

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #5
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
December 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa CO 81101
And by Zoom/Teleconference**

Present: David Schmittel, President; Dale Gerstberger, Manager; and Kit Caldon, Manager.

Absent : George Whitten, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Corey Hill, Manager; and Doug Gunnels, Ex Officio Member.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Crystal Benavidez, HCP Coordinator/Program Assistant; and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: William Myers, David Hofmann, Andrea Gerstberger, Tim Lovato.

Meeting Called to Order

President Schmittel called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

President Schmittel asked for changes, additions or a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Kit Caldon to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dale Gerstberger and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Schmittel asked for public comment. Tim Lovato asked to comment at the end of the meeting. David Hofmann reminded staff to complete the documentation to transfer 35 acre feet of storage water from Justin Trouard to William Myers to Subdistrict No. 5. Chris Ivers reported working with Mr. Trouard on a required affidavit.

Allocation of Groundwater Withdrawals for 2025

President Schmittel asked for Allocation of Groundwater Withdrawals for 2025. Chris Ivers presented the 2024 groundwater withdrawals, the allocation percent, and the 2024 streamflow's. He went over the consumptive use on Saguache Creek and presented the National Weather Service's long-range temperature and precipitation forecasts. Mr. Ivers reported on the low stream flow prediction and a warm and dry trend. He presented the Davis Engineering aquifer report from September. Mr. Ivers went over the measurements from preliminary data on the confined aquifer wells being monitored by the District. He presented the individual hydrographs, the change in the composite water head and highlighted the five (5) year average groundwater withdrawals. Mr. Ivers reported Subdistrict No. 5 was well within the sustainability metric. Discussion was held on the positive impact the allocation has had, the amount of rainfall last summer, and fees being charged for water pumped all being factors of the decline in groundwater withdrawals. Kit Caldon and Dale Gerstberger reported the Subdistrict saw a positive impact with the 90% allocation and recommended to keep it the same. Mr. Ivers reported on a conversation with George Whitten who recommended it be kept at 90% as well.

A motion was made by Kit Caldon to set the 2025 Groundwater Withdrawal Allocation at 90%. The motion was seconded by Dale Gerstberger and unanimously approved.

President Schmittel reported executive session was not needed.

Tim Lovato commented on water being turned down on the Werner Arroya and asked if the water flow was being monitored. David Hofmann stated he would check with the Water Commissioners. Chris Ivers reported the response function used for the 2024 Annual Replacement Plan reflected an average year.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

David Schmittel
President

Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer