

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Special Meeting via Zoom
December 06, 2023**

Present: Dagan Chadd (joined during 3.0) Kenny Heldman Gerald Koppenhafer
JR Ford Rusty Hinger Jenny Russell
David Guilliams (joined during 3.0) Amy Huff Charlie Smith

Staff: Mo Rock, Programs Coordinator
Steve Wolff, General Manager

Consultants: Beth Van Vurst, General Counsel, Van Vurst Law

Guests: Bruce Whitehead ALP Ed Millard
Laura Spann, CWCB Pete Nylander, SUIT

1.0 Call to Order – Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

President Jenny Russell called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

2.0 Review and Approve Agenda

There was unanimous consent to approve the agenda.

3.0 Request for SWCD 2022 Grant Extension

As a follow-up to our October discussion, Mo Rock explained that the applicants for Yamaguchi Project that was approved for a grant from the SWCD Board in 2022, and then extended to 2023, requested another 1-year extension for 2024. The board discussed extending this project and the Gateway Project (a 2023 project) at their October meeting, but neither of these projects had made a formal request at that time. Since this grant is being pushed into a two-year extension, it will require a motion from the board. Staff also requested the Board approve the extension on the Gateway Project as well.

Rusty Hinger motions to extend both grants through 2024, but that no further extensions would be allowed on either grant. Kenny Heldman seconded. The motion passes.

4.0 Discussion and Consideration of Potential Recommendations from the Colorado River Drought Task Force (short list) and Sub-Task Force

Steve Wolff and Beth Van Vurst presented the draft recommendations that have been developed by the Colorado River Drought Task Force and provided their thoughts for the SWCD Board. There was a general discussion about the recommendations. The Board took no actions relative to the Task Force recommendations.

Public Comment:

Ed Millard asked about item B (Funding for Aging Infrastructure) and Item I (Water Banking). Steve spoke to item B, stating that this one was specific to aging infrastructure. Steve was unsure how this may move forward, and what funding may be available, but was hoping to get clarification tomorrow. Beth said that item I, Water Banking, had been withdrawn.

Steve briefly gave an update on the Sub-Task Force. He said a lot of the discussion was around how to get State support for tribes on federal matters.

Ed Millard, asked about the Tribal Sub-Task Force – and a strategic water reserve, especially when it involves buying undeveloped ALP water and moving water downstream. Steve said we should be supportive of the Tribes using their settlement water as long as it doesn't hurt other water users and complies with the law.

5.0 Executive Session

The board did not have an executive session.

7.0 Recognition of Jenny Russell

A Resolution of Appreciation was presented by Steve Wolff to Jenny Russell.

8.0 Upcoming Meetings and Announcements

Staff shared upcoming meetings for the District. They shared that the Budget hearing had been moved to January 9th to compensate for the changes in property tax after Colorado's Special Session, they informed the Board that the State has waived the requirement of posting in the newspapers for this year only. Also, the Colorado Water Congress convention is at the end of January and our next regular board meeting is February 14th and 15th.

9.0 Adjournment

Jenny Russell adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.



Charlie Smith, Secretary/Treasurer
Approved on 4/10/2024