

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS  
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #4  
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
December 3, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.  
Rio Grande Water Conservation District  
Alamosa, CO 81101**

**Present:** David Frees, President; Pete Stagner, Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer; Richard Blumenhein, Manager; and, Peggy Godfrey, Ex-Officio Member.

**Absent:** Ronald Bowman, Manager

**Staff and Consultants:** Pete Ampe, Hill and Robbins, P.C.; Cleave Simpson, General Manager; Amber Pacheco, Program Manager; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Chris Ivers, Deputy Program Manager; Tim Carden, HCP Coordinator/Program Assistant; and, April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

**Guests:** Deb Sarason, John Kim, Ray Miller, and Ethan Plumber.

**Meeting Called to Order**

Vice President Frees called the meeting to order at 9:02a.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Vice President Frees asked for amendments or a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Richard Blumenhein to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Pete Stagner and unanimously approved.

**Approval of September 3, 2019 Minutes**

Vice President Frees asked for amendments or a motion to approve the September 3, 2019 Quarterly Meeting minutes. A motion was made by Pete Stagner to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Richard Blumenhein and unanimously approved.

**Election of Officers**

Vice President Frees asked for the Election of Officers. Pete Ampe announced that election is held yearly, he also announced Ron Bowman resigned from the Board of Managers. Mr. Ampe opened up the nominations for President.

A motion was made by Richard Blumenhein to elect David Frees as President of Subdistrict No. 4. The motion was seconded by Pete Stagner and unanimously approved.

President Frees asked for nominations for Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer of Subdistrict No. 4. A motion was made by Richard Blumenhein to elect Pete Stagner as Vice President of Subdistrict No. 4. The motion was seconded by David Frees and unanimously approved.

**Attorney Report**

President Frees asked for the Attorney's report. Pete Ampe reported Subdistrict No. 6 has an approved Plan of Water Management and the time to protest has expired. Mr. Ampe stated Subdistrict No. 6 is coordinating with Subdistrict No. 3 in order to have a 2020 partial year Annual Replacement Plan by October 1<sup>st</sup> at the latest. Mr. Ampe stated this Subdistrict will need to be operational with an approved Annual Replacement Plan by March 15, 2021 in order to meet the Rules and Regulations deadline.

**Program Manager's Report**

President Frees asked for the Program Manager's report. Amber Pacheco presented the financial report. Ms. Pacheco highlighted the expenditures, the profit and loss statement, and the Balance Sheet including the total amount due to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. Ms. Pacheco stated this is the Subdistricts first year having a budget and a report generated out of QuickBooks. After the financial report, she provided an update on the other Subdistricts and the lack of interest and/or understanding of forbearance agreements in this Subdistrict. President

Frees suggested holding a joint work session with the Saguache Subdistrict No. 5 to discuss forbearance agreements.

**Discussion on Plan of Water Management Benchmarks for Sustainability**

President Frees asked for the discussion on the Plan of Water Management benchmarks for sustainability. Ms. Pacheco stated Subdistrict No. 4's Plan of Water Management has not been submitted to the State Engineer for approval and voiced concern of being faced with a condition from the state to become immediately sustainable due to benchmarks. Mr. Ampe reported working to include the benchmark language in the Plan of Water Management.

**Review of Draft Rules and Regulations**

President Frees asked for the review of draft Rules and Regulations. Amber Pacheco reported the fee for contracting into the Subdistrict had not been set and stated the contracts could be amended. Mr. Ampe stated that if someone waits to contract until after the Groundwater Rules and this Subdistrict's first Annual Replacement Plan, it would be at the discretion of the Board to charge additional fees. Discussion was held on the potential wells that may request to be contracted into the Subdistrict.

**Discussion on Contract Requirements for Wells Wanting to Be Covered by Subdistrict**

President Frees asked for the discussion on contract requirements for wells wanting to be covered by the Subdistrict. Pete Ampe explained when and how a contract would be used. Discussion was held on guidelines and how to determine past usage according to limited records.

**Discuss Water Export and Consider Resolution to Oppose It**

President Frees asked for the discussion on water export and consider a resolution to oppose it. Amber Pacheco stated the Rio Grande Water Conservation District signed a resolution opposing water export and asked if this Board would be interested in doing the same. A resolution opposing water export will be drafted and presented at the next meeting for the Board to consider. Richard Blumenhein asked also that a letter of appreciation be drafted to acknowledge Jerry Berry's contributions to the Subdistrict.

**General Board Discussion**

President Frees asked for general Board discussion. Peggy Godfrey announced the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board will be holding a work session to be held in January regarding the Closed Basin Project. President Frees requested a meeting be held with the US Fish and Wildlife to discuss potential contracts.

**New Business**

President Frees asked for new business. Richard Blumenhein asked for a depository of information on ways to conserve water as well as the different crop types that consume less water. Pete Ampe suggested NRCS, FSA or Davis Engineering and suggested developing a resource page within the District's website.

**Next Meeting**

A joint work session with Subdistrict No. 5 was set for January 22, 2020, the time was not set. The next quarterly meeting is March 3, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Richard Blumenhein to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Pete Stagner. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

  
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President

  
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Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer