

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

**March 22, 2023, Teleconference/Zoom**

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/Zoom technology. Present were:

**Board Members:**

Rod Lenz, President  
Greg Larson, Vice-President, absent  
Aaron Sprague, Treasurer  
Gil Anderson, Secretary  
Don Brown, excused, joined late  
Wil Bledsoe  
Brooke Campbell  
Kevin Penny, joined late  
Steve Kramer, absent  
Jim Hadachek  
Robin Liming  
Rod Mason  
Steven Meakins, excused  
Tim Pautler  
Roger Seedorf  
Kristen Schneider  
Josh Lechman, absent

Deb Daniel, RRWCD General Manager  
Reon McBride, RRWCD Finance and Office Manager  
Payton Liming, RRWCD Administrative Assistant  
Pete Ampe, RRWCD General Counsel, Hill & Robbins, P.C.  
David Robbins, RRWCD General Counsel, Hill & Robbins, P.C.

Guests:

Mike Sullivan, consultant on Dryland Farmable CREP  
Stuart Dykstra, SFRRC Project Manager

**STATEMENT OF QUORUM**

President Rod Lenz called the meeting to order at 10:10AM. Board Secretary Gil Anderson conducted a roll call of the Board members and declared that a quorum of the Board was present. Don Brown and Steven Meakins were absent, but excused; Kevin Penny joined the meeting at 10:13 AM and Greg Larson, Steve Kramer, and Josh Lechman were absent.

**AGENDA**

President Lenz asked for a motion to approve the agenda. There was discussion on moving the Dryland Farmable CREP discussion to the last action item. With those changes, there was a motion, second and the vote was unanimous.

## ACTION ITEMS

- o Discuss and vote on recommendation from PTAC committee for tractor blade

Tracy Travis asked the committee for a quote for a blade to fit on the District tractor to move snow. **The PTAC committee recommends the board purchase the blade for Travis. There was a second.** There was further discussion on the budget allowing the purchase. There was further discussion on maintaining the roads for the pipeline. **There were 10 votes approving the purchase of the blade, and Bledsoe voted nay.**

- o Discuss and vote on Resolution for Watersmart Application

Dykstra began discussing the funding he is currently pursuing for the SFRRC program.

### **Kevin Penny joined the meeting at 10:13 AM**

Dykstra stated the request for an affidavit and Resolution are typical for grant applications. There will be crossover in scope of the grants Dykstra is pursuing, but the funds can be utilized in different ways in the future if they are awarded.

There was discussion on having a budget line item to use for channel restoration.

**There was a motion and second to approve the Resolution for the pursuit of the Watersmart grant, the vote was unanimous.**

- o Discuss and vote on Flex Place Resolution

Lenz gave a brief update on how the Flex Place policy works and stated this is a continuation of the previous policy.

**There was motion and second to approve the Flex Place policy renewal. The vote was unanimous.**

- o Discuss creating board member email accounts

Lenz stated he is not looking for a decision on this issue but wanted to have the discussion with members of the board. McBride discussed the reason behind establishing new emails for the board members and how a CORA request can make it extremely burdensome to hunt down emails. Ampe and Robbins discussed that this would be a wise action for the board to take.

Seedorf asked if the board would have ownership over the account? Robbins stated that the board would have ownership but could turn over the emails to McBride and Liming to sort through if there was a relevant CORA request. McBride clarified she does not want to administer the email accounts. This clarified Seedorf's question. Schneider discussed that having a Gmail account would allow the group to all have access to Google docs and be able to work on documents at the same time.

Lenz stated this will be an action item for the May quarterly meeting.

- o Discuss and vote on approving Dryland Farmable CREP

Lenz discussed there was tremendous work done on the Dryland Farmable CREP issue when the group was in Washington D.C. The payments rates are better than EQIP but not as good as CREP. The rate for Dryland Farmable CREP will be the same throughout the Basin. This is a pilot program and there are other places in the nation who would like to engage in this program.

Sullivan discussed the agreement and how it is built through DNR as a pass through. Lenz discussed this leverages the RRWCD monies the best for future retirements.

### **Don Brown joined the meeting at 10:36AM**

Brown discussed the meeting with Senator Bennet's staff and the issues they have recognized. Sullivan discussed having a parameter in the agreement which would allow the group to renegotiate if something different comes out of the 2023 Farm Bill.

Lenz asked if this is an issue to be voted on now, or if this should be waited on?

There was discussion whether Clint Evans, the NRCS state conservationist, approves of this change?

Sprague discussed that the rates are good inside the SFFZ and it is important to be able to use this tool in the SFFZ and the District can make adjustments and amendments later after there is success in the program.

There was discussion on now being the right time to accept this agreement. Brown expressed his appreciation and suggested utilizing Sullivan as a consultant to see this agreement come to fruition.

Discussion continued on getting Mike Sullivan under contract for this and similar type work for the District.

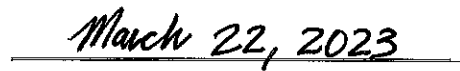
**Brown moved allowing Sullivan to pursue the proposal for the Dryland Farmable CREP. There was a second.** Brown further discussed that he is not happy with the compensation rate outside of the SFFZ. However, the pilot program must be proven a success to increase the rate. Bledsoe stated that Brown did an incredible job making this happen, he wanted to recognize that.

**The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM.**



Secretary



Date