

**QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #5
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
July 24, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room
Alamosa, Colorado 81101**

Present: David Schmittel, President; George Whitten, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Corey Hill, Manager; Kit Caldon, Manager; Dale Gerstberger, Manager; and, Peggy Godfrey, Ex-Officio Member.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Amber Pacheco, Program Manager; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Chris Ivers, Deputy Program Manager; Tim Carden, HCP Coordinator/Program Assistant; Clinton Phillips and Allen Davey, Davis Engineering; and, April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Cody Redden, Tyrell Mares, Deb Sarason, John Werner, Allen Law, Judith Lopez.

Meeting Called to Order

President Schmittel called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval Minutes- April 17, 2019, May 15, 2019, and June 26, 2019

President Schmittel asked for amendments or a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Kit Caldon to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Corey Hill and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Agenda

President Schmittel asked for additions or a motion to approve the agenda. Amber Pacheco asked to include Corey Hill on the agenda to provide an update on forbearance conversations. Ms. Pacheco also added a presentation by Allen Law and Judith Lopez concerning Aquifer Conservation Easements. A motion was made by Kit Caldon to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dale Gerstberger and unanimously approved.

Attorney's Report

President Schmittel asked for the Attorney's Report. Pete Ampe reported he continues to re-read and review the Plan of Water Management and will begin working on the Rules and Regulations.

Program Manager's Report

President Schmittel asked for the Program Manager's Report. Amber Pacheco provided an update on the other Subdistricts. She also gave an update on Subdistrict No. 5 financials. She provided the Board with last year's pumping amounts and compared them with prior years. Ms. Pacheco reported the five-year average did increase but Subdistrict No. 5 is still considered sustainable.

Review of the Plan of Water Management

President Schmittel asked for the review and possible approval of the Plan of Water Management. Amber Pacheco reported she had not received any comments from the public and stated she and the Board would take comments or questions from the Public before the Board voted on the Plan at this meeting. Ms. Pacheco highlighted the main concepts in the Plan of Water Management.

Next Steps: Once the Board of Managers approve the Plan of Water Management, it will then go to the Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District for approval. After they approve, it would go to the State Engineer for approval, then back to the District for final adoption.

Public Comment Period

President Schmittel asked for public comment. Allen Davey provided the Board with a concept of reduction of pumping and recommended approval of the Plan of Water Management.

Approval of the Plan of Water Management of Subdistrict No. 5

President Schmittel asked for a motion to approve the Plan of Water Management. A motion was made by George Whitten to approve the Plan of Water Management as amended for Subdistrict No. 5. The motion was seconded by Kit Caldon and unanimously approved.

Forbearance Update from Corey Hill

Corey Hill updated the Board on conversations he had with the Saguache Creek Water Users in regards to forbearance agreements. Mr. Hill provided some of the ideas and thoughts they had and stated they would like to try to work with the Subdistrict.

Aquifer Conservation Easement-Judith Lopez and Allen Law

President Schmittel asked for a presentation on aquifer conservation easements. Allen Law from the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust provided some history and some current projects he is involved with. Judy Lopez from Colorado Open Lands explained what they do and provided some of the programs they have as well. They also described a new idea for groundwater conservation easement which is being explored by their entities. Mr. Law and Ms. Lopez explained how a ground water aquifer conservation easement would work. Cleave Simpson explained how he envisioned a program could be beneficial for Subdistricts and provided some of the ideas regarding the ground water aquifer conservation easement concept.

Next Meeting

A Special Meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at the Saguache County Road and Bridge. The next regularly scheduled Quarterly Meeting will be on October 16, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made by George Whitten to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dale Gerstberger and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.



President



Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer