

**Teleconference Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Republican River Water Conservation District
RRWCD Special Board Zoom Meeting
June 30, 2022 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
Gil Anderson, Secretary
Aaron Sprague, Treasurer, absent but excused
Wil Bledsoe
Kevin Penny
Kristen Schneider
Brooke Campbell
Jim Hadachek, absent but excused
Kenny Helling
Steve Kramer
Don Brown
Rod Mason
Steven Meakins
Tim Pautler
Roger Seedorf
Josh Lechman

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

Guests:

Mike Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

A telephone was provided at the District office for interested members of the public to participate.

STATEMENT OF QUORUM

President Rod Lenz started with a prayer and then called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Board Secretary Gil Anderson conducted a roll call of the Board members and declared that a quorum of the Board was present.

President Lenz then asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. There was a motion and second to approve the agenda, the vote passed unanimously.

Kenny Helling joined the meeting at 8:05AM.

Review RRWCD/ARPA spreadsheet – Deb Daniel, General Manager and Payton Liming, Administrative Assistant

- Liming and Daniel discussed the different options to use the ARPA funds. Their suggestion is to pay the base fee of the contracts out of RRWCD funds and pay the supplemental amount of funds (to get the payment up to \$5,250 \$4,250, and \$2,750) out of the ARPA funds for contracts in the South Fork Focus Zone. The spreadsheet presented showed how quickly the funds would be used based on current interest in programs and also how sped up payment schedules (supplemental funds disbursed at 4, 3 and 2 years) would impact the ARPA fund total.

There was discussion on how many acres would be retired at the rate of use projected, which equaled approximately 12,000 acres retired with approximately \$4.5 million left. Liming and Daniel reiterated this was only “a best guess” based on the current interest in programs, not how many acres will be signed up. David Robbins also stated that the RRWCD has not been able to sign any SFFZ contracts for this year because the district is still finalizing the ARPA processes and agreements with the state.

Resolutions – David Robbins/ Pete Ampe, RRWCD Legal Counsel

- President Rod Lenz read through Resolution 22-03, Daniel stated she needs the RRWCD to look at paying for the entirety of the EQIP programs if possible because that is where the bulk of interest is for producers. There was discussion on how many acres may be lost because NRCS does not have enough funding. Robbins stated there must be federal funds contributed to create a binding contract. There was further discussion on how to handle the funding of EQIP with or without NRCS contributions.

Robbins left the meeting at 8:31 AM

Daniel stated she will be discussing how to work with NRCS running out of funds with Randy Randall and Tim Davis. Ampe stated the federal contract with NRCS works as the trigger for the RRWCD EQIP contract. There was discussion on having NRCS fund only 100 acres of the land for the NRCS contract. Ampe stated the easiest solution would be NRCS lowering the amount funded per acre. There was further discussion about drafting a new resolution to solve this issue in the future.

Discussion on \$2 million grant from CWCB for 2022

- Daniel discussed how Kirk Russell of CWCB alerted her the \$2 million grant has been awarded and he is holding on to those funds until the district decides how they would like to use them. “These funds are in our back pocket,” Daniel stated. Russell also stated it would be fine if the RRWCD made a request for more funds in upcoming years. The board will revisit this decision in the future.

Don Brown left the meeting at 8:39 AM

Letter on Hale Ditch – Pete Ampe, RRWCD Legal Counsel

- BOR has asked to be released from the responsibility of delivering water to the Hale Ditch. Ampe is looking for a motion to approve the letter presented to the board. Mr. Andrews approached the district about filling in the ditch a couple of years ago. There was discussion on allowing Andrews to fill in the ditch, however the RRWCD will not release the easement, but will also not call for the water. **There was a motion and second to approve and send the letter as presented. The vote passed unanimously.**

Mike Sullivan left the meeting at 8:44 AM

RRWCD checking account

- President Rod Lenz recommended to the board to move the checking account to Wray State Bank. Pautler stated it makes sense to him to move the account because the first RRWCD office was in Yuma and because the office is in Wray, the account should also be in Wray. Pautler also stated he had spoken to Dan Seedorf previously about moving the account and Dan Seedorf stated the Bank of Colorado would have no heartburn over the RRWCD moving the account. **There was a motion and second to move the checking account from Bank of Colorado in Yuma to Wray State Bank. The vote was unanimous.**

Personnel Committee – Brooke Campbell, Personnel Committee chairperson

- Campbell discussed the job description the committee has created to fill the RRWCD Finance and Office Manager position, advertising this position widely and closing the application period on August 5. Lenz clarified the job description is extremely comprehensive.

There was a motion and second. Roger Seedorf clarified the motion will approve the job description, the salary range and advertising the position. **The vote was unanimous.**

New Business

- Tim Pautler wanted to give an update on the Cure revegetation of the CCP wellfield. Pautler discussed the meeting with Cures and the contracts with NRCS for the revegetation. Pautler suggested using the FSA cost docket, compared to the complexity of the NRCS cost docket.

FSA cost docket not to exceed \$8.5/acre for drilling the seed and not to exceed \$28.50/acre for the cost of the seed.

Daniel discussed she has had no issues working with the Cure family on this issue, and they have gotten her all of the paperwork she has requested. The Cure family used Jonas Cure and Jarrett Cure to get higher cost share rates at NRCS, because they are "first time farmers." Jonas Cure asked to discuss using 6 inches of water to get the grass started, when it is very clear they have removed the infrastructure to do so. Pautler stated he felt the Cure family also wants to get this done so they can put the issue behind them.

There was a motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 AM. The vote was unanimous.



Secretary

June 30, 2022

Date