

**Teleconference Meeting of the Board of Directors of the
Republican River Water Conservation District**

June 8, 2021 Teleconference

The Board of Directors of the Republican River Water Conservation District convened a special meeting, pursuant to notice required by statute and the District's By-Laws, utilizing teleconference. Due to an error and there is no recording of this meeting.

Present were:

Board Members:

Rod Lenz, President
Greg Larson, Vice-President
Gil Anderson, Secretary
Aaron Sprague, Treasurer
Wil Bledsoe
Brooke Campbell
Kevin penny
Brent Deterding
Jim Hadachek
Kenny Helling
Steve Kramer
Stan Laybourn
Rod Mason
Steven Meakins
Timothy Pautler
Roger Seedorf
Wayne Skold

Deb Daniel, RRWCD General Manager

Suzanna Baker RRWCD Administrative Assistant

David Robbins, RRWCD General Counsel, Hill & Robbins, P.C.

STATEMENT OF QUORUM

President Rod Lenz called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Secretary Gil Anderson conducted a roll call of Board members. With 17 Directors attending the meeting, Secretary Anderson declared that a quorum of the Board was present.

Rod Lenz explained this meeting is to discuss information received from State Engineer Kevin Rein after the last board meeting. The May 17, 2021, board meeting was a good meeting but what Mr. Rein provided was contradictory to what others have been saying in public. Lenz met with Kevin Rein to get clear expectations on the SFFZ. Mike Sullivan was on vacation so Kevin is taking the lead role. Kevin Rein had sent an email that Rod Lenz wanted to make the board

aware of. Lenz also informed the board that Mr. Rein reported that he had personally written the letter that was sent to well users across the basin. Lenz then discussed the following:

- In the discussion Rein made the point that, 'The verbiage of the resolution says acres and not water.' Rod Lenz then asked for a written response stating that the State would fight for acres as the only measure.
- Mr. Rein explained that the Kansas intent behind the resolution was to save water and there should be some water saved associated with the retirement of acres.
- Rod Lenz also made it clear to Rein that he wanted to him to be an ally and to be able to work together.
- Once Lenz explained background behind the email from Rein, Deb Daniel forwarded the email to the board so that they could read it directly.
- Lenz stated that even after the May board meeting he would like to foster and grow the relationship with the State Engineer's Office (SEO), stressing we need mutual trust. With Rein's explanation through this email Lenz said he thinks we can make that happen
- Steve Kramer expressed that quantifiable conservation is important for the resolution.
- The board then discussed Lenz's report.
 - Tim Pautler has lost his confidence in the SEO
 - David clarified that Kansas wants to be able to 'fly' the SFFZ and see that 25,000 irrigated acres have been retired. They will probably want to fly it every 2-3 years to make sure they are still dry.
 - Helling made it clear that it is the farmer voluntarily retiring wells/acres.
 - Deterding thought that retiring part of a circle needs to become an option for producers.
 - Skold stated that producers up in the northern part of the basin will want those options as well.
 - Seedorf then went over some stats that he and the WY General Manager researched. Average size of a well, 550 wells, low 80,000 acres not 100,000. Can't decimate with 35% retirement. Can't use that a part of our acres. What if those acres went inactive in 2016, what if there are some not in CREP but dried up on their own.
 - 50 acres dried up equaling 33 % then reduce acre feet by the same amount 33%
 - We are required to do things as inexpensive as possible.
 - We have 2 issues, (1) retirement of acres and (2) long term compliance while meeting our fiduciary responsibility.
 - Steve thought the partial retirement will not be all that lucrative.
- Steve Kramer said we are not trying to solve all of the problems today but wanted to share the information to make sure all board members are up to date. We now believe that we can retire acres for less than what we had originally thought.
- Helling stated I agree we can get these acres for a lot less money. This information has to be shared with the people in the SFFZ that it is an option. We need to be honest with the public as soon as possible.

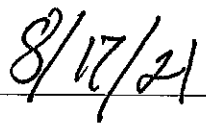
- Penny stated that we still need to quantify how this is going to happen.
- Rod would like the board to come up with a resolution that measurable conservation is a part of our compliance obligation.
 - Conservation committee all ideas are on the table.

Lenz left the board with the following comments. Do not paint the state as a bad guy, talk about it in the public but do not paint the state as the bad guy. Lenz wants to have a resolution ready and available to edit that we all agree to measurable conservation. The conservation meeting will be meeting on June 17th at 9am and the Joint Task Force will be on the 22nd.

Steve thanked Rod for his efforts to get a clear answer from the State Engineer's Office.

The meeting was adjourned.


Secretary


Date