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

Excused: Cory Off, Director and, Bill McClure, Director

Staff and Consultants: David Robbins, District Attorney; Cleave Simpson, General Manager; Cheryl Anderson, Office Manager; Clinton Phillips, District Engineer; Allen Davey, District Engineer; Chris Ivers, HCP Coordinator; Amber Pacheco, Program Manager, Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Marisa Fricke, Program Manager; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.


CALL TO ORDER
President Greg Higel called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was a quorum present for the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF & GUESTS
President Higel welcomed all those present and asked for introductions.

APPROVE AGENDA
President Higel asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. A motion was made by Armando Valdez to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Brian David and unanimously approved.

APPROVE MINUTES
President Higel asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items:

- July 17, 2018-Quarterly meeting minutes
- August 16, 2018-Special Hearing minutes
- August 16, 2018-Special Meeting minutes
- September 18, 2018-Special Hearing, SD #2 POWM
- September 18, 2018-Special Hearing, SD #3 POWM

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to approve the consent agenda items. The motion was seconded by Dwight Martin and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT
President Higel asked for Public Comment. Rio de la Vista stated Governor Hickenlooper would be at the “Barn” in Alamosa on October 17, 2018 if anyone would like to meet with him.

FINANCIAL REPORT
President Higel asked for the Financial report. Cleave Simpson presented the September financials and requested holding a work session at a later date to go into the budget details further. A motion was made by Lewis Entz to approve the September Financials. The motion was seconded by Armando Valdez and unanimously approved.
MANAGER’S REPORT

President Higel asked for the Manager’s report. Cleave Simpson updated the Board on his activities since the last meeting (copy of report attached). Mr. Simpson stated he presented at six different conferences. Mr. Simpson also reported on and presented the following:

- The Rio Grande Water Conservation District 50-year commemorative video
- Informed the Board he presented at six different conferences
- Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Agreement - The Board was asked to consider holding a work session to discuss in detail.
- The permanent doppler radar acquisition - Alamosa County agreed to full ownership
- Update on Colorado Water Plan Funding - Mr. Simpson and Keith Holland are the representatives from the Rio Grande Round Table who will attend the IBCC.
- CWCB approved the grant application for funding on the monitoring well pressure transducers - goal would be to make the unconfined aquifer conditions in the study area available in real time.
- Proposed 2019 draft Budget was completed. Mr. Simpson asked the Board to consider holding a work session to go into the details of the 2019 Budget. The work session was tentatively scheduled for November 9, 2018. The Budget Hearing was tentatively set for December 6, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
- Representative Donald Valdez requested information on firefighting hydrant wells and asked if the District would like to present the 50-year commemorative video to the House joint Ag Committee.

President Higel thanked Mr. Simpson for his report.

PROGRAM MANAGER’S REPORT

President Higel asked for Program Manager’s report. Marisa Fricke provided the Board with an update on Subdistrict No. 1 (copy of the report attached). Ms. Fricke reported assisting Chris Ivers with irrigated ag and worked on identifying multiple crops out in the field. Marisa stated 88% of Farm Plans were returned to Subdistrict No. 1. Ms. Fricke stated the Board of Managers decided to sell all personal property located on the Medano property. She reported they participated in a tour given by Rockey Farms who demonstrated different conservation practices.

- Received three inquiries on permanent CREP, the Subdistrict was not able to enroll due to the farm bill being on hold.

President Higel thanked Ms. Fricke for her report.

Amber Pacheco reported on the following (copy of reports attached):

- Subdistrict No. 2 Board of Managers held a public hearing in September and adopted the Plan of Water Management which has not had any objections. Farm Plan requests were sent out in preparation of having fees. The Subdistrict created a budget anticipating filing of the first Annual Replacement Plan in 2019.
- Subdistrict No. 3 Board of Managers held a public hearing in September as well and had its Plan of Water Management adopted, with no current objections either. The Subdistrict created a budget in anticipation of funding its first Annual Replacement Plan and to work toward sustainability, which is its current level. They will work to develop a pool of money for future water purchases and aquifer recovery. Ms. Pacheco participated in a tour of a potential new reservoir site near Ortiz which the community would benefit from. The Subdistrict and District received a letter from Kelly Sowards which he is requesting a response.
- Subdistrict No. 4 is working on its Plan of Water Management. They requested a call analysis from Davis Engineering in order to prepare to start looking at replacements, which will be challenging due to not having a reservoir for storage. The hope is to have a plan to the Board next spring for consideration and to the state engineer the beginning of the year for potential fee assessment in 2019 to be collected in 2020.
• Subdistrict No. 5 had also been working on its Plan of Water Management. Surface Water Credit was a new concept for the Subdistrict which they were considering for the Rio Grande Canal Shares.

• Subdistrict No. 6 court hearing was held on August 28, 2018 and the order was received on October 4, 2018 establishing Subdistrict No. 6. The Board of Managers will consist of ten members, nine of them would be nominated by water right entities and one of them being an at large. Ms. Pacheco reported receiving four letters of interest to serve on the Board of Managers for the at large seat. Two of the interested parties did not qualify and the other two are up for consideration by the District Board.

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to approve the Subdistrict No. 6 slate provided including Peter Clark as the at large member. The motion was seconded by Dwight Martin and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Lewis Entz to appoint Dwight Martin as the Ex Officio Member from the District Board to Subdistrict No. 6. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

DISTRICT ENGINEER’S REPORT
President Higel asked for the District’s Engineer report. Allen Davey and Clinton Phillips presented a power point update on the groundwater levels of the confined and unconfined aquifer storages. Mr. Davey reported the change for October 2018 was positive 5,756 ac. ft., and -193,347 ac. ft. between October 2017 and 2018. Mr. Davey stated the current aquifer level was -1,198,517 ac. ft.

President Higel thanked Allen Davey and Clinton Phillips for the report.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S REPORT-DAVID ROBBINS
President Higel asked for the District Attorney’s report. David Robbins reported on two cases, one was a change of use case on an irrigation well to a broad set of new uses. The other case was an unusual application by the City of Alamosa asking for changed use on two confined aquifer wells. Mr. Robbins suggested monitoring both cases and filing statements of opposition. Mr. Robbins stated a new water export scheme may be in the works to construct a pipeline out of the valley and pump water to the metropolitan front range. Mr. Robbins provided the Board with an update on the Rules Trial, the Santa Maria case, and the Texas vs. New Mexico case.

President Higel thanked David Robbins for his report.

STEALEY II-BECKY BROOKS
President Higel asked for the Stealey II report. Becky Brooks was present and gave an update on the activities of the Water Resources Interim Committee, the house bills and the activities of the State legislature.

President Higel thanked Ms. Brooks for her report.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:49 p.m. and resumed at 1:50 p.m.

A motion was made by Dwight Martin to have the Rio Grande Water Conservation District be actively involved in the two water cases by filing statements of opposition. The motion was seconded by Brian David and unanimously approved.

KOGOVSEK AND ASSOCIATES-CHRISTINE ARBOGAST
President Higel asked for Kogovsek and Associates report. Christine Arbogast provided an update on the Farm Bill. Ms. Arbogast stated there were a couple of issues, one was the consideration of eliminating the CSP Program and the other was the SNAP Programs. Ms. Arbogast reported on discussions among democrats and republicans on bringing back congressionally directed spending known as earmarks.

President Higel thanked Ms. Arbogast for her report.
UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REPORT
President Higel asked for U.S.B.R. report. Morgan Garcia was present and reported on the operations, deliveries, maintenance, managers work and water laboratory activities of the Bureau (copy of report attached).

President Higel thanked Ms. Garcia for her report.

DIVISION (3) ENGINEER’S REPORT
President Higel asked for the Division Engineer’s report. Craig Cotton presented a power point which showed this year’s snow pack as well as provided an update on the river and stream conditions. Mr. Cotton provided predictions for the 2018 stream flows, obligations to the downstream states and delivery obligations.

President Higel thanked Mr. Cotton for his report.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REPORT
President Higel asked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report. Chris Schafer formally introduced himself as the new hydrologist and stated he would be working on the augmentation plans which Pete Striffler had previously been working on.

President Higel welcomed Mr. Schaefer.

U.S.B.L.M. REPORT
President Higel asked for the U.S.B.L.M. report. Sue Swift Miller reported on the status of their many partnerships as well as the habitat conditions of the Yellow Billed Coocoo and Southwest Willow Fly Catcher. Ms. Miller reported on the status of the Natural Area as well as the Rio Grande Sucker and Rio Grande Chub Conservation agreement.

President Higel thanked Ms. Miller for her report.

RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST REPORT
President Higel asked for the Rio Grande National Forest report. Patrick Moran reported he is the forest Geologist for the Rio Grande Natural Forest and will be the Program Manager for the Earth Sciences programs. Mr. Moran reported on the current activities and planning of the Rio Grande Natural Forest.

President Higel thanked Mr. Moran for his report.

GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE REPORT
President Higel asked for the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve report. Fred Bunch was present to report on the conditions of the Dunes. Mr. Bunch announced Pam Rice was the new Superintendent. Mr. Bunch stated visitation was down 9 ½ percent from last year mostly due to the roads being closed during the fires that were in the area.

President Higel thanked Mr. Bunch for his report.

U.S.G.S. REPORT
President Higel asked for the U.S.G.S. report. Robert Kimbrough was present and reported on behalf of Crystal Brown. Mr. Kimbrough stated the U.S.G.S and the District have had a long-standing cooperative agreement for hydrologic monitoring, including ground water level monitoring component and water quality monitoring component on the Rio Grande. Mr. Kimbrough provided an overview of the scope of work for 2019 and presented his 2019 funding request for U.S.G.S. Cleave Simpson stated an amendment to the agreement will be worked on to remove the $10,000.00 for measuring the 12 Baca wells which will be done in house moving forward.

A motion was made to accept the joint funding agreement with U.S.G.S. The motion was seconded by Armando Valdez and unanimously approved.

President Higel thanked Mr. Kimbrough for his report.
SAN LUIS VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT REPORT AND CWCB REPORT

President Higel asked for the SLV Water Conservancy District and CWCB report. Heather Dutton reported they continue to operate their augmentation program and have met all augmentation deliveries for this year by putting water in the river and closed basin. Ms. Dutton provided an update on the activities and projects within CWCB.

President Higel thanked Ms. Dutton for her report.

SENATOR BENNET’S OFFICE

President Higel asked for Senator Bennet’s Office report. Erin Minks was present and stated she just finished a tour of the Blanca Forest/Blanca Timber Mill. Ms. Minks reported she left the Forest Service and jointed Senator Bennet’s Office in the spring.

President Higel thanked Ms. Minks for her report.

CONEJOS WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

President Higel asked for the Conejos Water Conservancy District report. Nathan Coombs was present and reported the Conservancy District got all of their wilderness Snotel sites installed and are collecting data to help with the modeling effort. Mr. Coombs stated the District had been exploring their options on how to better serve all of its irrigators within the District. They were researching administrative changes, a lease agreement with Trujillo Reservoir, raising the dam, moving the dam and building a storage facility near Ortiz.

Nathan Coombs stated they go all of the wilderness sites installed in order to help with the monitoring site.

COLORADO STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE REPORT

President Higel asked for the Colorado State Parks and Wildlife report. Tony Aloia reported the Trujillo Meadows Reservoir project finished and the water was transferred to Platoro. Mr. Aloia stated Lower Brown’s Lake was drained and the water was exchanged into Beaver which effectively affected the flows and took care of the suckers in the Lower Lake. Mr. Aloia reported a crack in the gate was discovered in the Big Meadows Reservoir while it was being scoped which will need to be repaired.

President Higel thanked Mr. Aloia for his report.

RIO GRANDE HEADWATERS RESTORATION PROJECT

President Higel asked for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project report. Emma Ressor was present and provided the Board with a Funding Request prior to the meeting. Ms. Ressor presented the Board with an update on her activities and projects. Ms. Ressor reported hiring a Stream Management Plan Project Coordinator named Daniel Boyes and Aliyah Weaver who is a full-time volunteer. Ms. Ressor provided updates on the Five Ditches Project, Stream Management Project and the Del Norte River Front Project at the town park.

President Higel thanked Ms. Ressor for her report.

It was decided the Board would discuss and possibly approve the funding requests at the Budget Meeting.

HEADWATERS ALLIANCE-GUINEVERE NELSON

President Higel asked for the Headwaters Alliance report. Guinevere Nelson provided the Board with a Funding Request prior to the meeting. Ms. Nelson presented a power point presentation and highlighted the accomplishments of the Willow Creek Flume Rehab project. Ms. Nelson provided an update on the Upper Rio Grande Water Shed Assessment, voluntary clean up on the flood plain, EPA at the Nelson Tunnel, partnership with the city, North Creede Flood Mitigation Project and the Flume Rehab part 2.

President Higel thanked Ms. Nelson for her report.
RIO GRANDE HEADWATERS LAND TRUST/R.I.G.H.T
President Higel asked for the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust/R.I.G.H.T report. Allen Law provided the Board with a funding request prior to this meeting. Mr. Law reported working on six conservation easements which were close to being closed. Mr. Law stated the conservation easements will protect the land and about 10 cfs of senior water rights. Mr. Law reported looking forward to continuing work on the San Luis Valley Conservation Connection Initiative.

President Higel thanked Mr. Law for his report.

SALAZAR RIO GRANDE DEL NORTE CENTER
President Higel asked for the Salazar Rio Grande Del Norte Center report. Río de la Vista provided the Board with a funding request prior to this meeting. Ms. De la Vista reported on the Natural Area as well as exploring new ways to increase public awareness.

President Higel thanked Ms. De la Vista for her report.

EDUCATION REPORT- BETHANY HOWELL
President Higel asked for the Education report. Bethany Howell provided the Board with a funding request prior to this meeting. Ms. Howell presented a power point which highlighted the class to field activities. Ms. Howell provided an update on Envirothon Workshops & the State Competition. Ms. Howell reported taking the River Trailer to different schools and community events. Ms. Howell updated the Board on the SLV School Pumpkin Patch, Waterfest on the Rio and the Youth Conservation Camp.

President Higel thanked Ms. Howell for her report.

COLORADO DUST ON SNOW-JEFF DERRY
President Higel asked for the Colorado Dust on Snow report. Jeff Derry provided the Board with a funding request prior to this meeting. Mr. Derry presented a power point presentation and reported on the Senator Beck study basin. Mr. Derry reported on the last year snow conditions and the future snow predictions.

President Higel thanked Mr. Higel for his report.

MONTE VISTA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
President Higel asked for the Monte Vista Cemetery Association report. A funding request was provided to the Board prior to this meeting. Michael Schaefer and Kathy Ellithorpe presented the history of the cemetery to the Board and the problems the cemetery contends with.

Peggy Godfrey stated the Rio Grande Water Conservation District has a mission and she feels this did not fall in to the mission.

President Higel thanked Mr. Schaefer and Ms. Ellithorpe for the report.

PRIMARY WATER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
President Higel asked for the Primary Water Demonstration Project. Marianna King provided a funding request to the Board prior to this meeting. Ms. King reported she was a volunteer for Primary Water Institute. Ms. King and Pal Pauer (via telephone) provided the Board with an overview of the project.

President Higel thanked Ms. King and Mr. Pauer for the report.

OTHER
President Higel asked for any other reports. Cleave Simpson stated he would invite Lawrence Gallegos to the District in order to recognize him and his time spent serving on the District Board.
ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

The next scheduled quarterly meeting will be held on January 15, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

President

Secretary Treasurer
Cleave Simpson (chronological order since last quarterly meeting in April)

Meet with SWIIIM representatives (Ben Palen) about SD#1 opportunities, aquifer recovery and recharge.

Meet with municipal representatives around collaboration for groundwater rules compliance.

Denver meeting with new FSA State Executive Director Clarice Navarro – discuss and highlight CREP.

Participate in discussion around supporting the Rio Grande Natural Area management plan – ASU/Salazar Center.

Lunch with Judge Kuenhold to review and provide perceptions around the SD#1 facilitated discussion.

Participate in IBCC Funding Task Group discussions – how to fund the Colorado Water Plan.

Continued meeting and discussions around the SLV Radar Authority.

Attend variety of SD’s meetings.

Attend IBCC meeting in May.

Meet with SD #1 participants around surface water credit opportunities.

Follow up conversations with economist who presented at the SD#1 facilitated discussion. Provide more information.

Work with staff on converting our District database(s) from Access to SQL.


Draft letter outlining aquifer conditions and trends, provide to insurance representatives.

Provide update to Bureau of Reclamation Leadership Team on RGWCD ongoing efforts around groundwater rules and regulations compliance.


Attend and present at the Water Education Colorado tour of the Rio Grande Basin.

Present to a group of teachers touring the Basin as part of the Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom – sponsored by Colorado Foundation for Agriculture.

Meet routinely with Heather Dutton and Nathan Coombs about Basin issues and opportunities.

Work with staff on proposals for new health care provider.

Coordinate with stakeholders on scope of work and deliverables for monitoring well(s) at Diamond Springs.

Meet with RIGHT staff about future objectives and opportunities for them going forward.

Attend Rio Grande Basin Roundtable meetings in July, August and September.

Meet with representatives from Western Rivers Conservancy about opportunities to improve river and aquifer health.

Facilitate the ALL SUBDISTRICT BOARDS meeting in July – good outcome.

Meet with Mosa/Hopper Soil Conservation District team to consider their efforts to identify recharge opportunities in Alamosa County.
Visit with Marianna King about funding requests for “Primary Water”.
Participate in a tour of the Upper Arkansas River – sponsored by their Roundtable.
Work with staff to outline 2019 budget expectations and appropriate templates.
Participate in radio information discussion at KSPK, couple of times.
Work with auditors (Wall Smith Bateman) on audit review and presentation.
Meet with SD#4 constituent around possible change case submittal.
Meet with Trinchera Water Conservancy subdistrict representatives about Intergovernmental Agreement.
Facilitate Hearing for SD#1 3rd amended plan of water management.
Attend the Colorado Water Congress summer convention and present on drought conditions and responses in our Basin.
Meet with representatives from other Southern Colorado roundtables to consider a joint meeting.
Work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials on meeting and discussion with Division of Water Resources efforts to provide guidance to commissioners around wetland irrigation.
Provide testimony at District Court for the formation of Subdistrict #6.
Meet with BLM officials to discuss compliance with groundwater rules and regulations.
Meet with CPW officials to discuss compliance with groundwater rules and regulations.
Meet with Alamosa County Assessor to discuss impacts to revenue stream from Gallagher amendment.
Meet with representatives from The Nature Conservancy to discuss aquifer health and opportunities.
Radio interview to promote the “Story of Two Rivers” presentation at Adams State.
Work with Basin Roundtable and consultant on Statewide Water Supply Initiative and the Ag Demand Management perspective.
Interview with Jerd Smith for article in Freshwater News.
Attend the celebration of the creation and dedication of the SLV Conservation Area with USF&W.
Present at ASU with Regan Waskom from CSU – “Tale of Two Rivers” the Rio Grande and the South Platte.
Facilitate the hearings for SD#2 and SD#3 adoption of their individual plans of water management.
Have breakfast with the new National Park Service Great Sand Dunes Superintendent – Pam Rice.
Meet with RG senior water right holder to discuss possible leasing options.
Attend and present to RiGHT Board of Directors – challenges to creating healthy aquifer systems.
Provide basin history and overview along with reservoir discussion to Civil Air Patrol group.
Interview with Ryan Golten from the Consensus Building Institute around our efforts here in the basin, subdistricts.
Meet with Division Engineer to discuss metering rules.
Attend the Board meeting for the Southwestern Water Conservation District in Durango and provide overview of our water challenges and subdistrict efforts.

Conversation with representative from the Aspen Institute again around our water security issues.

Work with Alamosa Middle School on a grant opportunity they have to promote student STEM involvement, creating awareness of the science and issues surrounding Colorado's water supplies.

Attend Closed Basin Project operating committee meeting. Discuss the current projected over delivery by the State of compact and how best to operate the Project pending that over delivery.
October 2018
Subdistrict No. 1 Program Managers Report

Replacement Water Operations 2018

Total Subdistrict No. 1 projected stream reach depletions for September 2018 was 132 acre feet for stream reaches one and two and they were paid entirely by Williams Creek Squaw Pass transmountain water releases from Santa Maria Continental. Total releases to the river from this pool to cover those depletions including transit loss: 132.275 acre feet.

Subdistrict No. 1 projected depletions for the month of October in the amount of 152 acre feet being paid by releases from this reservoir account as well.

Field Work

Marisa and Linda spent time driving around Subdistrict No. 1 with Chris Ivers (Program Assistant) to help assist with the 2018 Irrigated Ag census report. It was a great learning experience identifying the different crops grown, and becoming familiar with the vast area that encompasses Sub 1. We look forward to helping again next year!

All new CREP and Fallow parcels were visited and appear to be compliant with contract terms.

There has been some interest in the house located on the Medano property. Staff has started the process of looking into subdividing the house from the 8,000 acres, for the possibility of selling it.

Thank you Sheldon Rockey for inviting RGWCD staff to join the tour that took place on July 25th. It was very informative to learn the history of Rockey Farms and the many conservation practices that are implemented.

Conservation Program Update

CREP: Three inquiries for Permanent CREP are pending due to the Farm Bill. It would be a total of 480 acres. I am still encouraging the producers to consult with FSA, but also letting them know that we are unable to proceed further at this time.

October 17: A work session for new conservation programs will take place at 9am. A survey was sent out to get feedback from all constituents on their thoughts for possible programs, and we have received over 37 responses so far. Ideas that have been brought up in the past, as well as new ideas will be reviewed for possible roll out for 2019.

PREVENT PLANT: DeLL’s Insurance informed us that 13,080.60 acres were enrolled in PP within Subdistrict No.1.

Current Business

Marisa received a scholarship to attend the SDA conference in Keystone, CO October 12-14th. The conference was very helpful as it covered topics such as Special District Accounting, ATMs, Data reporting tools, Aquifer Storage and information on Gallagher and Amendment 74. Thank you for this opportunity!

In the last several week’s, staff has been working on the 2018 Meter Readings. We currently have 90% of the meter readings received, recorded and calculated. We feel like we are ahead of schedule and continue to work diligently.
Program Manager’s Report for Amber Pacheco-October 2018

Subdistrict No. 2: The Board of Managers have finalized the Plan of Water Management and it was approved by the Rio Grande Water Conservation District in 2017. The Plan was sent to the State Engineer’s office and was approved Aug. 9th, 2018. The Board of Director’s held a hearing in September to take comments on the Plan’s approval. No comments were received and the Plan was adopted unanimously. The adoption of the Plan opened a ten-day window for objections to the District Court. No objections were filed. The State Engineer’s approval was published in the September Water Court Resume and the window for objections to the Water Court closes the end of October. If there are no objections received, the Subdistrict will move forward and assess its first fees in December for collection in 2019. The staff has been preparing for the fee calculation process by collecting updates from Subdistrict Members and reviewing information in the State’s databases in regards to all the Subdistrict Wells. The Board of Managers put together a budget which anticipates the filing of the first ARP in 2019 and the funding necessary to administer the replacements. The budget is included in the District’s 2019 preliminary budget for the Board of Director’s review. The next quarterly meeting for the Subdistrict No. 2’s Board of Manager’s is scheduled for November 6th at 9:00 a.m.

Subdistrict No. 3: The Board of Managers have finalized the Plan of Water Management and it was approved by the Rio Grande Water Conservation District in 2018. The Plan was sent to the State Engineer’s office and was approved Aug. 27th, 2018. The Board of Director’s held a hearing in September to take comments on the Plan’s approval. No comments were received and the Plan was adopted unanimously. The adoption of the Plan opened a ten-day window for objections to the District Court. No objections were filed. The State Engineer’s approval was published in the October Water Court Resume and the window for objections to the Water Court closes the end of November. If there are no objections received, the Subdistrict will move forward and assess its first fees in December for collection in 2019. The staff has been preparing for the fee calculation process by collecting updates from Subdistrict Members and reviewing information in the State’s databases in regards to all the Subdistrict Wells. The Board of Managers put together a budget which anticipates the filing of the first ARP in 2019 and the funding necessary to administer replacements and aquifer sustainability. The budget is included in the District’s 2019 preliminary budget for the Board of Director’s review. A special meeting for Subdistrict No. 3’s Board of Manager’s is scheduled for November 1st at 8:00 a.m. to discuss flood vs. sprinkler issues and how to handle them in the proposed tier fee structure.

I was able to attend a meeting with the Conejos Water Conservancy District and DiNatale Water Consultants for a tour and presentation on a potential new reservoir located near the Town of Ortiz south of Antonito. This meeting was just one of a number of stakeholder meetings that will be held to talk about the potential benefits and challenges for a project like this. I believe that a project like this would benefit Subdistricts and assist in management of water in that area of the Valley. Nathan Coombs is the contact for this project should you have any questions.

Subdistrict No. 4: The Board of Managers continue to work on their draft of a detailed Plan of Water Management. This process is about complete and we are really down to the fine tuning. I anticipate they will have a completed Plan in front of the Board of Directors in early spring for the Board’s consideration. I would like to have the Plan to the State Engineer by late spring to allow time for all the approval steps to be completed by mid-summer. I have prepared a first draft of a set of Rules and Regulations for the Board of Managers to begin working on. The Rules and Regulations can be worked on as the Plan moves through the approval process, but we will need to have them about done when the
Plan is submitted to the State so they can see what the Subdistrict will allow in terms of contracts, metering of wells, etc. In anticipation of the Plan being finalized next year, the Board of Managers requested a call analysis be done on the streams they will be replacing to. Allen Davey and Clinton Phillips from Davis Engineering are working on that analysis for the Subdistrict. The information will allow the Board to start talking about what solutions for making replacements and start having discussions with those water right owners as well. Their next quarterly meeting is scheduled for December 4th at 9:00 a.m.

Subdistrict No. 5 - The Board of Managers have been working on their Plan of Water Management. Their Plan will recognize surface water credit for the Rio Grande Canal shares in the Saguache Response Area so we are working on drafting that language. Like Subdistrict #4, I anticipate the Plan will be ready in late spring for the District and State Engineer to consider. If the Plan is approved in 2019, the Subdistrict will be in a position to assess fees for 2019 and their first Annual Replacement Plan beginning in April 2020. In anticipation of the Plan being finalized next year, the Board of Managers requested a call analysis be done on the streams they will be replacing to. Allen Davey and Clinton Phillips from Davis Engineering are working on that analysis for the Subdistrict. The information will allow the Board to start talking about what solutions for making replacements and start having discussions with those water right owners as well. The next quarterly meeting for the Board of Managers is scheduled for October 17th beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Subdistrict No. 6 - The District Court held a hearing on the establishment of Special Improvement District No. 6 on August 28th in Conejos County. Dwight Martin and Cleave testified to the process that was undertaken to prepare for the Subdistrict and the collection of petitions. The Judge’s order establishing the Subdistrict was received on October 4th. The next step in the process is to have the Board of Managers set by the District Board. The Board of Managers will consist of ten members and one ex-officio. The makeup of the Board is: 2 members from the Alamosa-La Jara Water Conservancy District; 2 members from the Monte Vista Water User’s Association; 2 members from the Commonwealth Irrigation Company; 2 members from the Terrace Irrigation Company, Inc.; 1 member from the San Luis Valley Irrigation Well Owners, Inc.; 1 at-large member who must not be affiliated with any of the entities which already have representation on the Board of Managers; and, one ex-officio member who is appointed by the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. We have received nominations from all 5 of the entities and 2 letters of interest from Subdistrict Members who are qualified to serve in the at-large position. The Board of Directors will make the final appointments to the Board of Managers from these nominations at the October quarterly meeting for the District. Once we have the Board of Managers set, I will get the first meeting set up for the members to select their initial terms, prepare their by-laws, and set a schedule for future meetings to start working on their Plan of Water Management.
Bureau of Reclamation Report to the RGWCD
October 16, 2018

OPERATIONS

Water salvage operations continued as recommended by the Project Operating Committee to meet the Rio Grande Compact, Project Mitigation, and Subdistrict #1 depletion obligations.

Deliveries will be completed on 10/19/18 to the Alamosa Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). A total of 2,601 AF of mitigation water will be delivered to the Refuge in 2018. This total includes an exchange of 250 AF delivered to the Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area (BWHA) but credited to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) mitigation total. The Alamosa Refuge Pumping Plant was operated on 9/26, and 9/28-9/30 and pumped 31 AF onto the refuge. A total of 2,351 AF will be delivered through CHO1 and CHO2 and the Refuge Pumping Plant.

Deliveries were completed on 9/13/18 to the Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area (BWHA). A total of 1,300 AF has been delivered to the BWHA in 2018. This total reflects the CBP mitigation amount (800 AF), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) mitigation amount (250 AF), and water exchanges with Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) which was also 250 AF.

Delivery to the Rio Grande for the year to date is 5,388 AF.

San Luis Lake did not receive any runoff from Sand Creek in 2018. The lake elevation has declined 3 feet due to evaporation from 7514.7 to 7511.7.

San Luis Lake (10/15/18)

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<tr>
<th>San Luis Lake</th>
<th>San Luis Lake Elevation ....</th>
<th>7511.7 ft. MSL</th>
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<td>Storage</td>
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<td>1,366 acre-feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>TDS</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,566 ppm TDS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Project Deliveries: (1/18 to 9/30/18)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliveries to:</th>
<th></th>
<th>5,388 acre feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rio Grande—total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge—total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,981* acre feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area—total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,300* acre feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Luis Lake—total</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0 acre feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Lake (West)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0 acre feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Deliveries as of September 30, 2018</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>8,669 acre-feet</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes 250 AF exchange delivered to BLM, but credited to USFWS mitigation total.
MAINTENANCE TEAM:

The primary Drilling Team will complete SW107 by the end of this week. Test pumping was successful at over 400 GPM. They are in the process of installing the pipe connections and new well pump. The secondary Drilling Team completed the rehab on SW066 last Thursday and has moved over to SW103B to set-up for rehab. The Maintenance Crew is finishing up the concrete wall repair at the inlet to the San Luis Lakes Pumping Plant and will be re-grouping to complete the canal erosion repairs this week. Mowing along the canal has been completed and we are still in the process of mucking the north section near road A. This year, 19 Salvage Wells have been rehabbed, 3 new wells have been drilled in order to replace failed wells, and 2 salvage wells have been reconditioned (new casing, pack material, and new pumps).

MANAGER'S WORK:

The Acting Manager continues to coordinate schedules and work flows with the RGWCD Manager to ensure the Cooperative Agreement requirements are met. The revised Agreement has been reviewed by both the RGWCD Manager and their legal representatives. A meeting will be scheduled very soon to discuss notes and comments.

Our Electrician Vacancy has been posted as of Friday September 28th. Our Supply Technician Position was posted and candidate Sylvia Wingert Garcia accepted the position as of Friday the 5th of October.

WATER LABORATORY

A total of 657 samples were collected from the Closed Basin Project during the period of April 1, 2018, through September 30, 2018.

Total Dissolved Solids at the Outlet was an average of 291 ppm for the period.

Lab personnel assisted Operations, Maintenance and Admin groups, as well as local agencies, on various projects.