

**Minutes of the 9th Special Meeting of the  
Republican River Water Conservation District**

**May 18, 2005**

**Telephonic Meeting**

Present were:

Board Members:

Eugene Bauerle  
Grant Bledsoe  
Kelly Burr  
Dennis Coryell, President  
Jack Dowell  
Raymond Enderson  
Garry Kramer  
Steve Kramer  
Bruce Latoski  
Stan Laybourn  
Tim Pautler  
Rick Seedorf

Stan Murphy, General Manager

Dennis Montgomery, General Counsel, Hill & Robbins, P.C.

Scott Richrath, State Engineer's Office

Joel Schneekloth, Colorado State University

**MINUTES**

President Coryell convened the meeting, pursuant to notice required by statute, at approximately 8:15 a.m. A roll call of directors was taken, and the record reflects that 12 of the District's directors were in attendance and that a quorum was present.

President Coryell stated that he had called the meeting to consider two Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) projects, one to reduce water use by utilizing crop rotations that include low water-use crops and one utilizing no-till and strip-till practices. Scott Richrath described the two CIG applications. The first was a crop rotation proposal by Joel Schneekloth of Colorado State University (CSU). Mr. Richrath said that CSU was asking for a resolution committing up to \$30,000 for two years to fund the grant. Joel Schneekloth answered questions about the CSU CIG proposal. He said the proposal was to use four major crops, using limited irrigation management strategies. He said they were proposing a demonstration at a site near Idalia in the southern half of the Republican River Basin. Participants would be CSU, the Irrigation Research Foundation, the Republican River Water Conservation District Water Activity Enterprise, and the Yuma Conservation District. He

said they also had talked to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the NRCS is also interested in something like this. He said they will also have CSU's involvement in Holyoke and Burlington.

Mr. Richrath said that both proposals would involve cash outlays from the Enterprise. For the crop rotation CIG proposal, the commitment from the Enterprise would be approximately \$10,000 in 2006, \$10,000 in 2007, and \$10,000 in 2008.

Mr. Richrath then described the second CIG proposal by Chris Glaze of the Irrigation Research Foundation and Mike Peterson of NRCS. This CIG project would implement deficit irrigation practices over three years utilizing no-till and strip-till practices on crops to reduce water application and consumption. Mr. Richrath said they have already submitted an application to NCRS, but they are willing to resubmit the application to include the Enterprise as a financial and political partner. The project is all being done in Yuma and Colby, KS, in partnership with Monsanto. They will move forward regardless of a financial commitment from the Enterprise. Mr. Richrath said the details of the CIG proposals are in the application.

Director Seedorf asked if the grants would take funds away from retiring acreage. He also asked if the projects would require metering to demonstrate benefits. Mr. Richrath said the projects would provide studies to demonstrate conservation practices that users could implement and might entail metering, if not on all wells, at least on a fair representation of the wells. He said that, to some degree, the projects would lead toward metering. He also said that \$10,000/year per project would come from the Enterprise's budget and that funds were available for the CIG projects in the current budget.

Stan Murphy, General Manager, said that although they were both three-year projects, the Enterprise would have to encumber funds for 2005. President Coryell asked if there was a chance that funding requirements would go up for the projects. Mr. Richrath said that within the parameters of GIC, it would not go up, and that it would be at the Board's discretion whether to increase its financial commitment. After further discussion, President Coryell said that the Board may want to handle the CIG proposals individually. Mr. Richrath said that the no-till, strip-till application had already been filed, and the proponent may not want to withdraw the application but just include an addendum for participation at a sister site, which would not go through NRCS. Mr. Richrath said that Monsanto has been funding the entire project. The proponents are looking at the CIG grant to expand the number of acres, possibly at a different location.

President Coryell suggested that the Board handle the crop rotation CIG proposal first, to the extent of \$10,000/yr., then consider the other one. General Manager Murphy asked if approval of the CIG proposal will require an amendment to the budget. The Board then discussed the Enterprise's 2005 budget and possible sources for funding the CIG proposal. After discussion, it was concluded that the maximum commitment if both CIG proposals were approved would be \$60,000, which could be committed from the 2005 budget.

Secretary Pautler made a motion for the Enterprise to commit \$30,000 to fund the crop rotation CIG proposal. Director Latoski seconded the proposal. After discussion, at 8:58 a.m., the motion was approved by a vote of 8-3.

The Board then considered the no-till, strip-till CIG proposal. After discussion of the CIG proposal, Director Bauerle said that he would support Director Latoski's proposal to provide support, but not provide funds for the no-till, strip-till CIG proposal, which involved one individual company.

After further discussion, Director Seedorf made a motion to offer the District's support for the no-till, strip-till CIG proposal, but no financial commitment. Director Bauerle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

President Coryell said CSU would require a letter of support for the crop rotation CIG proposal. The Board unanimously approved providing the letter of support and commitment of funds from the Enterprise.

The Board then discussed the need to revise the budget to reflect the CIG funding. Director Latoski moved that \$30,000 be transferred from temporary ground to project development in the Enterprise's budget. This motion was seconded by Director Burr and passed unanimously.

A motion was then made to authorize President Coryell to sign the letter of support and commitment of funds for the crop rotation CIG proposal, which was seconded and passed unanimously. General Manager Murphy was directed to prepare the letter.

At 9:25 a.m., the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

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Secretary

Date