

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the
Board of Directors of the
Republican River Water Conservation District**

February 27, 2019

Via Teleconference

The Board of Directors of the Republican River Water Conservation District convened a special telephonic meeting, pursuant to notice required by statute and the District's By-Laws on February 27, 2019.

Present were:

Board Members:

Rod Lenz, President
Greg Larson, Vice President
Tim Pautler, Secretary
Aaron Sprague, Treasurer
Gilbert Anderson
Wil Bledsoe
Kevin Penny
Kenny Helling
Steve Kramer
Rod Mason
Steven Meakins
Roger Seedorf
Wayne Skold

Deb Daniel, RRWCD General Manager
Suzanna Baker, RRWCD Administrative Assistant
Pete Ampe, RRWCD General Counsel, Hill & Robbins, P.C.
David Robbins, RRWCD General Counsel, Hill & Robbins, P.C.

A telephone was made available in the District office for any member of the public to use during this call.

Rod Lenz called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Tim Pautler took roll call and declared a quorum was present. Brent Deterding was excused from the meeting and Stan Laybourn was unexcused.

There was a motion to approve the agenda with no changes, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Steve Kramer reported the recommendation to the board from the Conservation committee to accept all acres (435.7) that have applied to be in the EQIP program for a total \$653,550.00 to be paid out over 3 years. There was a motion to approve and fund the acres that have applied for the EQIP program as presented by Steve Kramer. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

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Next Aaron Sprague, Budget committee chairman reported on the meeting held earlier in the day. Aaron Sprague stated the meeting went very well and discussion over the 3 proposed options was beneficial and productive. The 3 options proposed were: 1. Structure fee and fee per acre; 2. Status quo, \$14.50 per irrigated acre; and, 3. Structure fee and fee per acre-foot pumped. The committee is taking their time to make sure they weigh all the options and benefits and potential problems with each proposal and make sure that no decision is being rushed into. Before making a final recommendation to the RRWCD Board they have issues they would like to research and also seek legal advice on a couple issues. The Budget Committee will meet on March 20th to discuss the options again and then decide if they are ready to go to the Board with their recommendation. Rod Lenz added that we need to have everything well thought out and on paper for consideration of the Board at the quarterly Board meeting in April.

Greg Larson then gave the Negotiating Committee update. Bev Tracy and John Archer are both working on clearing up the chain of title to their surface water rights. As far as the negotiations with CPW, Greg Larson has located parcels of land that we might be able to trade for water rights. The Larson/Harsh property that was being considered will be farmed this year. We will resume negotiations at a later date.

Wil Bledsoe, Chair of the Legislative Committee, informed the Board that HBa-1029 was supposed to have a hearing this morning, but it has been pushed back. At this point, the hearing will occur when they get to it. The Senate amended the bill to make sure that those who had an augmentation plan to another basin wouldn't be held accountable a second time, but the language included in the Bill was problematic. The RRWCD offered some different language to accomplish the same purpose which the drafters seemed to accept. It is anticipated the House will reject the Senate amendment so the alternate language can be agreed to in a conference committee. The Bill will go into effect 90 days after the session ends, so timing on final action by the conference committee is not critical. At this point we don't have an idea of when the amendment to the bill will be passed.

The implementation process of the bill includes informing the commissioners in the counties that have wells that have been added to the RRWCD due to the Bill and then contacting the County Assessors and adding the additional acres into the RRWCD database. The bill will likely go into effect in August, but we won't be able to assess the fee on new acres until the following year.

The Sedgwick County well owners who will now be in the RRWCD basin and already have augmentation plans with the South Platte may no longer need to have contracts with the RRWCD due to the new language in the bill that exempts them from the \$14.50 per irrigated acre fee.

Under new business Pete Ampe reported, the notice of the basin compact rules has been published by the water court. Statements of opposition or support are due March 31, 2019. There was a motion to have legal write the statement of opposition in support of the Basin Rules. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Rod Lenz entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 PM. There was a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.


Secretary

4-25-19
Date