

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #6
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
March 15, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa CO 81101
And by Zoom/Teleconference**

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

Absent: Ronald Reinhardt, Secretary/Treasurer; and, Kenneth Reynolds, Manager.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins P.C.; Amber Pacheco, Deputy General Manager; Angelo Bellah, Program Manager; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; and, Kylie Gregg, Office Manager.

Guests: Michelle Lanzoni, Virginia Christensen, Vern Heersink, Mitch Miller, and Jason Lorenz.

Meeting Called to Order

President Faucette called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda

President Faucette asked the Board if they would like to begin each meeting with a prayer. They agreed and prayer will be added to meeting agendas going forward. A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Faucette asked for public comment. Mitch Miller asked to speak with Angelo Bellah prior to presenting. The Board recessed at 1:06 p.m. and resumed at 1:11 p.m.

Mitch Miller provided the Board with a handout (copy attached). He presented his ideas to reduce pumping and work toward sustainability in Subdistrict No. 6. President Faucette described why the Subdistrict does not need a drastic cut at this point which is why the Board decided on an incentive program.

Review and Approve Pumping Reduction Program Applicants

President Faucette asked for review and approve pumping reduction program applicants. He recused himself from the discussion and possible vote. He asked Vice President Virgil Valdez to conducted this portion of the meeting. Angelo Bellah went over the applications that had been received. He explained the ranking system, the approximate acre foot amount of reduction, the amount budgeted and the need to enhance the regulations and criteria of the Pumping Reduction Program. Virginia Christensen commented on extending participation to contract wells. Discussion was held on a variant application, how to verify reduction and avoiding double payment. The Board requested clarity on the variance prior to taking a vote on the application. Discussion was also held on the minimal amount of reduction for the amount being spent and the possibility to reopen the program if funds remained.

A motion was made to approve the first eleven (11) applications. Tyler Faucette recused himself. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Discussion was held on the concealed identity of the twelve (12) applicants and the need to keep the information private in order to not create a bias. The Board decided they would discuss the twelfth (12th) applicant at a later date.

Lease for Expo Augmentation Water

President Faucette asked for lease of Expo augmentation water. Angelo Bellah presented the lease and provided background information. He provided the acre foot amount of water available to the Subdistrict to lease as well as the price per acre foot. Mr. Bellah explained Subdistrict No. 3 had leased the water for the last five (5) years under an SWSP.

A motion was made to accept the lease for Expo augmentation water as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Lease for Terrace (Jasper) Augmentation Water

President Faucette asked for lease for Terrace (Jasper) augmentation water. Angelo Bellah presented the lease and highlighted the acre foot amount of available augmentation water. Discussion was held on the storage right and the fees associated in the Terrace Reservoir.

A motion was made to accept the lease for Terrace Reservoir (Jasper) augmentation water. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

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 2:35 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.

Possible Action following Executive Session

President Faucette asked for possible action following executive session. Staff was directed to submit \$15,000 in earnest money toward negotiations.

New Business

President Faucette asked for new business. Rodney Reinhardt provided an update on the negotiations with Subdistrict No. 2 on the City of Monte Vista water. President Faucette updated the Board on the discussions held regarding Santa Maria shares available for lease. Angelo Bellah reported the universal forbearance agreement on the Conejos system had been reviewed and will be used going forward. President Faucette provided an update on the discussions with the City of Monte Vista and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife regarding sustainability.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for May 8, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.



President



Secretary/Treasurer

Sustainability in Subdistrict 6

What can lead to an actual reduction in pumping

More Efficient Nozzles (less evaporation)
Switching to more water efficient crops
Reducing Production e.g. Not taking a third cutting
Drying Acres

How to achieve Sustainability

Prior Appropriation (Colorado Water Law)
Cap & Trade (Trinchera) (Sub District Water Right) (Good when large cut is needed)
Sustainability Fee

Application of Sustainability Fee

Buy Water Rights and Reduce Pumping
Rent Water Rights and Reduce Pumping
Incentivize Efficiency (lower evaporation)
Historic Use Reduction Program
Explore other options that would lead to one of the 4 factors that can actually reduce pumping

Historic Use Program

Need to have a high level of certainty that an actual reduction in pumping will take place
Need to determine a base level of Acre Feet for historic use (time period and exemptions)
More confidence in a reduction based on a multi year crop cycle e.g. reduced pumping over a 5 yr cycle
How the reduction will be achieved needs explained for high level of confidence (For a 1 year program)

Fear that 1 year program will attract those that are in a rotation year's crop that uses little water

Year	Crop	Use
1	Alfalfa	350
2	Alfalfa	350
3	Alfalfa	350
4	Alfalfa	350
5	Oats	180
Average		316

Dry Up: Difficult to commit to a 1 yr program especially if it would involve drying up perennial plants

Parameters effecting Irrigation Efficiency and Consumptive Use

Evaporation

Transpiration

Deep percolation and or seepage losses

Water Supply = Evaporation + Transpiration + Deep Percolation

Irrigation Efficiency

Definition: the ratio of the amount of water consumed by the crop to the amount of water supplied through irrigation

Irrigation Efficiency is the percent of water used for Transpiration

Transpiration = Water Supply - (Evaporation + Deep Percolation)

Consumptive Use

Definition: water removed from available water supplies without return to a water resource system such as river or ground water aquifer.

Consumptive use: Evaporation + Transpiration

Deep Percolation (non-consumptive use) = Water Supply - (Evaporation + Transpiration)

Non Consumptive Use: water becomes available for reapplication; Eventually after repeat use, water in system is consumed by Evaporation and/or Transpiration

The Common Enemy

Evaporation: is the parameter that negatively effects both irrigation efficiency and consumptive use

Irrigation Application Factors that effect Evaporation

drop size: determined by water pressure; the greater the spacing between nozzles, the more pressure required for water to cover area, resulting in smaller water drops

wetting canopy: Most of the water that wets the canopy is eventually lossed to evaporation; the bigger the canopy, the higher the evaporation losses

height of nozzles: The higher a nozzle is placed the more loss that occurs to evaporation

number of applications: increased evaporation right after application from wet soil surface

Environmental Factors that effect Evaporation

temperature: Higher temperatures result in more evaporation

Wind: Higher wind speeds evaporate more water

Humidity levels: Lower humidity levels increase evaporation

Ground Cover: reduces evaporation from the soil

LEPA Irrigation System

Flood irrigation: very low evaporation levels

LEPA System: Low Energy Precision Application; mimics flood irrigation

Drop Size: Close spacing allows for low pressure application resulting in large drops

Wetting Canopy: In bubble down mode canopy is essentially left dry

Height of Nozzles: nozzles are placed low to the ground; 18 inches or less

Number of Applications: Due to low evaporation losses, large applications of water are possible resulting in the ability to push water down deep into the root zone reducing the number of needed applications and evaporation losses from the soil surface



Pictures: LEPA picture on left from Senninger; both pictures on the right in the SLV on a windy day

Irrigation Efficiency: LEPA bubblers help ensure 95 to 98% of water pumped reaches the crop's root zone while using less energy than conventional low-pressure sprinklers. --Senninger