

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #3
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
April 11, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101
And By Zoom/Teleconference**

Present: LeRoy Salazar, President; Nathan Coombs, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Ruben Sandoval, Manager; Sam Vance, Manager; Warren Crowther, Manager; Doug Bagwell, Manager; and, Elliott Salazar, Ex-Officio Member.

Absent:

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

Guests: Michelle Lanzoni, William Myers.

Meeting Called to Order

President Salazar called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Warren Crowther led the opening prayer.

Approval of the Agenda

President Salazar asked for changes, additions or a motion to approve the agenda. The agenda was amended to add a report from Clinton Phillips to discuss fish wells and add an Executive Session. A motion was made by Warren Crowther to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Sam Vance and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Salazar asked for public comment. There was none.

Approval of the 2024 Annual Replacement Plan

President Salazar asked for the approval of the 2024 Annual Replacement Plan (ARP).

• *Board Discussion*

Angelo Bellah presented the ARP summary. He highlighted the number of wells, the estimated acre feet of groundwater withdrawals, the number of irrigated acres and the acre feet of stream depletions on the Rio Grande, Alamosa and Conejos Rivers.

Discussion was held on fish wells, how they are being calculated and how they are represented in the model. Clinton Phillips reported on the explanation provided by Mike Sayler on his model calculations and a memo provided by Craig Cotten. He highlighted the agreement to meet in the middle.

Mr. Bellah continued with the review of the ARP summary. He reported on the replacement possibilities including forbearance agreements. The Board directed him to analyze the ditches that have forbearance with the Subdistrict and which ones do not. Mr. Bellah highlighted a new section in the ARP disclosing the water rights owned by the Subdistrict. Discussion was held on amending a section to include the actions being done to achieve aquifer sustainability. Mr. Bellah provided a recap of the changes to be made to the ARP prior to submitting the final to the District Board.

• *Recommendation to the Board of Directors*

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the ARP with the changes as discussed. The motion was seconded by Elliott Salazar and unanimously approved.

Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice Concerning the Purchase of Real Property

President Salazar asked for an executive session to receive legal advice concerning the purchase of real property. A motion was made at 8:55 a.m. by Nathan Coombs to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Elliott Salazar and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ampe stated the Board was entering into executive session pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(a) to receive legal advice concerning the purchase of real property. The Board would take no formal action or position during the executive session.

Possible Action from Executive Session

President Salazar asked for possible action from the executive session. A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to direct staff to draft a purchase agreement for a well and a perpetual forbearance agreement with El Coda. The motion was seconded by Elliott Salazar and unanimously approved.

New Business

President Salazar asked for new business. He asked for a discussion on possibly implementing a voluntary allocation program to reduce the groundwater withdrawals from 26,000-acre feet to 24,000-acre feet per year. President Salazar directed staff to draft an appreciative letter to the Subdistrict members to offer education, potential incentives, and make them aware of the possibility of mandatory allocations next year.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for June 6, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.



President



Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer