

**Minutes of the First 2015 Quarterly Board Meeting of the
Board of Directors of the
Republican River Water Conservation District**

April 9, 2015

Yuma, Colorado

The Board of Directors of the Republican River Water Conservation District convened a regular meeting, pursuant to notice required by statute and the District's By-Laws, at the Quintech Center, Yuma, Colorado.

Present were:

Board Members:

Dennis Coryell, President
Greg Larson, Vice President
Tim Pautler, Secretary
Byron Weathers, Treasurer
Eugene Bauerle
Wil Bledsoe
Brent Deterding
Jack Dowell
Steve Kramer
Stan Laybourn
Rod Lenz
Rod Mason
Steven Meakins
Wayne Skold
Aaron Sprague

Deb Daniel, RRWCD General Manager
Dawn Webster, RRWCD Administrative Assistant
Pete Ampe, RRWCD General Counsel, Hill & Robbins, P.C.
Tim Davis, RRWCD Program Consultant, TJD LLC
Jim Slattery, RRWCD Engineer, Slattery & Hendrix Engineering
John Willard, RRWCD Accountant, Premier Accounting LLC

A sign in sheet listing the members of the public attending the meeting is attached as Exhibit 1.

STATEMENT OF QUORUM

President Dennis Coryell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed the public and started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Secretary Tim Pautler conducted a roll call of Board members, noting that nobody was absent. With 15 Directors attending the meeting, Secretary Pautler declared that a quorum of the Board was present.

AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Coryell asked for any amendments to the agenda for the meeting. There being no changes, a motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Prior to this meeting, the Directors had received, electronically, a draft of the minutes of the Board meeting held on January 8, 2015, and the executive session held during that meeting. These documents were also included in the Board packet today. President Coryell asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. Having none, a motion to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on January 8, 2015, and the minutes of the executive session held during that meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

At 10:11 a.m., General Manager Deb Daniel informed the Board that she would be attending and giving a presentation at the Nebraska Water Institute at the end of June. Mrs. Daniel also noted that an advertisement for bids to remove the temporary fencing around the Compact Compliance Pipeline easements will be published in basin newspapers in the near future.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT

Next, Administrative Assistant Dawn Webster presented the financial report and the disbursements for the quarter ending March 31, 2015, which were previously sent to the entire Board electronically as well as being included in the Board packet. Administrative Assistant Webster answered questions from the Directors about the financial report and the disbursements. A motion to approve the financial report and the disbursements for the first quarter of 2015 was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

CCP OPERATIONS REPORT

At 10:20 a.m., CCP Operations Manager Tracy Travis briefed the Board on the operations of the Pipeline, stating that the Pipeline has been operating smoothly since the start up. He stated that Timberline Electric was currently working on the SCADA system.

PROGRAM UPDATES AND REPORTS

At 10:22 a.m., John Willard, RRWCD Accountant, discussed different scenarios with the Directors regarding expenses in 2015 that could include purchasing surface water rights, Compact Compliance Pipeline operating expenses, as well as other matters regarding the 2015 and future budgets.

Tim Davis, RRWCD Program Consultant, updated the Board on the RRCP, stating that the District would reapply for funds in 2016. Next, Mr. Davis discussed the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative conservation objectives, EQIP funding for the next three years, and the request to increase the rental rates for CREP.

Director Greg Larson reported that the Colorado Water Congress (CWC) had its annual winter meeting January 28 through January 30, 2015, which he attended with General Manager Deb Daniel, as well as with Director Coryell. Mr. Larson stated that the main topic was the State Water Plan.

General Manager Deb Daniel reported that the South Platte Roundtable will have its next meeting on April 14, 2015 in Longmont, where they would be reviewing the State Water Plan draft.

Director Byron Weathers reported that the Yuma County Water Authority (YCWA) is very concerned regarding the Hutton Foundation's surface water rights and would like to be kept apprised of the negotiations to the extent possible.

Director Steve Kramer reported that the Water Preservation Partnership met on February 17th to discuss studies that were done as to what the individual groundwater management districts want to see in their area for conservation efforts. Mr. Kramer stated that the next WPP meeting was to be held on April 14th.

Director Greg Larson, chairman of the RRWCD Negotiating Committee, reported progress on the surface water rights on the South Fork.

Director Steve Kramer reported that the Conservation Committee met on February 24th to discuss the RCPP, supporting the WPP, CREP rental rates, and the possibility of having another conservation symposium in 2016.

Christine Arbogast, RRWCD federal lobbyist, reported that current water issues are focused on the clean water act, and they are currently looking into how to fund conservation programs.

Alan Foutz, representative for Senator Gardner, handed out his updated business card to the Directors, and also reported on various water issues that the Senator is working on.

Josh Sonnenberg, representative for Congressman Buck, thanked the Board for the meeting that had taken place in Wray, CO several weeks ago and assured the Board he would get his contact information to General Manager Deb Daniel.

Scott Meiklejohn, RRWCD state lobbyist, discussed the current legislative session, bills that had already passed or failed and several other bills that he will be watching on the District's behalf.

Jim Slattery, RRWCD water engineer, discussed that he is currently working with the Negotiating Committee regarding surface water right negotiations, and also reported on the Compact Compliance Pipeline operations and planning. Mr. Slattery answered several questions

from the Board of Directors regarding the amount of water that needed pumped in 2015 for compact compliance.

Pete Ampe, RRWCD legal counsel, stated that he had been working with Deb Daniel regarding CREP applications. Mr. Ampe also reported on the special master ruling of KS vs NE, as well as the Tip Jack water right abandonment case, which the Colorado Supreme Court remanded to the Water Court for additional proceedings. Next, Mr. Ampe reported that he had still been working with YCWA to change the water rights for compact compliance purposes. Finally, Mr. Ampe briefed the Board of Directors on the surface water right negotiations on the South Fork, noting that the Hutton Educational Foundation filed an action in water court to de-designate the Basin.

At 12:30 p.m., President Coryell recessed the meeting for lunch.

At 1:22 p.m., the meeting was re-convened.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At 1:24 p.m., President Coryell invited comment from the public.

At 1:24 p.m., having no comments from the public, public comment was closed.

At 1:25 p.m., President Coryell asked Chelsea Erickson, with the Kansas Division of Water Resources, to report on a meeting held by Kansas officials that took place in St Francis, KS regarding the South Fork and the Ogallala Aquifer. Ms. Erickson reported that approximately 130 people were attendance, noting that several people who attended were in favor of focusing on conservation and educating the public and were opposed to pumping water out of the Ogallala Aquifer and sending it down the north fork.

Next, State Engineer Dick Wolfe, Deputy State Engineer Mike Sullivan, and Assistant Attorney General Scott Steinbrecher updated the Board on the changes of the measurement rules within the groundwater management districts, negotiations with Kansas regarding compact compliance, and also offered some of their impressions of the meeting in St. Francis, KS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:45 p.m., a motion was made pursuant to section 24-6-402(4), C.R.S., to enter into executive session to develop a strategy for negotiations for the purchase, acquisition, or lease of water rights, easements, and property and to receive advice on legal questions relating thereto, to discuss conservation program enrollment within the Basin, and receive legal advice regarding pending litigation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. President Coryell stated that no adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action shall occur in executive session. Before entering into executive session, President Coryell thanked the public for attending the meeting. State Engineer Dick Wolfe, Deputy State Engineer

Mike Sullivan, Assistant Attorney General Scott Steinbrecher, Dave Keeler, John Willard, Tracy Travis, and Tim Davis were asked to stay for executive session.

At 3:05 p.m., Director Byron Weathers left the meeting

At 3:39 p.m., Director Steven Meakins left the meeting.

At 4:09 p.m., executive session ended.

At 4:10 p.m., Directors Rod Mason and Stan Laybourn left the meeting.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

At 4:10 p.m., the Board discussed the Colorado Foundation for Water Education membership for 2015. A motion to renew the RRWCD's membership at the \$1,000.00 level was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Next, the Board discussed possible financial support to the Water Preservation Partnership. After discussion, a motion to commit \$2,500.00 to the Water Preservation Partnership was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Finally, the Board discussed possible financial support for conservation practices in 2015.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

At 4:40 p.m., having no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Secretary

Date