

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #6
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
March 19, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101
AND BY ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE**

Present: Tyler Faucette, President; Virgil Valdez, Vice-President; Ronald Reinhardt, Secretary/Treasurer; Rodney Reinhardt, Manager; Mario Curto, Manager; Gerald Faucette, Manager; Austin Miller, Manager; Virginia Christensen, Manager; and, Armando Valdez, Ex-Officio Member.

Absent: Robert Middlemist, Manager; Peter Clark, Manager;

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Angelo Bellah, Program Manager; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Kylie Gregg, Office Manager; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Chris Shaffer, Michelle Lanzoni.

Meeting Called to Order

President Faucette called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Virginia Christensen led the opening prayer.

Approval of the Agenda

President Faucette asked for changes, additions, amendments or a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Faucette asked for public comment. There was none.

Review and Possible Approval Participation Contracts

President Faucette asked for review and possible approval of Participation Contracts.

- **USFWS Participation Contract**

Angelo Bellah presented the proposed United States Fish and Wildlife (USFW) Participation Contract, he went over the expiration date and the changes since the last contract. Mr. Bellah reported on the added sustainability fee and explained how the USFW has exchanged water or credits to the Subdistrict to cover fees in the past. He also explained how the USFW did not have a mechanism in place to pay the sustainability fee. Chris Shaffer described some of the restrictions and limitations associated with the USFW budget. Mr. Bellah highlighted the well list on attachment A. Rod Reinhardt described how the BLM contract is set up and suggested the USFW contract be set up similarly. Discussion was held on the yearly depletions, the amount of water brought in by the USFW, winter depletions and the sustainability/administration fee. Mr. Shaffer reported on the compatibility determination being worked on by the USFW for the farming program on the refuge. Discussion was held on what it takes to raise/sustain the cranes, the need to place a value on the water, and how to make it so the Subdistrict is not being shorted. The Board decided the shortage would be negotiated/addressed in the next contract at the next quarterly meeting.

A motion was made to accept the USFW Participation Contract as amended. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

- **BLM Participation Contract**

Angelo Bellah presented the proposed Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Participation Contract. He provided the current contract expiration date, went over the changes made to the contract and the amount of water credits in lieu of fees. Mr. Bellah updated the Board on the Lovato lease and the plan to take it through court to add augmentation. He reported on a request from the BLM to include option years and asked if a contract fee should be assessed.

A motion was made to accept the BLM Participation Contract and charge the \$500 contract fee. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Review and Possible Approval Pumping Reduction Program Applications

President Faucette asked for review and possible approval of the Pumping Reduction Program applications. Angelo Bellah reported receiving one application since the acceptance of the others. Discussion was held on whether or not to change the application deadline, the need to improve program outreach and the amount remaining in the budget to fund the program.

A motion was made to accept the Pumping Reduction Program application submitted on March 17, 2025. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Angelo Bellah reported the applicant was Cleave Simpson.

Other Director Reports/Comments/Questions

President Faucette asked for other Director reports/comments/questions. Discussion was held on potentially offering the Pumping Reduction Program to federal agencies. Chris Shaffer highlighted the potential for USFW to set aside funding from donors to offset a portion of the Subdistrict fees. Pete Ampe reported there was no update on the land purchases at this time.

Next Meeting

A special meeting was scheduled for April 10, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
The quarterly meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.



President



Secretary/Treasurer