

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #4
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
January 23, 2024 at 9:00a.m.
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101
And by Zoom/Teleconference**

Present: David Frees, President; Pete Stagner, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Jan Waye, Manager; Jeff Regenold, Manager; and, Jennifer Rodriquez, Manager.

Absent: Peggy Godfrey, Ex-Officio Member.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill and Robbins, P.C.; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Taylor Chick, Program Manager; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; and, Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist.

Guests: David Hofmann, Dirk Rasmussen.

Meeting Called to Order

President Frees called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. There was a quorum present for the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

President Frees asked for amendments or a motion to approve the agenda. Pete Stagner asked to change Item IV from Till to Plant; and add a discussion and possible action on an appointment of a representative from the Board to the Archeology Survey Team. A motion was made by Pete Stagner to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Jan Waye and unanimously approved

Public Comment

President Frees asked for public comment. There was none.

Review and Consider Proposals to Lease Six Quarters

President Frees asked for review and consider proposals to lease six quarters. Chris Ivers reported the proposals received were from Dave Brown, Brady Stagner, and Frees and Sons. Discussion was held on the proposals, what circles to revegetate, and what type of crops to revegetate with. The Board decided fields 3,5 and 8 would be revegetated this year. David Frees recused himself.

Pete Stagner stepped out of the Chair and made a motion to accept Frees and Sons bid of \$10,000.00 a circle, with their choice of circles. The motion was seconded by Jeff Regenold and unanimously approved, with David Frees recused. David Frees chose field 2 and 4. Pete Stagner stepped out of the Chair and handed it back to David Frees.

President Frees stepped out of the Chair and made a motion to approve the bid from Dave Brown subject to his approval of taking the 4 remaining circles with a deadline of February 1, 2024 to decide; in the event Mr. Brown does not follow through the Board would then accept Brady Stagner's bid for 4 circles at the price bid. Pete Stagner recused himself. The motion was seconded by Jan Waye and unanimously approved.

Review and Consider Proposals to Plant Three Quarters

President Frees asked for review and consider proposals to plant three quarters. Chris Ivers reported three (3) proposals were submitted from Doug Messick, Brady Stagner and Frees and Sons. Discussion was held regarding all three proposals and the type of crop to revegetate with. Chris Ivers explained one of the bids was for planting, irrigating and mowing if necessary. Dirk Rasmussen commented on the planting of oats and equipment/grass picker. Discussion was held on the challenging soil types and equipment that could be beneficial.

President Frees reported the bid from Mr. Messick was the most appropriate to handle all concerns and made a motion to approve planting by Mr. Messick. The motion was seconded by Jan Waye and unanimously approved

Review and Consider proposals to Manage Revegetation on Six Quarters

President Frees asked for review and consider proposals to manage revegetation on six quarters. Chris Ivers reported three (3) proposals were submitted; discussion was held on each.

President Frees stepped out of the Chair and made a motion to approve Brady Stagner to do the mowing, if necessary, based on field conditions at \$3,500.00 a circle. Pete Stagner recused himself. The motion was seconded by Jeff Regenold and unanimously approved

Chris Ivers presented the bids for irrigation and maintenance. President Frees stepped out of the Chair and passed it off to Jan Waye. President Frees and Pete Stagner recused themselves. Discussion was held on the job done by Brady Stagner previously and the cost difference in the bids.

A motion was made by Jeff Reginold to accept the lowest bid from Frees and Sons in the amount of \$8,085.00 for six (6) circles for irrigation and maintenance. Jan Waye stepped out of the chair and seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. President Frees stepped back into the Chair.

New Business

President Frees asked for new business. Discussion was held on appointing a representative of the Board to be present with the Archeological Survey Team. Mr. Ivers described the terms contained in the Well Injury Payment Agreement (WIP) with Bob Bunker.

A motion was made by Pete Stagner to appoint Bob Bunker as the representative of the Subdistrict, to provide oversight, direction, advice and to be on site with the Archeological Survey Team. Mr. Bunker would have the Farm Committee as a liaison, Mr. Bunker's WIP agreement would include to do no more than weed burning/clearing of the stream channel. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Rodriquez.

President Frees, in order to provide clarification on the motion, stepped out of the Chair and re-made a motion to appoint Robert Bunker as the Board's representative to the Archeology Contractors, to report to the Farm Committee made up of David Frees and Pete Stagner as liaisons to the Board, and to add the provision to his WIP Agreement to include the provisions from last year. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Rodriquez and unanimously approved.

Chris Ivers reported on the requested meeting with the Saguache County Commissioner's. He stated the meeting had been set for 5:30 p.m. on January 30, 2024 at the Saguache County Road and Bridge building. Mr. Ivers reported staff and legal counsel were not going to attend and dinner would be provided. Mr. Ampe reminded the Board that if three (3) or more attend, a work session would need to be noticed.

Discussion was held on a letter sent out to well owners regarding the five (5) year average from the Division of Water Resources. David Hoffman provided an explanation of the letter.

Jan Waye asked for an update on the discussion held in December regarding the late payment of fees on a contract. Chris Ivers reported on the deadline given in December and the fees remain unpaid. Discussion was held on how to proceed. Pete Ampe explained the terms of the contract and provided the Board with their options. Discussion was held on the deadline, the amount paid, and the amount due. Staff and legal counsel were directed to contact and draft a letter to the well owner to make him aware of his standing.

Discussion was held on noticing the removal of fencing on Subdistrict owned property. A motion was made by Pete Stagner to require contractees to stack straw or hay only within the confined established elk exposure hay stack areas. The motion was seconded by Jan Waye and unanimously approved.

Pete Stagner reported on a bill introduced by Senator Simpson regarding wells in the southern part of the state not in a Subdistrict. David Hoffman highlighted the difficult area to model located in the southeast section of the Valley.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for March 5th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Pete Stagner to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jan Waye and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.



President

Secretary/Treasurer