RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017
10:00 A.M.
RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Staff: Cleave Simpson, General Manager; Amber Pacheco, Program Manager; Rob Phillips; Program Manager; Allen Davey, District Engineer; Cheryl Anderson, Office Manager; David Robbins, District’s Attorney; Chris Ivers, Program Assistant; and, Linda Ramirez, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Ralph Curtis, self; Lynn Kopfman, self; Jake Burris, Subdistrict #1 Board of Managers; Dave Warsh, self; Pete Strifler, U.S.F.W.S.; Ruth Heide, Valley Courier; Rio de la Vista, R.i.G.H.T.; Heather Dutton, SLVWCD; Emma Reesor, RGHRP; Kurt Thompson, Agro Engineering; Brenda Felmlee, Representative Tipton’s office; Christine Arborgast, Kogovskyk and Associates; Helen Sigmond, Alamosa County Commissioners; Charlotte Bobicki, Senator Bennet’s office; Becky Brooks, Stealey II; Jill Lucero, BLM; Joe Busto, CWCB; Tony Aloia, CSP&WR; Fred Bunch, NPS; Scott Stonom, Acting Superintendent NPS; Zeke Ward, RWEACT; Bethany Howell, RGWCIE; Judy Lopez, Colorado Open Lands; William Banks, USBR; Judi Perez, Rio Grande National Forest; Heidi Sherk, The Nature Conservancy, Ryan Unterreiner, CPW; Sue Swift-Miller; BLM; and Russ Plummer, USBR

CALL TO ORDER
President Greg Higel called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF & GUESTS
President Higel welcomed all those present and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
President Higel turned the meeting over to David Robbins. Mr. Robbins called for election of officers. Mr. Robbins called for nominations for President currently held by Greg Higel. Lewis Entz nominated Greg Higel for President and Bill McClure seconded. Dwight Martin made a motion for nominations to cease. The motion was seconded by Brian David and unanimously approved. Lawrence Gallegos made a motion to appoint Greg Higel President by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Bill McClure and unanimously approved. Greg Higel was elected President by acclamation.

The meeting was turned over to President Higel. President Higel asked for nominations for Vice-President currently held by Brian David. Dwight Martin nominated Brian David for Vice-President and Lewis Entz seconded. Bill McClure made a motion for nominations to cease and elect Brian David by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Mike McClure and unanimously approved. Brian David was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

President Higel asked for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer currently held by Dwight Martin. Brian David nominated Dwight Martin for Secretary/Treasurer and Lawrence Gallegos seconded. Lewis Entz made a motion for nominations to cease and elect Dwight Martin by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Mike McClure and unanimously approved. Dwight Martin was elected Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation.

APPROVE MINUTES
President Higel asked for a motion to approve the January 17, 2017 minutes. A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey and seconded by Lawrence Gallegos to accept the minutes as written. The motion was unanimously approved. President Higel asked for a motion to approve the February 10, 2017 minutes. A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey and seconded by Lawrence Gallegos to accept the minutes as written. The motion was unanimously approved. President Higel asked for a motion to approve the February 27, 2017 minutes. A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey and
seconded by Brian David to accept the minutes as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Higel asked for public comment. David Warsh stated he is a Subdistrict #1 fee payer. Mr. Warsh has concerns about money being carried over and the variable fee flexibility increase Subdistrict #1 is requesting in its revised Plan of Water Management. When the Subdistrict sold this it was one plan, three separate fees. There was an administration fee; Mr. Warsh is very pleased with the administration and getting information to the public in a timely manner. The variable fee was put in place at $45.00 the first year and rose to $75.00 the second year. Now Subdistrict #1 is requesting the flexibility to raise it to $150.00 cap yet, they have kept the CREP fee that everyone has to pay at $2.00. The CREP fee has a cap of $12.00, the variable fee has a cap of $75.00 and they have maintained 16% for CREP even though CREP is the largest single program that they do. They want to raise the variable fee to 200% and leave the cap the same on the CREP fee. Mr. Warsh realizes Subdistrict #1 is asking for flexibility on the variable fee but wants this Board to keep in mind there are objections to the revised Plan of Water Management. Mr. Warsh wonders how many individuals are aware that Subdistrict #1 carried over 8 million dollars into this year. Mr. Warsh has heard the reasons the variable fee money can be used for everything while CREP fees are limited. The CREP fee could be raised to its cap of $12.00. Mr. Warsh is asking not to raise the variable fee until all Subdistricts are formed. This Board needs to give Subdistrict #1 direction on their budget. Cleave Simpson stated nothing will be done without public input. The Board will review the pros and cons to any changes to the Plan of Water Management for Subdistrict #1. David Robbins made it clear there was a joint meeting with both Boards for discussion of the Plan of Water Management, there will continue to be joint meetings, to which the public is always invited.

Mr. Kaufman stated he served on this Board and knows it took a lot of effort to form Subdistrict #1 and this Board represents the entire Valley. The cap on the variable fee was sold as up to $75.00 maximum and the public had a lot of concerns at that time. There is a State statute that does not allow tax entities to tax for no reason and to create large masses of money that do not have budgets to justify the money being collected. The Plan was sold to create CREP, buy water, for education and conservation. These were goals and objectives sold at that time. The Board never planned on the Rules and Regulations taking so long to be implemented. Subdistrict #1 is making every effort to conserve water. Mr. Kaufman believes when pumping is reduced in other areas, recovery will be a lot better and faster than it is right now.

President Higel thanked Mr. Kaufman for his comments.

APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORT

President Higel asked for the District’s Financial Report. Cleave Simpson reported on the financials. Subdistrict #1 made a rent payment, rent income is reclassified as reimbursement of building costs; disbursements for funding requests were made in the first quarter. The 2016 audit process is on-going. Discussion was had on revenues and how the process is conducted for Subdistrict #1. Ms. Pacheco stated two different processes are used at the request of Subdistrict #1 Board for their financials. David Robbins stated Subdistrict #1 is struggling to regulate their finances with their obligations. President Higel asked for a motion to accept the Financial Report. A motion was made Bill McClure and seconded by Peggy Godfrey to approve the Financial Report. The motion was unanimously approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

President Higel asked for the Manager’s Report. Cleave Simpson highlighted his report, a copy of which is attached to the minutes. Mr. Simpson announced the reappointments to the Board of Directors Dwight Martin, Brian David and Mike McClure. New employees to the District are Michael Carson and Chester Tokarsky. The District continues to support the Closed Basin Project with operations and maintenance. Oscar Molina took a job with the Bureau of Reclamation. Solomon Mondragon has been hired to replace Mr. Molina and will start May 1st. As a high priority, the crew will get on the Norton Drain for review. The week long water leader course had 22 participants. Mr. Simpson gave a highlight of progress for all Subdistricts and meetings he has attended. The hydraulic divide study has been completed for this year. Mr. Simpson gave an update on staff and their activities the last quarter. Steve Vandiver has been temporarily hired to help with the change case. Mr. Simpson is working on a draft Conservation Agreement for the Rio Grande Sucker and the Rio Grande Chub and asked the Board if they
would support this agreement. David Robbins stated over 40 years the health of the suckers has come up and encourages the Board to cooperate and follow Mr. Simpson’s recommendations. Bill McClure and Lawrence Gallegos stated they are in favor of supporting these efforts.

Cleave Simpson reported there is an update/revision to the 457 retirement plan and asks the Board to approve the revision. The revision is a Roth Contribution option added to the existing 457 plan. Dwight Martin made a motion to accept the revisions to the 457 retirement plan. The Motion was seconded by Bill McClure and unanimously approved.

Mr. Simpson gave an update on the RADAR station. Mr. Simpson will get the formal proposal to the Board once it is complete.

President Higel thanked Mr. Simpson for his report.

President Higel asked for Subdistrict #1’s report. Rob Phillips gave a report on Subdistrict #1, a copy of Mr. Phillips report is attached to the minutes. Mr. Phillips highlighted the following:

- The 2017 ARP was approved.
- Have seven forbearance agreement, one came in at $50.00 an acre foot
- CREP has better interest than in the past
- The RCPP grant is effective October 1, 2017, for three years, working with NRCS staff to get information out to the public.
- The Board of Managers will focus on the changes to the Plan of Water Management
- Subdistrict #1 formed a finance committee of three Board members

Mr. Phillips explained the budget with the CREP incentives and the struggles the Board is having with these issues. Mr. Phillips has trust in this Board and the finance committee to readjust these resources to different programs. The Board has a lot of scenarios to look at when planning and moving forward. David Robbins stated a three member subcommittee has to give notice of meetings. President Higel stated it is hard to believe with the amount of water that has to be put into the hole (the aquifer) they are actually accreting water to the Rio Grande River.

President Higel thanked Mr. Phillips for his report.

President Higel asked Amber Pacheco to give reports on the other subdistricts. Ms. Pacheco highlighted her report; a copy is attached to the minutes. Subdistrict #2 is about finished with their Plan of Water Management. Their next meeting is May 2, 2017; at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Pacheco has been pushing to get the public to participate. They are looking at July for presentation of Subdistrict #2’s POWM to this Board. Subdistrict #3 has an appointed Board of Managers, six members and an ex-officio. Their first task is Bylaws and then straight into their Plan of Water Management. Subdistrict #3 has sustainability requirements and it may be more difficult preparing their Plan of Water Management. Subdistrict #4 Petitions have been approved by the Board and Pete Ampe will file them with the Saguache District Court. A hearing will be held within 60 to 90 days after filing, once formed they will have a five member Board of Managers and an ex-officio appointed by this Board. Subdistrict #4 can operate with three members if there is not enough local qualifying Subdistrict members to serve on that Board. Subdistrict #5 is being finalized; Ms. Pacheco did run an article in the newspaper. Ms. Pacheco will work on getting the verifications to Mr. Ampe. Ms. Pacheco is hoping to have Subdistrict #5 all verified and ready for presentation to this Board in July. Subdistricts #6 is moving forward with the Petition process and are about half way done. Cleave Simpson mentioned budget discussions will be different at the end of this year as the subdistricts move from formation to operation.

President Higel thanked Ms. Pacheco for her report.

DISTRICT ENGINEER’S REPORT-ALLEN DAVEY

President Higel asked for the District Engineer’s Report. Allen Davey gave a power point update regarding groundwater levels of the confined and unconfined aquifers. There have been improvements every year since 2013. A map was shown regarding changes.

President Higel thanked Mr. Davey for his report.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S REPORT—DAVID ROBBINS
President Higel asked for the District’s Attorney’s report. David Robbins reported he is continuing to prepare for the 2J Ranches case, trial is set for this fall. The Rules and Regulations case is set for January 2018, there still are some objectors. The State is working very hard to stipulate with objectors. Mr. Robbins is working with Mr. Simpson on West Medano property on water rights, no formal proposition to bring before the Board. S&T Farm is filing litigation against Subdistrict #1. Mr. Robbins will send the Board an e-mail when they figure out what the lawsuit is about. Mr. Robbins drafted a letter to Senator Bennett regarding the Farm Bill but the letter has not been sent.

President Higel thanked Mr. Robbins for his report.

KOGOVSEK AND ASSOCIATES—CHRISTINE ARBOGAST
President Higel asked for Kogovsek and Associates report. Christine Arbogast stated there is very little movement in legislature or issues. Senate has been tied up doing nominations for the cabinet. The Farm Bill is due in 2018 for reauthorization, hearings are being held, piecemill bills are being added to the Farm Bill. The District needs to formulate comments on what they would like to see in the Farm Bill on programs that affect the District, CREP being one of them. There is not a lot of expectation that conservation programs will be expanded. Administration has proposed a 21% cut to USDA’s budget. The government is functioning under a continuing resolution which is FY16 budget numbers that runs out on April 28, 2017. Hearings are being held on the Endangered Species Act. Waters of the United States issue remains on the table. Cleave Simpson stated he, Cory Off and two people from the Rio Grande Soil Conservation District were able to meet with Lee Swenson from Senator Bennett’s office last week. Mr. Simpson is seeking guidance on how valuable it is for representation from the District to go to Washington on the Farm Bill. Ms. Arbogast believes it is valuable for District members to go to Washington sooner rather than later. Senator Bennett is this delegations only member who sits on the Ag Committee. It is important to meet with committee staff to voice concerns for the Farm Bill.

President Higel thanked Ms. Arbogast for her report.

STEALEY II — BECKY BROOKS
President Higel asked for Stealey II’s report. Becky Brooks reported her group only convenes 120 days a year and are required to adjourn by midnight on May 10, 2017, unless the Governor calls a special session. One-third of the group is new to their positions, new to the House or moved from the House to the Senate. In the interim need to follow Water Resources Review Committee but also give opportunity to give some education with new legislators. State of Affairs Committee meets every Monday to consider water bills, try to take positions in regards to the Rio Grande and the Valley. Need to take good look at House Bill 1291 because it came out of the House Ag Committee with a unanimous vote. St. Jude’s Bill is out of the House and into the Senate. House Bill 1321 to increase hunting, fishing and park fees has great support. SB36 de novo hearing for groundwater commission passed and there will be a signing ceremony in the Governor’s office. SB 40, Colorado Open Records Act, the Senate added an amendment that speaks to national security issues. The budget passed House and Senate and is sitting out in limbo right now. There is a transportation bill and rural sustainability bill tied to the budget. The construction bill for San Luis Valley projects was left alone.

President Higel thanked Ms. Brooks for her report.

U.S.F. & W.S. REPORT
President Higel asked for U.S.F. & W.S.’s report. Pete Striffler, Hydrologist reported that Meg Estep retired and has been replaced with Brian Caruso. Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife met with Cleave Simpson and will cooperate with the Subdistricts on injuries. They are monitoring water use and stream flow measurements on diversions. They are in discussions on an automatic head gate on Chicago Ditch to get better control of flows. USF has been in discussions with Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District about selling water rights since 2010. Baca Grande has been putting in fish passage structures, they have two now and plans for a couple more.

President Higel thanked Mr. Striffler for his report.
The meeting recessed at 12:30 for lunch and resumed at 1:42 p.m.

**U.S.B.L.M. REPORT**
President Higel asked for U.S.B.L.M.'s report. Jill Lucero is acting for Melissa Garcia. Ms. Garcia is the new Acting Field Manager. BLM is using e-planning online; they are not receiving local input, but receiving national input and that is a concern. They conducted a trial with Fish and Wildlife, moved 98 acre feet to Blanca, it is a one year trial. They are doing an exchange with Parks and Wildlife where BLM gives them bird and amphibian survey work in exchange for 250 acre feet of water. They are doing the third and final well drilling on the Simpson property. The RGNA doing small projects, willow planting and farrow horses. The Blanca wetlands were decreed in December.

President Higel thanked Ms. Lucero for her report.

**U.S. FOREST SERVICE REPORT**
President Higel asked for the U.S. Forest Service report. Judi Perez reported the Forest Plan revision has been extended for one month, from June to July. They have incorporated objectives into the Plan that will direct them to continue moving quantification points to the new boundary of the forest and out of the Baca tract. There is a proposal for wild and scenic designation on Deadman Creek.

President Higel thanked Ms. Perez for her report.

**GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE REPORT**
President Higel asked for the Great Sand Dunes National Park report. Fred Bunch reported Scott Stonom is the Acting Superintendent since January. Visitation to the park is up this year, already above last year at this time, the creek is flowing and the beach is open. They are working on expansion with Medano Ranch. On the Ungulate Management Plan, plan on having a small herd of bison on the ground, and a landscape vision in the plan. The restoration of Rio Grande Cutthroat in the Sand Creek area, working with Trout Unlimited and plan to stock native fish. They are in the 2nd year of traditional use study and have invited different tribes to share information. The snow pack is up and the creek should flow well. The diversion on the Medano Creek will kick in from May 15 to July 15 when they go and catch as many cutthroat as they can and put them back in the main channel.

President Higel thanked Mr. Bunch for his report.

**U.S.G.S. REPORT**
President Higel asked for the U.S.G.S. report. Bill Banks reported they have been working with Allen Davey to install stream gauges on Saguache; gauges are free and will be operated for 2 years. They entered 103 wells into the USGS database. The mass measurement was completed in January. The climate well has a real time recorder with data recorded every 15 minutes. Cleave Simpson stated it is one of the District’s monitoring wells, RG 42.

President Higel thanked Mr. Banks for his report.

**SAN LUIS VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT REPORT**
President Higel asked for the SLV Water Conservancy District Report. Heather Dutton reported they are continuing the augmentation water for wells in the Valley. Working on new projects, the Weaver change case, still working with opposer's in that case and finalizing Anaconda this week. They received a grant from the SLVCCI program to replace the Weminuche Creek Bridge that is where the Transmountain Ditch lies. Ms. Dutton reported for Nathan Coombs that the Round Table still has some funding, especially basin funds. The Round Table gave grants to the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project for design work and Trinchera Irrigation Company for design work to rehabilitate Mountain Home Reservoir. These projects will go before the CWCB at their May Board meeting in Pagosa Springs.

President Higel thanked Ms. Dutton for her report.

**RIO GRANDE HEADWATERS RESTORATION PROJECT**
President Higel asked for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project report. Emma Reesor thanked the Board for their support of the Rio Grande Water Leaders Course. Ms. Reesor reported they are working on several diversion projects, finalizing the designs. The Round Table gave funding for design of three different diversion projects. The Upper Rio Grande watershed assessment of the headwaters will be doing field work this summer and will have the assessment done by end of year. Annual fund raiser is set for June 17, 2017, in Creede, all are invited.

President Higel thanked Ms. Reesor for her report.

COLORADO STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE REPORT
President Higel asked for the Colorado State Parks and Wildlife report. Tony Aloia introduced Ryan Unterreiner, the new Southwest Region Water Specialist. Beaver Reservoir gate commission exercise was completed and the reservoir is full to post compact level. Problems were found on operating restrictions, no storage restrictions preparing for higher flow, they want a buffer ready for runoff. They are working with Conejos system well water augmentation for BLM ponds. The San Luis Lakes is now a State wildlife area and no longer a State park, there is no running water, still working on flushable water, and there is electricity. They are searching for a camp host for the summer. The campground is open year around now; from May 15 to July 15 camping will be by reservation only. The boat ramp will be open but it is a “boat at your own risk” situation. David Robbins stated the Board has a resolution for up to $10,000.00 to maintain a park. The Board will need to discuss how it wishes to proceed now that it is no longer a park but a wildlife area.

President Higel thanked Mr. Aloia for his report.

WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE
President Higel asked for Willow Creek Reclamation Committee’s report. Gwen Nelson sent a written report to the Board.

U.S.B.R. REPORT
President Higel asked for U.S.B.R. Report. Cleave Simpson stated the Bureau sent a report which is in the Board packet.

RIO GRANDE WATERSHED EMERGENCY ACTION COORDINATION TEAM (RWEACT)-ZEKE WARD
President Higel asked for the RWEACT report. Zeke Ward reported receiving partial funding from SLVCCI for a stream restoration workshop in late August. It is already fully subscribed. Have provision for forty participants, they are using Wetland Dynamics on the day-to-day preparations for the workshop. They will be giving preference to locals for the three day workshop. Hydrology pulling rain and stream gauges out of tributaries, the forest is recovering very well. The Governor’s executive order terminates in July of 2018 and they have identified stewardship practices as a top priority for the remainder of the money. RWEACT is very involved in the permanent RADAR and will be participating in this partnership.

President Higel thanked Mr. Ward for his report.

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
President Higel asked for Colorado Water Conservation Board’s report. Cleave Simpson gave a report for Travis Smith. Mr. Smith had three items to notify the Board; the projects bill which impacts the WSRF accounts for the basin round tables has cleared the House Ag Committee and is currently sitting in the Senate Ag Committee. They are actively pursuing a new Executive Director as James Eckland has moved on to other duties. There is no word on appointment for his position and Mr. Smith is still acting as Director for the Rio Grande Basin.

RIO GRANDE INITIATIVE/R.i.G.H.T.-RIO DE LA VISTA
President Higel asked for the Rio Grande Initiative report. Rio de la Vista reported working on implementation of projects already funded, and continuing to seek funding for future projects. They are looking good for the million dollar NAWSA grant, should be in last stage of approval. They are working towards the OCOO protect initiative and getting some NRCS funding in hopes that these projects will contribute to the habitat conservation plan.

President Higel thanked Ms. De la Vista for her report.
EDUCATION REPORT – BETHANY HOWELL
President Higel asked for the Education Report. Bethany Howell reported a field trip with 80 6th
graders from Monte Vista to the Rio Grande wildlife area. They are taking 6th graders from San
Luis to the Culebra Creek with Trout Unlimited. During spring break worked with the Alpine
Achievers Initiative on a joint water camp. Using the river trailer at some of the schools to teach
children about the watershed and will use it this summer for community events. They have five
teams representing the San Luis Valley headed up to State competition in Denver. Ms. Howell is
planning the Beaver Creek Conservation Camp which happens June 20, 2017 to June 22, 2017.
They have space for 60 children at a cost of $120.00 per child. Ms. Howell has hired 10
counselors from different parts of the Valley.

President Higel thanked Ms. Howell for her report.

CONSERVATION PROJECT MANAGER FOR COLORADO OPEN LANDS – JUDY
LOPEZ
President Higel asked for the Conservation Project Manager for Colorado Open Lands report.
Judy Lopez thanked the Board for allowing Amber Pacheco to speak at the Sangre de Cristo
Acequia Association Board retreat. Ms. Lopez reported working with CU law school students on
acequia bylaws for the fourth year. The Acequia Association will be expanding their
membership in different counties. Ms. Lopez is also working with landowners in the Culebra
Watershed to secure conservation easements. Ms. Lopez will be working on the Congresso in
October.

President Higel thanked Ms. Lopez for her report.

OTHER REPORTS AND COMMENTS
President Higel asked if there were any other reports or comments. There were no other reports.

ACTION ITEMS
President Higel asked for appointment of ex-officio members to Subdistricts #1, 2 and 3. Cleave
Simpson stated the need for reappointment of ex-officio members to Subdistricts #1, 2 and 3. A
motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to reappoint Brian David for Subdistrict #1, Greg Higel for
Subdistrict #2 and Lawrence Gallegos for Subdistrict #3 ex-officio Board members. The motion
was seconded by Dwight Martin and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN
Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on July 18, 2017,
at 10:00 a.m.

[Signature]
President

[Signature]
Secretary/Treasurer
Cleave Simpson (chronological order since last quarterly meeting)

Begin organizing the agenda and schedule for annual water leaders’ course – with Heather, Emma, Andrea and Bethany.

Meet with city of Alamosa attorney and city manager to discuss contracting with subdistricts.

Interview candidates for well monitoring program.

Meet with Division engineer to discuss multiple pending and active water issues.

Attend the Colorado Water Congress annual winter convention – workshops and presentations. Attend meeting arranged by our lobbyist with both Senator Bennet and Senator Gardner staff to review district issues and concerns; CREP challenges, pending farm bill discussions, USFS management plan.

Attend and present at the Colorado Aquaculture annual convention in Buena Vista.

Participate in SD#2 BOM meetings to draft and finalize their Plan of Water Management.

Help a number of producers in SD#6 with education and preparation for subdistrict participation.

Attend and present at the CSU Ag and Forage day in Monte Vista.

Attend Conejos Water Conservancy District monthly meeting(s).

Present at the Commonwealth annual stockholders meeting.

Attend Basin Roundtable meetings in February, March and April.

Present to the Conejos County, Mineral County and Rio Grande County Commissioners in February.

Conference calls concerning Malouff change case and San Luis Organics change case.

Conduct District/Subdistrict Aquifer condition/recovery workshop.

Hired and on-board new well program technician, Chet Tokarsky.

Attend a well rehabilitation presentation at the Rodeway Inn in Alamosa – sponsored by BOR.

Attend Colorado Ag Water Alliance workshop in Alamosa.

Meet with SD#1 objectors about amending the Plan of Water Management and their fees.

Meet with US Forest Service about their management plan, wild and scenic designation and water rights.

Coordinate with representatives from several municipalities and legal counsel – discussing contracting with subdistricts.

Meet with Marianna King about potential for funding monitoring well – associated with “prime” water.

Discuss subdistrict contracting with Town of LaJara manager and legal counsel.

Review subdistrict options with a number of water users on Saguache Creek.

Present to the Saguache County Commissioners.

Interview potential candidates for Equipment Operator / Maintenance position working on the Closed Basin Project – replace Oscar Molina who went to work for the Bureau on the Project.

Facilitate the Closed Basin Allocation Committee meeting.
Present at the Rio Grande Water Users annual meeting.

Tour part of the West Medano ranch with Tim Walters.

Meet with Doris Morgan, acting director for Action 22.

Meet with Lee Swensen, senior advisor for Senator Bennet’s staff to discuss farm bill considerations.

Meet with a number of the water users on the Lasauses Ditch to discuss forbearance agreements.

Visit with a couple of land owner / water right holders about options for lease or purchase of water rights.

Work with group coordinating a plan for permanent radar installation for the SLV.

Present to the SLV Well irrigation Owners at their annual meeting.

Attend the April meeting for the Closed Basin Operating Committee.

Attend SD#1 BOM meeting – working on amended plan of water management.

Attend several Tool Box Talks and weekly work schedule meetings with District CBP maintenance employees and the BOR.

Coordinate, attend and present at the Water Leaders course.

Presented at the Law of the Rio Grande conference in Santa Fe – also attended the Rio Grande Compact meeting before the conference.

Monthly meet with Davis Engineering to discuss process and expectations concerning both routine and non-routine work requests.

**Things to do, in no particular order:**

Review possible projects for improving model confidence in Saguache Creek response area.

Have proposal for small scale model of the area between Del Norte and South Fork. Need to work on a funding proposal for Roundtable consideration.

Discuss District possible role in new weather radar station proposal, pending.

Convene the previously organized employee/compensation committee to review District wage and salary compensation process, as well as future staffing considerations.

I will be attending the IBCC meeting this week in Keystone.

Meet with CWCB finance chief – discuss finance options available from CWCB.
Subdistrict No. 1 Program Managers Report

2016 Annual Report, Division Engineer Approval

- Subdistrict No. 1 did not receive any comments/complaints from the State Engineer’s Office (SEO) nor the public regarding the 2016 Annual Report submitted on March 1st to the SEO and Water Court. The Division 3 Division Engineer accepted the calculated depletions the Subdistrict staff had compiled in the report. The operation of replacement water for the remainder of the 2016 Plan Year (April 30th) will follow the calculated stream depletions accepted by the Division Engineer.

- Thanks to Davis Engineering and Subdistrict staff for the work on the 2016 AR

2017 Annual Replacement Plan (ARP) Completion

- The Subdistrict met the April 5th deadline for the 2017 ARP completion and submitted a draft copy to the public 7 days prior to Board of Manager approval. (If approved, the staff will submit the final ARP with April forecasts to the State Engineer’s Office on April 14th.)

- Subdistrict #1Projections for the 2017 Plan Year based on the Division 3 Engineer’s Office forecast for the Rio Grande near Del Norte gage and previous year’s pumping with current cropping practices:
  - Groundwater pumping: 238,000.0 acre feet
  - Recharge that offsets groundwater pumping for the 4 main canals with recharge decrees: 223,658 acre feet
  - Net groundwater consumptive use: -26,119 acre feet
  - Total annual projected stream depletions for the 2017 Plan Year to the Rio Grande for Subdistrict #1: 294.0 acre feet
  - Total Post-Plan depletions for the years 2018-2037: -201 acre feet

- Thanks again to Davis Engineering and Subdistrict staff for the work on the 2017 ARP

Replacement Water Operations for the Remainder of the 2016 Plan Year and the 2017 Plan Year

- Trans-mountain reservoir supplies are currently being released from Rio Grande Reservoir to the Rio Grande for injurious depletions in Stream Reach 1 and 2 and will continue for the month of April, 2017.

- Closed Basin Project allocations for SD#1 replaced injurious depletions for all three stream reaches November 2016 through March 2017. There are no SD #1 depletion obligations for Stream Reach #3 to the Rio Grande for the month of April. The balance of SD #1 CBP allocation for the 2016 Plan Year as of the end of March 2017 was 1,905 acre feet.
• SD #1 acquired forbearance agreements with 7 large canals within Stream Reaches 1 and 2 for the 2017 Plan Year that can remedy injurious stream depletions incurred to the Rio Grande by Subdistrict #1 wells if need be. Those canals include: Centennial Ditch, Empire Canal, Excelsior Ditch, Farmers Union Canal, Monte Vista Canal, Rio Grande Lariat Ditch, and San Luis Valley Canal.

• The SD #1 Board of Managers have decided to conduct wet water releases to the Rio Grande to replace injurious depletions in Stream Reach 1 and 2 during the 2017 Plan Year on the Rio Grande. This action will reduce current replacement water storage costs for the Subdistrict. SD #1 Closed Basin Project allocations will replace injurious depletions in Stream Reach 3 during the summer months and for all three reaches during the winter months of the 2017 Plan Year.

SD #1 Land & Water Rights

• The District is currently diverting / recharging surface water from Rio Grande Canal on the north properties in the Subdistrict and has been doing so since the first of April. Ditches were pulled by the SLVID staff on the north property this spring increasing surface water diversion efficiency for recharge. The surface water diversions on the south District properties have not been turned on yet on account of current flushing operations of the Rio Grande Canal. The District has been very active towards working with neighbors for weed and pest control on the properties that past two years.

Rio Grande CREP

• Currently, SD #1 has 6,335 acres enrolled in CREP with 2,763 acres in permanent ground water retirement and 3,572 acres in a temporary, 15 year groundwater retirement term. There are 115 ground water wells associated with these Contracts with as much as 12,670 acre feet of water consumption in the past.

• CREP interest for 2017 is better than in the recent past with the current signup incentives offered by the Subdistrict. There have been four contacts approved since January 1, 2017 and a few people looking into the program for possible signup this fall.

• SD #1 RCPP: the program will be available October 1st, 2017. Subdistrict staff will work with the local NRCS field offices regarding the administration of the program. The first step for the Subdistrict staff will be to get information about the program out to the participants this summer.

SD #1 Board of Managers Current Business

• The Board of Managers as well as the staff are planning on completing the two SD #1 amended PWM proposals, the Plan efficiency amendment and the Plan fee structure amendment, in 2017. Counsel has completed drafts for both amendments for the Board’s review later this Spring.
Program Manager Report-Amber Pacheco

SD #2- The Board of Managers met on April 4th to review the current draft of the Plan of Water Management. Only a few minor edits were made during the meeting. The Board feels like they are nearly done with the Plan revisions but wanted to hold one more meeting to go through it more thoroughly before setting a public meeting for presentation as a final version. It is possible the Plan could be ready for the District Board to review at their July meeting but nothing is set in stone.

SD #3 (Conejos) – The Board of Managers were selected by the District Board on April 14th at their Special Meeting. Individuals were selected from three geographic areas defined in the Petition to Establish the Subdistrict. The first step for the Board of Managers will be to draft by-laws defining the responsibility of the Board of Managers and their relationship to the Board of Directors and then they will begin preparing the final Plan of Water Management.

SD #4 (San Luis Creek) - An article was ran to notify landowners that the petition drive has ended and we are presenting the gathered petitions to the District Board for approval on April 14th. The Board approved the filing of the petitions with the District Court in Saguache. The Court will set a hearing date within 60 to 90 days of the filing. Once formed, our office will send letters out to all Subdistrict Members asking for interest to serve on the Board of Managers. This Subdistrict has 5 Members and one ex officio. The only requirement to serve is that the individual is a landowner in the Subdistrict or is a representative of a landowner in the Subdistrict. Letters of interest will be due back to the District within 30 days from the date the Subdistrict is judicially approved. The Board of Directors will select five individuals to serve on the Board of Managers from the letters of interest. The Petition to Establish the Subdistrict does allow the Subdistrict to operate with as few as three Board of Managers if there is not five qualified individuals willing to serve. This was allowed because many of the landowners in the Subdistrict are absentee and may not be able to serve on a local Board which could limit the number of interested Subdistrict Members.

SD #5 (Saguache) - An article was ran in the paper to notify landowners that the District wanted to close the petition drive on April 14th. Cleave has also attended a couple of meetings with well owners in the response area that had some outstanding questions. Many of the outstanding wells are being petitioned in so I am hopeful to have SD #5 petitions gathered and verified by the end of May or June so they can be presented to the Board for approval in July.

SD #6 (Alamosa/La Jara) – District staff is continuing to make calls to well owners to inform them of the process and help them with petitions if they wish to include their land in the Subdistrict. We are pushing hard to get most everyone in.