RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2017
1:30 P.M.
RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: Greg Higel, President, Brian David, Vice-President; Dwight Martin, Secretary/Treasurer; Peggy Godfrey, Director; Cory Off, Director; Bill McClure, Director; Lewis Entz, Director; and, Mike McClure, Director.

Unexcused: Lawrence Gallegos, Director

Staff: Cleave Simpson, General Manager; David Robbins, District’s Attorney; Cheryl Anderson, Office Manager; Chet Tokarsky, Program Technician; and, Linda Ramirez, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Mike Kruse, Curt Trimble, and Allen Davey.

President Higel called the meeting to order at 1:51 p.m. There was a quorum present.

PUBLIC COMMENT
President Higel asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
President Higel asked for approval of the agenda. President Higel stated Items 7 and 8 will be taken off of the Agenda. Cleave Simpson gave an update on Items 7 and 8 but the items were not be acted on. A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to approve the agenda as amended and seconded by Cory Off. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND ACTION, CLOSED BASIN PROJECT OPERATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT
President Higel asked for review and action on the Closed Basin Project Operating Committee appointment. President Higel stated George Whitten is willing to continue serving on the Closed Basin Project Operating Committee. A motion was made by Lewis Entz to retain George Whitten as representative on the Closed Basin Project Operating Committee. The motion was seconded by Dwight Martin. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND ACTION, SUBDISTRICT #3 BOARD OF MANAGERS APPOINTMENTS.
Cleave Simpson stated Judge Swift signed the order for Subdistrict #3 on January 27, 2017. Mr. Simpson stated that Subdistrict #3 has 7 seats to be filled on the Board of Managers and 10 volunteers applied to fill those seats. The Subdistrict did not have anyone apply for the contract position. Mr. Simpson needs time to gather more information on each of the volunteers before the Board can make appointments. Dwight Martin asked how the appointment process will work. Cleave Simpson stated the Board makes the decision and that is why more time is needed to gather additional information on each volunteer. Mr. Simpson said he will get information on the candidates out to the Board in plenty of time for review before any decisions are made.

REVIEW AND ACTION, PRESENTATION OF SAN LUIS CREEK RESPONSE AREA SUBDISTRICT FORMATION PETITION – SUBDISTRICT #4
Cleave Simpson stated that staff is still trying to work out a few unique circumstances in Subdistrict #4 before it can be presented to the Board. Mr. Simpson stated Subdistrict #4 may wait until the April meeting or call a special meeting to address Subdistrict #3 Board of Manager appointments and Subdistrict #4’s petitions.

REVIEW AND ACTION, REQUEST FUNDING FOR SAGUACHE CREEK RESPONSE AREA MODEL SUPPORT, FUNDING UP TO $10,000.00 FOR (2) WELL MONITORING SYSTEMS.
President Higel asked for review and action on the Saguache Creek Response Area funding request. Cleave Simpson gave background information on what the District could do to improve confidence levels in the model for Saguache Creek Response Area. Mr. Simpson believes the simplest action for the District to implement would be a continuous monitoring system on two existing wells. Mr. Simpson still has to gather additional information on the wells before the
irrigation season begins. Mr. Simpson is requesting up to $10,000.00 for this funding request. A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to approve up to $10,000.00 for two monitoring wells in the Saguache Creek Response Area. The motion was seconded by Bill McClure. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND ACTION, AUGMENTATION PLANS FILED BY TOWNS OF DEL NORTE, SAGUACHE AND MONTE VISTA.
President Higel asked for review and action on the augmentation plans filed by the Town of Del Norte, Town of Saguache and City of Monte Vista. Cleave Simpson stated he and Pete Ampe have been working with Peter Nichols, attorney for the municipalities, for about six months. Mr. Simpson believes everyone would benefit if the municipalities contract with the District. Mr. Simpson recommends the Board file Statements of Opposition in each case. A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to file Statements of Opposition in each case. The motion was seconded by Brian David. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND ACTION, CONTRACT FOR HEATING-A/C SEASONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT
President Higel asked for review and action on the contract for heating-A/C seasonal service agreement. Cleave Simpson stated the heating and A/C unit is still under warranty until the middle of March. Mr. Simpson would like to sign a contract with Vendola Plumbing for seasonal service for at least the next two years since they installed the system. Vendola presented a contract for approximately $900 to service the heating and A/C. A motion was made by Lewis Entz to contract with Vendola Plumbing for these services. The motion was seconded by Bill McClure. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lewis Entz asked Cleave Simpson to speak on the Radar System. Mr. Simpson stated Nathan Coombs has been spearheading the project. Mr. Coombs is working on a proposal for a permanent radar system at Alamosa Airport. Mr. Coombs will be looking for funding for this project and Mr. Simpson believes the District may be in the best position to hold the maintenance and licensing for the structure. There is no fixed radar that sees the San Luis Valley. It could be used for real time live feeds on a web based application for whoever would like to use it. Mr. Simpson will have more information for the Board prior to the April meeting. President Higel stated there is a need for a data collecting point for this data and maybe it is something the Board ties into. Dwight Martin asked if the data could be marketed. Cleave Simpson stated that some of the data can be marketed.

Mike McClure informed the Board that Mr. Simpson did attend the Mineral County Commissioners meeting and gave a good presentation.

Mr. McClure also informed the Board there were some technical issues at the Special Meeting where several Board members appeared by phone but were unable to hear the meeting. Cleave Simpson stated he would try to limit those instances.

Cory Off stated Farm Bill 2018 is coming up and he would like to pursue doing something different for the Valley. David Robbins asked if he was proposing to ask Senator Bennett to put a provision for flexibility to rotate land in farm units for CREP. Mr. Robbins will draft a letter for the Board to review and submit to Senator Bennett. Mr. Off believes there are other entities willing to send letters of support. Mr. Robbins stated the first step would be to get a commitment from Senator Bennett to see if he would sponsor an amendment for change in the current Farm Bill to allow rotation of fallowed property as part of the CREP program. Cleave Simpson stated he would add the alfalfa conversation to the request. Tim Davis has almost been successful in getting alfalfa added in that qualification and then a change happens in administration and you start all over again. Mr. Robbins stated he did not think they would be successful eliminating test periods.

Cleave Simpson commented it might be appropriate to talk about sending a contingent to Washington to discuss the Farm Bill on behalf of the District. David Robbins stated it would not be effective to send anyone until the new administration is in place.

ADJOURN
The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on April 18, 2017.