

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS  
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1  
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
January 7, 2019, 9:00 a.m.  
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room  
Alamosa, Colorado 81101**

**Present:** Brian Brownell, President; Mike Mitchell, Secretary/Treasurer; Jamie Hart, BOM; Chris Miner, BOM; Miguel A. Diaz, BOM by telephone; Tony Holcomb, BOM; Jake Burris, BOM; Sheldon Rockey, BOM by telephone; Asier Artaechevarria, BOM and Brian David, Ex-Officio

**Excused:** Carla Worley, Vice-President

**Staff and Consultants:** Pete Ampe, Attorney; Cleave Simpson, General Manager; Marisa Fricke, Program Manager; Amber Pacheco, Program Manager; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; and April Mondragon, Administration Assistant.

**Guests:** Deb Sarason, David Hofmann, Mike Kruse, Jason Benton, Brian Jones, Willie Hofner and John Kretsinger.

**Meeting Called to Order**

President Brownell called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of the Agenda**

President Brownell asked for the approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Asier Artaechevarria and unanimously approved.

**Approval of the Minutes**

President Brownell asked for additions, corrections or a motion to approve the December 3, 2018 quarterly meeting minutes. A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jake Burris and unanimously approved.

**Public Comment**

President Brownell asked for public comment. John Kretsinger commented on the letter from the State Engineer.

**Program Manager's Report**

President Brownell asked for the Program Manager's report. Marisa Fricke provided a summary of the activities within Subdistrict No. 1 (copy attached). Ms. Fricke pointed out the actions taken prior to receiving the letter from the State Engineer. Ms. Fricke provided the details for the upcoming Subdistrict No. 1 Summit, including the date, topics, time, location and flow of the event. An update on the replacement water and water export were also provided by Ms. Fricke.

**Discussion and Possible Action on New or Changed Conservation Program(s)**

President Brownell asked for the discussion and possible action on new or changed conservation programs. Marisa Fricke reported on a program being operated in Kansas called LEMA as well as the success the program has had. Ms. Fricke lead a discussion on promoting a similar program and how and if the program would function in Subdistrict No. 1. Discussion was held on how the Subdistrict could cut down on the pumping levels, whether or not they would be able to establish target zones to incentivize, enforce higher fees for over pumping, recharging and purchasing property. Jason Benton stated the CREP program would have a higher participation rate if the program would allow farmers to rotate among their Farm Unit, rather than a single parcel of land for 15 years. Mr. Benton also reported some farmers were not eligible for governmentally funded programs. Mike Kruse provided his thoughts and suggestions on how the Subdistrict could reach its goals. Jason Benton provided the Board with information on a potential appeal situation. Ms. Fricke stated she will present the Board with an Appeal at the next meeting.

The meeting recessed at 12:55 p.m. for lunch and resumed at 2:12 p.m.

Ms. Fricke reminded the Board of the topic being discussed and provided them with the numbers within the budget they requested prior to the recess.

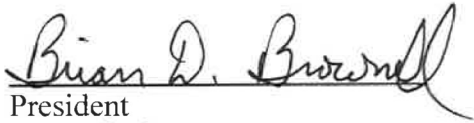


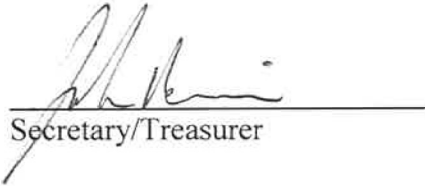
A motion was made by Asier Artachevarra to allocate from the \$959,154.28, \$500,000.00 into the escrow fund and leave the remaining amount (\$459,154) towards CREP incentives. The motion was seconded by Jamie Hart and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Jake Burris to allow a producer that enters into a CREP contract with FSA prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> the full 15-year contract, this would be accomplished by not prorating the Annual Rental Rate and Gap payment (if applicable) that would otherwise occur if a producer were to sign up after October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

  
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President

  
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Secretary/Treasurer



## **Subdistrict No.1 Program Manager Report- January 7, 2019**

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### **Strategic Planning for Subdistrict No.1 –Phase One**

As I am sure all of you have done; I find myself re-reading the letter from Kevin Rein on a daily basis. I don't want to say it is an eye opener, because I feel like we have been aware of the deadlines, pumping numbers and climatic challenges. What I did appreciate was the clarity on the state's position and how curtailing wells could happen even prior to the deadline.

We already had in place a conservation brain storming session, a raise in the Variable Fee, public online survey and a public workshop (now titled Sub No.1 Summit) in place prior to the letter we received from Mr. Rein. I feel like this is affirmation that we are actively trying to reach goals and even Mr. Rein praises our efforts.

A term that reoccurs throughout Mr. Rein's letter is "trend". As we think about goals and strategic plans let us take the chance to see what trends we can alter.

### **Public Relations**

We submitted an article to the Valley Courier regarding the aquifer levels and highlighted parts of the letter from Kevin Rein. The article was published on the front page on Saturday December 22, 2019.

A mass mail out was sent to all Subdistrict No.1 stakeholders with information on the Subdistrict No.1 Summit on January 16<sup>th</sup> and attached to the flyer was the State Engineers letter.

It is stated in the letter that we need to recover 60,000 to 70,000 acre feet per year to reach our goal. Enclosed are some ideas of my own, from staff, from Board members and community members on ways we can look at things differently. Looking forward to creating a new upward trend for 2019!

### **In Other News**

There is an online petition for opposition to the water export proposal. I am sharing this with you just so you know it exists. As of today there is 2,466 supporters. The petition reportedly was organized by Saguache County resident Lisa Rosen.

To view the petition go to: <https://www.change.org/p/lisa-rosen-stop-the-san-luis-valley-water-export>

The Board of Directors will be meeting in a couple of weeks to respond to the proposal.

### **Replacement Water**

For the month of December 2018, 208 acre feet of water from the Closed Basin Project was used to remedy lag depletions.

Projected depletions for January is 198 acre feet. Marisa has requested to Mr. Cotton that the negative (-4) stream reach depletions in Stream Reach 3, could be used against Stream Reach 2.

### **Upcoming Events**

January 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am is the Subdistrict No.1 Summit. This summit will be used to engage Sub1 stakeholders, education on programs, education on rules and solicit input on direction for reaching our goals. Breakfast will be offered and your attendance would be greatly appreciated!

