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; and, April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: none.

Meeting Called to Order

President Salazar called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Sam Vance led the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda

A discussion regarding the Perry Sowards appeal from last year was added to the agenda. A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dwight Martin and unanimously approved.

Discussion Regarding Forbearance Agreements for the 2020 Annual Replacement Plan

President Salazar asked for discussion regarding forbearance agreements. Mr. Salazar reported they would continue to try to keep Subdistrict costs down by seeking out forbearance agreements. Mr. Salazar stated they would assign responsibilities to the Board of Managers and would have a timeline in place to get tasks done.

Amber Pacheco reported the Annual Replacement Plan is due March 1st as she presented the new preliminary five (5) year average groundwater withdrawals for the Subdistrict. Ms. Pacheco reported the average showed a decline and that the Subdistrict is within sustainability.

Nathan Coombs provided the amount in storage in Platoro and stated people were more conscientious about their pumping. Sam Vance stated everyone farmed, they had a 150% water year and sustainability is accomplishable. Discussion was held on if the decrease in pumping was because the Subdistrict assessed fees or due to a better water year.

Ms. Pacheco presented the January forecast. She discussed the forbearance agreements in place through April 3⁰, 2020, and stated the Subdistrict has water in the Platoro reservoir to cover April 2020 depletions. Ms. Pacheco highlighted the potential water sources the Subdistrict could acquire and the need to have long term forbearance agreements.

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to direct Subdistrict No. 3 Board of Managers to request from the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board of Directors an allocation of water for coverage on the Rio Grande to cover depletions. The motion was seconded by Dwight Martin and unanimously approved.

Discussion was held on other water sources. Ms. Pacheco stated she would arrange a meeting with the Monte Vista Canal to explore the options for the Santa Maria leases. Ms. Pacheco reported attending a few ditch company meetings and receiving a new forbearance agreement on the Rio Grande Piedra.

President Salazar asked for a discussion on ditch companies that may forbear and assignments were given to each of the Board of Managers to speak with certain ditches regarding forbearance. Ms. Pacheco provided the names of who she would speak with as well. A discussion was held on the amount of stored compact water. The Board of Mangers requested a list of all of the forbearance agreements from last year and a sample forbearance agreement.

Ms. Pacheco provided the status of the Perry Sowards appeal as well as the next steps.

Cleave Simpson reported on winter impacts and the demands on the Closed Basin Project. Mr. Simpson updated the Board on the conversations around shutting down a portion of the Closed Basin Project. He also reported on a motion made by the Board of Directors of Rio Grande Water Conservation District providing him direction in regards to the matter. Mr. Simpson provided an update on the Bureau of Reclamation and US Fish and Wildlife discussions in connection with Russell Lakes and the association to the Close Basin Project production which Subdistrict are using for remedying the wintertime depletions.

Next Meeting

The next annual meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2020, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.



President



Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer