

Executive Committee Minutes March 8, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Fritzler at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the District office. The following Executive Committee Directors were present: President Ken Fritzler, Vice President Gene Manuello, Treasurer Allen Coyne and Committee Directors Brian Kembel and Joe Patterson. Directors Dan Kendrick and Carson Smart were also in attendance. Staff members Manager Joe Frank, Rick Fleharty, Craig Brownell, and Deanna Eskew were present along with Jeff Rice from the Sterling Journal Advocate, Darrin Manuello, John Guenzi, Don Schell, and Daniel Schell all of Sterling and Tracy Anderson and Taylor Ahrensdorf from Stantec Consulting.

Public Hearing on the Inclusion of Lands into the District:

President Fritzler recessed the Board meeting at approximately 9:05 a.m. for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the Petition for Inclusion into the District for Dan Kendrick in Morgan County. The hearing was held as stated in the legal notice published in the Fort Morgan Times.

President Fritzler asked if there were any persons present who wished to speak on the Petition. No comments were offered. The hearing was adjourned and the regular Board meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:07 a.m.

Inclusion of Lands into the District:

The Petition for Inclusion of Lands into the District from Dan Kendrick was included in the director's board packets. Director Coyne made the motion to grant the petition. Director Manuello seconded. Motion carried.

Board Minutes:

Director Kembel made the motion to approve the February 8, 2022 Board Minutes. Director Coyne seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Coyne presented the financial report for the month of February. Treasurer Coyne made the motion to approve payment of District checks 16237 – 16261 and Julesburg Recharge check 1153. Director Patterson seconded. Motion carried.

Presentation on the Platte Valley Water Project:

Manager Frank gave a presentation to the board and guests of the importance of the Platte Valley Water Partnership (PVWP) as a supply of new water to South Platte water users in Northeast Colorado. LSPWCD is a co-owner of the water rights associated with the PVWP. Manager Frank discussed the potential benefits and opportunities for lower South Platte water users coming from this project.

River Monitoring:

Division I Water Court Resume':

No Statements of opposition will be filed from the January 2022 Water Court Resume'.

Julesburg Recharge Project:

Manager Frank is currently finalizing the billing for last year's pumping season. There has been a lot of changes in ownership which has slowed the process.

Peterson Ditch has been on and off this month due to the cold weather but is currently running.

Counsel Donovan provided a response to Harmony in the TGR and Julesburg well/pond addition case. In a few of the comments, it appears that Harmony is confusing Lower's case with the Logan Well Users case.

The TGR Agreement has been signed and sent to Counsel Donovan for recording.

The Court did order the deletion of the Woodhams well and notice has been sent to Mr. Woodhams. The District will compile the costs it has incurred so that a tax lien can be filed on the property.

Heyborne Recharge Project:

Heyborne is currently pumping approximately 2500 gpm into the site.

Legal Report:

Counsel Donovan has requested that an engineer be retained in the ACWWA/ECCV case #20CW3117 to better define our concerns and start working towards a stipulation. Spronk Water Engineers has submitted a proposal to the engineering work associated with this case. The board agreed to move forward with the engineering work.

President's Report:

None

Manager's Report:

Included in Manager Frank's report were the following:

- Perkins Canal Project - Manager Frank participated in a tour yesterday, March 7th, with Colorado State officials who wanted to get a better understanding of Water District 64 in relation to the Perkins Canal Project. Jon Altenhofen from Northern Water gave a presentation on the history of the Perkins Canal. Manager Frank and Jim Yahn were both able to discuss the current deliveries of water with Water District 64 and the diversions of water in District 1 that benefit users within District 64. Included in the board packets were the 1925 report from Delph Carpenter (Commissioner for Colorado regarding the South Platte River) to the Governor of Colorado regarding the South Platte River Compact, conclusions from the 1918 *Study of Seepage Return to the South Platte River* by R.G. Hosea, and conclusions from the 1922 *Return of Seepage Water to the Lower South Platte River in Colorado* study by Ralph Parshall. Manager Frank noted that we are currently seeing the same positive benefits from irrigation return flows that Ralph Parshall documented in 1922 along the lower South Platte River.
- WRASP - Two of the 2022 Legislative bills the group is supporting is 1) The South Platte storage prioritization bill, and 2) the Turf buy-back bill.

Director Manuello noted that Colorado Senate Bill 22-131 was defeated by a bipartisan vote of 6-1, after numerous organizations testified against it.

- SPWRAP – All 16 wells are currently running at the Tamarack Project. A 17th and final well will be drilled this fall.
- NE Colorado Water Cooperative - The next meeting of the Cooperative will be held on March 24th in Fort Morgan. The group will conduct an optimization study for the Platte River Water Partnership focusing on potential water supplies in Morgan and Logan Counties.
- South Platte Basin Roundtable - The next meeting of the Roundtable will be held virtually later today.
- South Platte Regional Opportunities Water Group (SPROWG) – March 15th will be the next meeting of SPROWG. Hiring a project manager will be one of the items discussed.
- Presentations – Manager Frank will be making presentations to the following this month.
 - ✓ March 10th – Morgan County Farm Bureau
 - ✓ March 16th – Sterling Rotary Club
 - ✓ March 21st – Douglas County Commissioners
- Children's Water Festival - Members of the Festival group are currently soliciting sponsorship of the Festival which will be held in Sterling on September 21, 2022 at the Logan County Fairgrounds for fifth graders in the counties of the South Platte Valley.
- Chimney Hollow/Wind Gap Tour – Manager Frank will be scheduling a tour later in March or early April of the project with Northern Water.

Executive Session:

At approximately 11:54 a.m. Director Coyne made the motion that the board recess into executive session for a conference call with the District's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on a specific legal question under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) and for the purpose of determining position relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(c). Director Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

President Fritzler adjourned the executive session and reconvened the board meeting at approximately 1:01 p.m.

New Business:


Director Patterson made the motion to enter into an agreement with Sigler Communications. Director Kendrick seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Old Business:

None

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Director Coyne made the motion to adjourn. Director Patterson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:04 p.m.



Deanna Eskew, District Secretary