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Minutes of the 2nd Special (2nd) Meeting of the
Republican River Water Conservation District

August 17, 2004

Yuma, Colorado

Present were:

Board Members:

Eugene Bauerle
Grant Bledsoe
Kelly Burr
Dennis Coryell
Jack Dowell
Kim Killin
Garry Kramer
Steve Kramer
Bruce Latoski
Stan Laybourn
Raymond Enderson
Tim Pautler
Wayne Skold
Ted Tuell

Ken Knox, Deputy State Engineer
Scott Richrath, State Engineer's Office
Peter Ampe, Assistant Attorney General
James Pritchett, Ph. D., Colorado State University
Justin Cummings, Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP
Nicole Lampe, Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP

Commented [s1]:

A sign in sheet listing the members of the public attending the meeting is attached.

MINUTES

Deputy State Engineer Ken Knox convened the meeting at approximately 10:00 am. Fourteen of the duly appointed Members of the Board of Directors were present, Jerry Sonnenberg was absent.

The Board approved the Agenda with two additions. The Board approved the Minutes of the August 10, 2004 meeting with minor changes.

The Board then elected its officers. Dennis Coryell was nominated for President. Mr. Coryell accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Coryell was elected as President unanimously. Kim Killin was nominated for Vice-President.

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Ms. Killin accepted the nomination. Grant Bledsoe was nominated. Mr. Bledsoe declined the nomination and it was withdrawn. There were no other nominations. Ms. Killin was elected as Vice-President unanimously. Tim Pautler was nominated for Secretary-Treasurer. There were no other nominations. Mr. Pautler was elected as Secretary-Treasurer unanimously. With the election of the Officers, Mr. Knox relinquished responsibility for conducting the meeting to President Coryell.

Mr. Knox presented various information to the Board regarding several model runs performed for various scenarios of irrigated acre dry-ups and the long term predictions of the model runs. The Board asked various questions of Mr. Knox. Mr. Knox also addressed how the Republican River Compact and the model address, or do not address, the impacts of phreatophytes on stream flows.

Dr. James Pritchett gave a presentation summarizing the economic effects of a hypothetical 20,000 acre reduction in irrigated acres within the Basin. Dr. Pritchett summarized the basic economy of the region, presented the results of an economic model and discussed the limitations of the economic model and, therefore, its results. Dr. Pritchett answered various questions from the Board and discussed future efforts he might undertake on behalf of the Board and the types of information he would need. Dr. Pritchett also answered various questions from the audience. Linda Briggs, a Yuma County representative attending the meeting, reported that the Yuma assessor stated that CREP-eligible land would retain its assessed value after entering the CREP program.

The Board broke for lunch from approximately 12:05 p.m. until 12:40 pm.

Mr. Knox then presented information regarding the various sales tax revenues currently generated by municipalities in and near the Basin. He also presented information regarding the existing mill levies and fees, if any, of the Ground Water Management Districts and the potential monies that could be raised based on several hypothetical mill levies or fees. Mr. Knox then provided the board with a summary of the budget of each of the other three Water Conservation Districts and discussed some of the information. The Board asked Mr. Knox several questions and engaged in a general discussion, at one point asking for information from Mike Shimmin, a private attorney attending the meeting. The Board then held a general discussion regarding whether the Board should focus solely on a fee structure for funding District operations or if the Board should also seek to place a TABOR ballot issue on the November 2004 ballot to allow the Board to collect a tax. The Board took no formal action on the issue. Additional discussion followed concerning CREP, grants, fee assessments, permanent retirement, and other issues.

Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pautler gave a history and summary of the EQIP program. The Board asked several questions regarding the program and engaged in a general discussion of the costs and benefits of the EQIP program. Several questions from the audience were taken on the topic.

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Mr. Cummings and Ms. Lampe gave a presentation on conservation easements and land trusts. The Board and members of the public asked various questions.

The Board broke from approximately 2:30 pm to 2:55 pm.

Upon return, the Board asked for comments from the public. Only one person commented. At the request of President Coryell, Dennis Kaan, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, gave a brief presentation regarding the background of the CSU extension office's work and public outreach performed on these issues. After this presentation there was more general comment and questions from the public. Issues discussed included short-term start-up funding, grant writing, legal counsel, public relations, compact compliance and settlement negotiations, effects of non-compliance including financial penalties, availability of feed in the area, and well efficiency tests.

The Board decided to hold over the review and approval of By-Laws until the next meeting. The Board approved a rough agenda for that meeting and set a date of August 31, 2004 at 10:00 and a preliminary place for that meeting as Yuma, CO. When that place is confirmed, the State Engineer's Office will provide the written notice to be posted.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Secretary

Date