

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS  
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1  
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
August 11, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.  
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa CO 81101  
And by Zoom Teleconference**

**Present:** Brian Brownell, President; Carla Worley, Vice-President; Jamie Hart, BOM; Miguel A. Diaz, BOM; Clay Mitchell, BOM; Chris Miner, BOM; Sheldon Rockey, BOM; Asier Artachevarria, BOM; Tony Holcomb, BOM; and Mike Kruse, Ex-Officio Member.

**Absent:** Les Alderete, BOM.

**Staff and Consultants:** Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins P.C.; Cleave Simpson, General Manager; Marisa Fricke, Program Manager; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

**Guests:** Deb Sarason, Brian Rue, William Myers, Cheryl Santi, Elbert Davis, Dale Bartee, Craig Cotton, Dee Greeman, David Hofmann, Steve McCullough.

**Meeting Called to Order**

President Brownell called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Public Comment**

President Brownell asked for public comment. Cheryl Santi reminded the Board of her situation and reported she believes her property is in the wrong Subdistrict.

**Executive Session**

President Brownell asked for a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal advice regarding the potential purchase of real property. A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Tony Holcomb and unanimously approved.

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

**Discussion and Possible Action Following Executive Session**

Pete Ampe stated the Board was in executive session and had voted to come out. Staff was directed to inform the property owner that the Board is not interested in purchasing the property at this time due to the lack of funds available and to make them aware of the conservation programs the Subdistrict has to offer. Cheryl Santi commented on the CREP program.

**Discussion on Plan of Water Management Revisions**

President Brownell asked for discussion on Plan of Water Management revisions. Pete Ampe reported working with Marisa Fricke who reached out to an agricultural economist to do a study on one for one in the Subdistrict No. 1 economy. Mr. Ampe also reported reaching out to William Schroder who is the RGDDS modeler to see how the unconfined aquifer will react if the Subdistrict reaches its goal. Marisa Fricke reported providing the Board with a list of crop types produced in Subdistrict No. 1 since 2001 in order to compare the water use. Clinton Phillips presented a no consumptive use table and a one-to-one table for discussion and comparison. Craig Cotton encouraged the Board multiple times on the importance of setting benchmarks and explained what the State Engineer may look for at the end of a five (5) year period. Mr. Cotton reported struggling with the rim inflow factor stating he believes it will not change much. He stated the aquifer has not gained any water in the past ten (10) years and regardless of what the rim inflow is, there would need to be a decrease in pumping. Mr. Cotton stated that is what the focus needs to be on to gain the aquifer back the 40,000-acre feet a year.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Receiving Additional Legal Assistance**

President Brownell asked for discussion and possible action on receiving additional legal assistance. Pete Ampe reported receiving a request from Bill Paddock to provided additional legal assistance. Mr. Ampe stated he would gladly accept the help, the Board approved and directed him to draft a non-disclosure agreement between the two (2) attorneys.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Economic Study**

President Brownell asked for discussion and possible action on economic study. Marisa Fricke reported on the work Rebeka Hill at CSU specializes in.

A motion was made by Miguel Diaz to direct staff and consultants to cooperate and work with the CSU economist on a study looking at the economic impacts of the increase variable fee and whether they will have the impacts that the Subdistrict believes it will in accord with the written proposal that they provided to the Board in accordance to the Fourth Plan of Water Management. The motion was seconded by Clay Mitchell and unanimously approved.

Ms. Fricke provided an update on new temporary CREP sign ups and the public outreach at the Valli 3 Theater being held in Monte Vista next week.

**Board Open Discussion**


President Brownell asked for Board open discussion. There was none.

**Next Meeting**

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

  
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President

  
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Secretary/Treasurer