

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Special Meeting via Zoom
April 28, 2022**

Present: Dagan Chadd JR Ford Kenny Heldman
Rusty Hinger Don Schwindt Charlie Smith

Absent: David Guilliams Amy Huff Jenny Russell

Staff: Laura Spann, Programs Coordinator
Steve Wolff, General Manager

Consultants: Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering
Garin Vorthmann, Colorado Legislative Strategies
Beth Van Vurst, General Counsel, Van Vurst Law

Guests: Orla Bannan, Western Resource Advocates
Ken Curtis, Dolores Water Conservancy District
Marcel Gaztambide, San Juan Citizens Alliance
Ryan Unterreiner, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

1.0 Call to Order – Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

Vice-President Don Schwindt called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

2.0 Review and Approve Agenda

(time: 00:01:15)

There was unanimous consent to approve the agenda.

3.0 Questions & Comments from the Public

(time: 00:01:30)

There were no questions or comments from the public.

4.0 State Legislative Update & SWCD Position on Bills

(time: 00:01:45)

Steve Wolff and Garin Vorthmann reported on recent developments at the state legislature, which is scheduled to adjourn on May 11th:

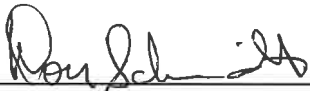
- SB22-126 (Prioritize Water Storage Projects South Platte Basin) was postponed indefinitely.
- SB22-029 (Investment Water Speculation) was amended to direct the Interim Water Resources Review Committee (IWRRRC) to study the issue of investment water speculation and then the bill was subsequently laid over by the committee. Therefore, the Colorado General Assembly has not officially directed the IWRRRC to study the issue of investment water speculation, but it may still be raised by committee members for consideration and further discussion.
- SB22-114 (Fire Suppression Ponds Water Rights) passed out of House Agriculture, Livestock, & Water Committee as amended and was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee.
- Activities proposed by HB22-1379 (Wildfire Prevention Watershed Restoration Funding) will be funded through federal monies.
- SWCD will monitor activities of the IWRRRC over the summer and fall.

5.0 Division 3 Substitute Water Supply Plan Applications – Proposed Use of Approx. 690 Acre-Feet of Transmountain Water Diverted from the San Juan River Basin *(time: 00:10:30)*

SWCD monitors water exports out of the basin to ensure that they are consistent with applicable water court decrees and administrative approvals, and do not cause injury to users within the District. Beth Van Vurst reported that every year, for the last several years, one or more of the sub districts in the San Luis Valley have asked the Colorado Division of Water Resources to temporarily change a portion of a transmountain water right that diverts water from the San Juan River Basin to augment well pumping occurring in the San Luis Valley. Another round of substitute water supply plan applications has recently been submitted to the Colorado Division of Water Resources, which seek to temporarily change up to 690 acre-feet previously diverted through the Williams Creek-Squaw Pass and Pine River-Weminuche Pass transmountain diversions. SWCD will review these applications and prepare any relevant comments for submittal by the deadline in mid-May.

6.0 Adjournment

Vice-President Don Schwindt adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.



Don Schwindt, Vice-President