

**RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.
RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present: Greg Higel, President; Brian David, Vice-President; Dwight Martin, Secretary/
Treasurer; Peggy Godfrey, Director; Mike McClure, Director; Cory Off, Director; Bill McClure,
Director; Lewis Entz, Director; and Armando Valdez, Director.

Staff and Consultants: David Robbins, District Attorney (by telephone); Cleave Simpson,
General Manager; Cheryl Anderson, Office Manager; Clinton Phillips, District Engineer; Allen
Davey, District Engineer; Chris Ivers, Deputy Program Manager; Amber Pacheco, Program
Manager, Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Marisa Fricke, Program Manager; Linda
Ramirez, Program Assistant and Michael Carson, Database Administrator.

Guests: Brenda Felmlee, Rio de la Vista, Helen Smith, Emily Chavez, John Curto, Daniel Boyes,
Les Alderedi, Shanon Wright, Gigi Dennis, Erin Minks, Bethany Howell, Sharon Vaughn, Ryan
Unterreiner, Tony Aloia, Cathy Garcia, Becky Brooks, Heidi Shreck, Morgan Garcia, Russ
Plummer, Mary Finnegan, Travis Smith, Heather Greenwolf, Jim Warner, Mary Engquist, Anna
Lee Vargas, Nicole Langley, Rob Viehl, Katy Bunch, Judy Lopez, Adam Moore, Allen Law, Mike
Leon, Willie Hoffner, Sean Toner, Mike Kruse, Bob Kirkham, Heather Dutton, Kip Canty, Emma
Ressor and Cleo Weaver.

CALL TO ORDER

President Greg Higel called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was
recited. There was a quorum present for the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF & GUESTS

President Higel welcomed all those present and asked for introductions.

APPROVE AGENDA

President Higel asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. A motion was made by Cory
Off to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Brian David and
unanimously approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION-RALPH CURTIS

President Higel asked for the special recognition of Ralph Curtis. Cleave Simpson presented a
slide show of photos and stated Ralph was a great mentor. Lewis Entz shared a few memories he
had with Ralph and stated he would be greatly missed.

APPROVE MINUTES

President Higel asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items:

- October 16, 2018- Quarterly Meeting Minutes
- December 6, 2018-Budget Hearing Minutes
- December 6, 2018-Special Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to approve the consent agenda items. The motion was
seconded Cory Off and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Higel asked for Public Comment. Willie Hoffner requested an update from legal
counsel on the status of the Rules court case and the Santa Maria court case. Cleave Simpson
stated the Santa Maria would have to operate under the court ordered decree.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Higel asked for the Financial report. Cleave Simpson reviewed the financials with the
Board, he stated the expenditures were routine, the benefit and legal costs were less. Mr.
Simpson reported on the pressure transducers grant from CWCB to the District on behalf and
paid to Subdistrict No. 1. Cory Off made a motion to approve the financials. The motion was
seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.



MANAGER'S REPORT

President Higel asked for the Manager's report. Cleave Simpson updated the Board on his activities since the last meeting (copy of report attached). Mr. Simpson reported on and presented the following:

- Updated activities with the three employees at the Bureau of Reclamation assisting on the Closed Basin Project.
- Rio Grande Water Conservation District staff are focused on Subdistrict No. 1 operation and getting prepared to operate Subdistrict No. 2 and 3 as well as routine operations including HCP, monitoring wells and the irrigated ag season.
- Director three-year term seats to be filled in April: Lewis Entz, Cory Off and Bill McClure.
- Director Lewis Entz announced he would be retiring after this meeting and would not be running for another term.
- Met with local bank representatives in reference to the District investments, reported rates were improving.
- Language in the cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation had been updated and both Cleave and Russ felt comfortable with the agreement.
- Transducer project had been completed with the monitors in place and functional.
- Appointment from the Rio Grande Water Conservation District representative to the Closed Basin Project Operating Committee:

A motion was made by Lewis Entz to reappoint George Whitten as the representative from the Rio Grande Water Conservation District for the Closed Basin Project Operating Committee. The motion was seconded by Brian David and unanimously approved.

- SLV Doppler Radar is under way with Alamosa County assuming ownership. The foundation has been poured for the tower and utility building. The weather has the project on hold, however the construction is planned to resume on March 1st.
- Mr. Simpson reported working on an agenda for a symposium being held on February 23rd which they plan to educate the general community of the water conditions and challenges being faced.
- A letter was received from the State Engineer in mid-December which highlighted his concerns. The letter reported possible curtailment of wells. Lewis Entz commented he feels Subdistrict No. 1 will be taking all of the burden. Discussion was held on aquifer recovery.

President Higel thanked Mr. Simpson for his report.

PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

President Higel asked for Program Manager's report. Marisa Fricke provided the Board with an update on Subdistrict No. 1 (copy of the report attached). Ms. Fricke reported working on phase I of a strategic plan for Subdistrict No. 1. Ms. Fricke reported working on many public outreach projects including a Summit to inform Subdistrict No. 1 constituents of the programs available, provide education and awareness as well as answer any questions. Ms. Fricke reported the CREP enrollment was on hold however RCPP enrollment was open. Discussion was held on the upcoming Summit.

President Higel thanked Ms. Fricke for her report.

Amber Pacheco reported on the following (copy of reports attached):

- Subdistrict No.'s 2 and 3 assessed their first fees to be collected in 2019. Staff are currently preparing to file both Subdistricts' first Annual Replacement Plans. Subdistrict No.'s 2 and 3 are seeking forbearance agreements as well as putting together contracts for wells that were unable to petition in.



- Subdistrict No.'s 4 and 5 Board of Managers have been working on their draft Plan of Water Management. The Rules and Regulations for both Subdistricts will be worked on as the Plans are being approved.
- Subdistrict No. 6 is moving forward on its Plan of Water Management, Ms. Pacheco asked the Board to consider approving Subdistrict No. 2 Amended Bylaws and Subdistrict No. 4 Bylaws.

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to approve Subdistrict No. 2 Amended Bylaws and Subdistrict No. 4 Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Cory Off and unanimously approved.

Cleave Simpson stated three Annual Replacement Plans will be presented to the Board in April. Mr. Simpson stated Director Dwight Martin who serves as the Ex-Officio for Subdistrict No. 6 and Director Armando Valdez who serves as the Ex-Officio for Subdistrict No. 3 have agreed and have requested to swap Ex-Officio positions.

Dwight Martin resigns as Ex-Officio of Subdistrict No. 6 and assumes the role as Ex-Officio for Subdistrict No. 3. Armando Valdez resigns as Ex-Officio of Subdistrict No. 3 and assumes the role as Ex-Officio for Subdistrict No. 6. A motion was made by Cory Off to approve the swap of Ex-Officio roles. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

- Ms. Pacheco announced Board of Manager Jack Gilleland on Subdistrict No. 3 will be going on a mission in March for two years, therefore will have a vacanct seat. Ms. Pacheco stated she would begin the process of searching for interested individuals in his area to serve.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S REPORT

President Higel asked for the District's Engineer report. Allen Davey and Clinton Phillips presented a power point update on the groundwater levels of the confined and unconfined aquifer storages. Mr. Phillips reported 2018 was not a good year on the aquifer and answered questions from Board members and the audience. Mr. Davey stated Matt Seitz reported moving forward on monitoring wells and Diamond Springs and should be ready by the spring.

President Higel thanked Allen Davey and Clinton Phillips for the report.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S REPORT-DAVID ROBBINS

President Higel asked for the District Attorney's report. David Robbins updated the Board on the Rules case which Judge Swift has not made her ruling yet. Mr. Robbins reported a US District Court judge dismissed all claims associated with a challenge on the Arkansas River. Mr. Robbins stated he would be working with Cleave and Marisa on a response to the State Engineers letter received in connection with Subdistrict No. 1. Mr. Robbins also provided an update on the second S&T case. Pete Ampe provided an update on all of the Subdistricts as well as answered questions from the audience.

President Higel thanked David Robbins and Pete Ampe for their reports.

RENEWABLE WATER RESOURCES DISCUSSION

President Higel asked for the Renewable Water Resources Discussion. Cleave Simpson provided a recap of the prior discussions around the topic. Mr. Simpson stated he presented a draft resolution for the Board to consider and a possible strategy going forward. Mr. Simpson read the draft resolution into record and stated it was open for discussion.

A motion was made by Lewis Entz to adopt the Resolution.

Cory Off asked for further explanation of item #3. David Robbins, Cleave Simpson and Armando Valdez provided further explanation. Peggy Godfrey voiced her comments and concerns.

The motion was seconded by Bill McClure, all approved except Cory Off was opposed.

Cleave Simpson lead a discussion and read the draft strategy aloud. Cory Off reported his concerns in connection with the water export proposal. Mr. Off changed his vote to approve the adoption of the Resolution. Further discussion was held by the Board.



The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:35 p.m. and resumed at 1:40 p.m.

KOGOVSEK AND ASSOCIATES-CHRISTINE ARBOGAST

President Higel asked for Kogovsek and Associates report. Cleave Simpson read Christine Arbogast's report into records (copy attached).

President Higel thanked Cleave Simpson for reading the report.

STEALEY II-BECKY BROOKS

President Higel asked for the Stealey II report. Becky Brooks was present and gave an update on the General Assembly and the number of new and returning members as well as their political affiliations. Ms. Brooks encouraged the Board to contact her with any questions or comments and requested the Board plan a trip to the capital which she believes would benefit the District.

President Higel thanked Ms. Brooks for her report.

PRESENTATION FROM CWCB-ROB VIEHL

President Higel asked for the Presentation from CWCB. Rob Viehl presented a power point which included the history of the instream flow program. Mr. Viehl provided information on water supply planning, water shed, flood protection as well as stream and lake protection. Katy Bunch provided the Board with the biological information and took comments and answered questions.

President Higel thanked Mr. Viehl and Ms. Bunch for the presentation.

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD REPORT

President Higel asked for the Colorado Water Conservation Board report. Heather Dutton reported on conservation around drought management. Ms. Dutton stated the CWCB continues to work and investigate methods of storing water and the status of installing a radar in the south west part of the State. Ms. Dutton provided the Board with the upcoming meeting dates.

President Higel thanked Ms. Dutton for her report.

SAN LUIS VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT REPORT

President Higel asked for the SLV Water Conservancy District report. Heather Dutton stated 2019 is the 70th year in anniversary of the District. Ms. Dutton stated they have been reviewing all of the histories and will be putting together a video to celebrate. Ms. Dutton provided an update on the soil moisture probe project they are working on as well as routine business within the District.

President Higel thanked Ms. Dutton for her report.

DIVISION (3) ENGINEER'S REPORT

President Higel asked for the Division Engineer's report. Kip Canty was present and updated the Board on the Rio Grande compact analysis. Mr. Canty provided a power point of the SNOTEL data and the Colorado Water Supply Index. Mr. Canty presented a graph of the projected next three months outlook and the date of the Compact meeting.

President Higel thanked Mr. Canty for his report.

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

President Higel asked for the Colorado State Forest Service report. Adam Moore stated he wanted the Board to be aware of a few publications that apply to the San Luis Valley and encourage them to read them. Discussion was held on beetle damages and the increase in fire activity.

President Higel thanked Mr. Moore for his report.

COLORADO STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE REPORT

President Higel asked for the Colorado State Parks and Wildlife report. Ryan Unterreiner provided an update on the Winter Flow Program on the Conejos River and stated the Trujillo



Reservoir remained empty but would be filled in the spring. Mr. Unterreiner updated the Board on the Rio Grande State Wildlife area, the condition of Beaver Reservoir and Browns Lake. Mr. Unterreiner reported they continue to work on water with federal partners and the Subdistrict's. He also reminded the Board of the big game management structure changes in the upcoming year and reported Pat Dorsey would be retiring. Tony Aloia provided an update on the Mountain Home Reservoir.

President Higel thanked Mr. Unterreiner for his report

SENATOR GARDNER'S OFFICE

President Higel asked for Senator Gardner's office report. Cathy Garcia was present and provided an update on the lands package which includes five Bills. Ms. Garcia reported President Trump signed the Farm Bill which passed in December.

President Higel thanked Ms. Garcia for her report.

CONGRESSMAN TIPTON'S OFFICE

President Higel asked for Congressman Tipton's office report. Brenda Felmlee reported slow activities due to the government shut down however stated Congressman Tipton hopes to introduce his Water Rights Protection act soon. Ms. Felmlee stated they continue to monitor activities within the Valley and updated the Board on the hemp legislation which is expected to create new jobs to Monte Vista. Ms. Felmlee reported new fire recovery directors would be hired in Huerfano County and Costilla County.

President Higel thanked Ms. Felmlee for her report.

SENATOR BENNET'S OFFICE

President Higel asked for Senator Bennet's Office report. Erin Minks was present and reported no CREP sign up due to the delay of the farm bill and nothing could be done administratively because of the government shut down. Ms. Minks stated Senator Bennet's office was focusing on putting rural America back to work and continue to monitor the Renewable Water Resource project.

President Higel thanked Ms. Minks for her report.

RIO GRANDE HEADWATERS RESTORATION PROJECT

President Higel asked for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project report. Emma Ressor thanked the Board for their support and provided an update on the Five Ditches Project. Ms. Ressor stated they continue to work on the River Front Project in the Town of Del Norte as well as stream management plans and working with the Forest Service on the Park Creek Project. Ms. Ressor updated the Board on stream bank stabilization projects and will be performing some landowner outreach. Ms. Ressor reported working on the Rio Grande Water Leaders Course which will be held at the District Building and work to support the Ground Water Mitigation Program.

President Higel thanked Ms. Ressor for her report.

HEADWATERS ALLIANCE-HEATHER GREENWOLF

President Higel asked for the Headwaters Alliance report. Heather Greenwolf introduced herself as the new Executive Director and stated Gwen Nelson had resigned. Ms. Greenwolf thanked the Board for their financial support and stated the Willow Creek Restoration Company will soon transfer property to the Town of Creede. Ms. Greenwolf reported the Headwaters will maintain in a management role within that space and are in the planning phase as the Headwaters transitions from the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee.

President Higel thanked Ms. Greenwolf for her report.

RIO GRANDE WATERSHED EMERGENCY ACTION COORDINATION TEAM (RWEACT)

President Higel asked for the Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT) report. Cleave Simpson read the report into record (copy attached).



RIO GRANDE INITIATIVE/R.I.G.H.T

President Higel asked for the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust/R.I.G.H.T report. Allen Law reported they hired two new full-time staff members and explained their roles. Mr. Law updated the Board on the conservation easements they recently closed on as well as a few being worked on. Mr. Law stated they are preparing a new conservation plan which includes seeking land in all areas of the San Luis Valley. Mr. Law stated they will also be working on aquifer sustainability issues and will work to involve the community more in their work. Judy Lopez reported on projects being worked on with Mr. Law.

President Higel thanked Mr. Law and Ms. Lopez for the report.

CONSERVATION PROJECT MANAGER FOR COLORADO OPEN LANDS

President Higel asked for the Conservation Project Manager for Colorado Open Lands report. July Lopez encouraged the Board to visit the Colorado Open Lands website and open the Water Sharing tab which provides a guide called Sharing Water to save the farm. Ms. Lopez stated they are welcome to any comments and or ideas the Board may have. Ms. Lopez reported moving forward with the RCPP program in the Culebra basin reported on the closing on conservation easements coming up.

President Higel thanked Ms. Lopez for her report.

SALAZAR RIO GRANDE DEL NORTE CENTER

President Higel asked for the Salazar Rio Grande Del Norte Center report. Rio de la Vista recognized Ralph Curtis and stated she valued the amount of education he provided. Ms. De la Vista reported work continues with the BLM and will be rolling out a new project in February. Ms. De la Vista thanked the board for their financial support and updated the Board on water education at Adams State University. Ms. De la Vista provided information on the symposium coming up.

President Higel thanked Ms. De la Vista for her report.

EDUCATION REPORT- BETHANY HOWELL

President Higel asked for the Education report. Bethany Howell thanked the Board for their financial support and updated the Board on activities within the initiative. Ms. Howell reported on the Water Leaders course and provided information on the Water Shed lessons at Sargent as well as working with the Boys & Girls Club planning a water festival. Ms. Howell provided the information on the Beaver Camp as well as a new all-day program with high school students.

President Higel thanked Ms. Howell for her report.

DIRECTOR REPORT

President Higel asked for any Director reports. Peggy Godfrey stated she would like to see the Rio Grande Water Conservation District continue to invest in underground water truthing. Ms. Godfrey requested the District support or fund a peer review team to review the ground water model. Discussion was held by the Board in connection with the request.

President Higel thanked Ms. Godfrey for her report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Higel asked for a motion to go into executive session. A motion was made by Armando Valdez to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

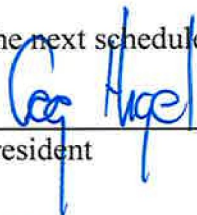
The Board was in Executive Session and voted to come out. There were no actions or formal votes taken and the only matter discussed was related to real estate opportunities.



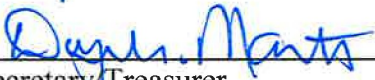
ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next scheduled quarterly meeting will be held on April 16, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.



President



Secretary/Treasurer



**RESOLUTION
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

OPPOSING EXPORT OF WATER FROM THE RIO GRANDE BASIN

The Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District at a quarterly meeting held on January 15, 2019, in Alamosa, Colorado did resolve:

WHEREAS, the conservation, protection and use of the water resources of the Rio Grande basin are vital to the continued economic and cultural prosperity of the San Luis Valley; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the economy, culture, and well-being of the Rio Grande basin it is necessary to safeguard and maintain the waters available to the water users within the Rio Grande Water Conservation District; and

WHEREAS, the export of water from the Rio Grande basin to other basins is a direct threat to the District's citizens' economy, culture and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the export of water from the Rio Grande basin to other basins is contrary to the District's goal of the sustainable and continued use of water within the Rio Grande basin; and

WHEREAS, in the past, the District has consistently and vigorously opposed attempts to export water from the Rio Grande basin; and

WHEREAS, such past opposition has defeated attempts to export water from the Rio Grande basin and protected the economy, culture, and well-being of the Rio Grande basin.



General Manager Report for BOD meeting 1-15-2019

Cleave Simpson (chronological order since last quarterly meeting in October of 2018)

Review Habitat Conservation Plan requirements for 2019 with consultants.

Attend IBCC meeting in Durango.

Review water court resume applications with Division Engineer.

Coordinate with consultants and engineers on Diamond Springs monitoring well(s) construction.

Meet with representatives of Renewable Water Resources and their intent to export water from the basin.

Conversations with Lisa Darling (Executive Director of the South Metro Water Supply Authority, in Denver) about water export proposal from Renewable Water Resources.

Begin discussions with Rio at the Salazar Center at ASU about the potential for a State of the Basin symposium in 2019.

Give a presentation to students from Colorado College about the history and challenges of our basin.

Attend a meeting of the Saguache Creek water users to update on District and Sub-District efforts.

Meet with representatives of Colorado Open Lands and RiGHT about opportunities around aquifer recovery.

Present to the Rio Grande Senior Water Users group, update on District and Sub-District efforts.

Conduct a 2019 budget work session for the Board of Directors.

Attend the 2nd annual Rio Reels film festival at Adams State.

Set up and participate in a special water education seminar at Ortega Middle School in Alamosa – education/information for 6th graders.

Attend strategy discussion sessions in Denver, concerning the water export proposal.

Participate in the State Affairs video conference for Colorado Water Congress.

Give a presentation to EcoFlight about basin history and challenges. Got to take a flight up and down the Rio as well. Good weather, no snow, but was fun.

Meet with State Representative Donald Valdez to review Renewable Water Resources proposal.

Phone call with Professor Matthew Sanderson at Kansas State – studying the aquifer recovery efforts we are undertaking.

Meet with Senator Bennett's staffer, Erin Minks, to discuss Renewable Water Resources water export proposal.

Meet with multiple stakeholders to review winter flow program on the Rio and the Conejos.

Meet with concerned citizen Kelly Sowards to discuss subdistrict operations and expectations.

Listen to presentation from SWIIM representatives on their ideas about helping with aquifer recovery in the SLV.

Attend and present at the Rio Grande Canal, Monte Vista Canal and SLV Canal annual meetings.

Meet with bank presidents: Alamosa State, SLV Federal, RG Savings and Loan and 1st Southwest to review and discuss District investments.



Breakfast with local realtors to discuss subdistrict efforts and water export proposal.

Attend a groundwater conference sponsored by the Republican River Water Conservation District in Burlington.

Phone call with Professor Jack (?) from Oklahoma University about aquifer recovery efforts here in the SLV.

Present to the Alamosa River Foundation about water export proposal.

Another presentation to a different set of students from Colorado College.

Attend funeral services for both Mac McFadden and Ralph Curtis.

Coordinate with Colorado Water Congress staff, a presentation to the Colorado Water Congress in January.

Phone call with Senator Gardner staff about water export proposal.

Attend a meeting with SD#3 and SD#4 representative about the challenges mitigating injury on the Alamosa River.

Work with Bureau staff and regional staff on the Cooperative Agreement between the District and BOR.

Meet with representatives from Conejos Clean Water group on water export proposal.

Breakfast with local individuals skilled at marketing and public relations. How to be more proficient in our public education and outreach efforts, general District efforts and the water export proposal.

Meet with City of Alamosa officials to review and educate them on water export proposal.

Conduct end of year performance evaluation and discussions with all District employees.

Meet with representatives from EXPO LLC about water availability on the Alamosa River system.

Present to the SLV Cattlemen's Association annual meeting.

Attend the RG Basin Roundtable meeting in January.

Meet with Terrace Reservoir leadership about water opportunities on the Alamosa River.

Meet with all staff about 2019 expectations for the District and the Subdistricts.

Present to the Alamosa County Commissioners, District update.

Attend variety of SD's meetings.

Participate with Rio Grande Basin Roundtable constituents on Stream Management Plan proposal.

Meet routinely with Heather Dutton and Nathan Coombs about Basin issues and opportunities.

Work with staff to outline 2019 budget expectations and appropriate templates.



Subdistrict No.1 Program Manager Report

2018 GW Pumping and SWC Trends

Total Groundwater Pumping for the calculation of the 2018 fees that includes the reconcile period in 2017 was 267, 057 acre feet. Total net groundwater pumped for the 2018 fee processes was 250,647 acre feet.

2018 SD#1 SWC Value for the 4 main canals:

RGC: 17.62 acft/share

SMRC: .98 acft/share

SLVID: .65 acft/acre

SLVC: 1.37 acft/share

Prairie: 56.1 acft/share

Number of 2017 SWC_CO total = 60,043.60 ac.-ft.

Number of 2017 SWC extinguished = 4,822.95 ac.-ft.

Number of 2017 SWC Leased = 26,876.2 ac.-ft.

Number of 2018 SWC_CO total = 55,407.71 ac-ft. (Generated this year and will carry over)

Strategic Planning for Subdistrict No.1 –Phase One

As I am sure all of you have done, I find myself rereading the letter from Kevin Rein on a daily basis. I don't want to say it is an eye opener, because I feel like we have been aware of the deadlines, pumping numbers and climatic challenges. What I did appreciate was the clarity on the state's position and how curtailing wells could happen even prior to the deadline.

We already had in place a conservation brain storming session, a raise in the Variable Fee, public online survey and a public workshop (now titled Sub No.1 Summit) in place PRIOR to the letter we received from Mr. Rein. I feel like this is affirmation that the BOM are aggressively trying to reach goals and even Mr. Rein praises their efforts.

The BOM met on Monday January 7th, to discuss what more can be done for 2019, many ideas were discussed. Further actions will take place after an assessment of enrollment in our current programs to conserve water.

Public Relations

We submitted an article to the Valley Courier regarding the aquifer levels and highlighted parts of the letter from Kevin Rein. The article was published on the front page on Saturday December 22, 2018.

- ❖ A mass mail out was sent to all Subdistrict No.1 stakeholders with information on the Subdistrict No.1 Summit on January 16th and attached to the flyer was the State Engineers letter.
- ❖ Guest speaker on webinar for the Colorado Cattlemen's Association regarding Subdistrict No.1 Fallow/CREP programs



- ❖ Attended Alamosa Middle School Science Expo, hosting a table showing a scale model of the valley floor and the aquifer system and goals of Subdistrict
- ❖ Met with Mosca Hooper Conservation District regarding their electrical resistivity imaging and targeted recharge efforts
- ❖ Spoke with a local bank regarding our fallow programs and the different options available to farmers
- ❖ Met with representatives from SWIIM regarding their products and recharge study efforts
- ❖ Attended Farmers Union, Rio Grande Canal and SLV Canal annual stock holders meeting.
- ❖ Was appointed to the Monte Vista Ag Committee and attended December 6th meeting to cover items for the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference.

Current Tasks

Small Capacity Wells and Non Exempt Wells: Notification is being mailed out to individuals informing them of their need to comply with the soon approved Ground Water Rules. We have identified over 200+ small capacity wells and approximately 70+ other nonexempt wells that are currently not included in the Subdistrict. More information will be provided to individuals at the Summit.

RCPP- We have 6 Farms that are enrolled in RCPP for 2019. Acreage and practice is yet to be determined.

CREP- CREP enrollment is on hold until government shut down is lifted. Kevin Reeves from the Center office has relocated to another FSA position in Northeastern Colorado. Approximately 480 acres are waiting to enroll.

Forbearance: We are asking all Ditch companies for forbearance agreements for 2019.

ARP: Collaboration with the state is underway on possibly restructuring pieces of the ARP in order for an efficient process now that 3 ARP's will be submitted this year.

Replacement Water

For the month of December 2018, 208 acre feet of water from the Closed Basin Project was used to remedy lag depletions.

Projected depletions for January is 198 acre feet. Marisa has requested to Mr. Cotton that the negative (-4) stream reach depletions in Stream Reach 3, could be used against Stream Reach 2.

Upcoming Events

January 16th at 9am is the Subdistrict No.1 Summit. This summit will be used to engage Sub 1 stakeholders, education on programs, rules and solicit input on direction for reaching our goals. Breakfast will be offered and the BOD is welcomed to attend!



Program Manager's Report for Amber Pacheco-January 2019

Subdistrict No. 2-No objections were filed after the State Engineer approved the Plan of Water Management so the Board of Managers was able to assess the Subdistrict's first fees which will be collected in 2019. Staff is now preparing for the filing of the first Annual Replacement Plan which is due to the State in April 2019. We are seeking forbearance agreements from water rights on the Rio Grande who are willing to accept cash in lieu of water and are securing water to be stored in the reservoirs and released when needed when there is no forbearance in place. Replacement of injurious depletions calculated to occur as the result of the groundwater withdrawals from Subdistrict Wells will begin on May 1, 2019 following approval of the ARP. Staff is also working to put together contracts for any wells that were unable to petition into the Subdistrict. The next quarterly meeting for Subdistrict No. 2's Board of Manager's is scheduled for February 12th at 9:00 a.m.

Subdistrict No. 3- The Plan of Water Management was approved by the State Engineer's office and there were no objections filed with the court. The Board of Managers did assess the Subdistrict's first fees for collection in 2019. Staff is now preparing for the filing of the first Annual Replacement Plan which is due to the State in April 2019. We are seeking forbearance agreements from water rights on the Rio Grande, the Conejos and the Alamosa who are willing to accept cash in lieu of water and are securing water to be stored in the reservoirs and released when needed when there is no forbearance in place. Staff is also working to put together contracts for any wells that were unable to petition into the Subdistrict. The next quarterly meeting for Subdistrict No. 3's Board of Manager's is scheduled for March 7th at 8:00 a.m.

Subdistrict No. 4-The Board of Managers continue to work on their draft of a detailed Plan of Water Management. This process is about complete and we are really down to the fine tuning. I anticipate they will have a completed Plan in front of the Board of Directors in early spring for the Board's consideration. I would like to have the Plan to the State Engineer by late spring to allow time for all the approval steps to be completed by mid-summer. The Board has also been working on a set of Rules and Regulations. The Rules and Regulations can be worked on as the Plan moves through the approval process, but we will need to have them about done when the Plan is submitted to the State so they can see what the Subdistrict will allow in terms of contracts, metering of wells, etc. In anticipation of the Plan being finalized this year, our staff has been meeting with the water commissioner on San Luis Creek and Crestone Creek to start talking about administration once the Subdistrict begins making replacements. The Board is starting to talk about solutions for making replacements. Staff continues to look for opportunities to purchase water as well. Their next quarterly meeting is scheduled for March 5th at 9:00 a.m.

Subdistrict No. 5-The Board of Managers continue working on their Plan of Water Management. Their Plan will recognize surface water credit for the Rio Grande Canal shares in the Saguache Response Area so we are working on drafting that language. Like Subdistrict No. 4, I anticipate the Plan will be ready in late spring for the District and State Engineer to consider. If the Plan is approved in 2019, the Subdistrict will be in a position to assess fees for 2019 and their first Annual Replacement Plan beginning in April 2020. In anticipation of the Plan being finalized next year, the Board of Managers requested a call analysis be done on the streams they will be replacing to. The Subdistrict received that analysis and held a public meeting at the Saguache Road and Bridge building to talk about forbearance. The next quarterly meeting for the Board of Managers is scheduled for January 16th beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Subdistrict No. 6- The Board of Managers have held their first meeting and prepared a set of bylaws for the Board and set up their meeting schedule. The Board is wanting to move forward quickly on a Plan of Water Management so I have prepared a first draft for their review at the next meeting. The Board has already began thinking about replacement solutions and are actively looking for every opportunity to get replacements ready to begin making replacements after their Plan is approved. The next quarterly meeting for Subdistrict No. 6 is set for February 12th beginning at 1:30 p.m.



Close



Rio Grande Watershed
Emergency Action Coordination Team

January 2019 Update

- Completed Executive Order 2013-022
- Released Final Report & Hosted Five Years After Event
- Completed Energy Impact Grant #8056 including Final Report

Upcoming Projects with Partners

- Release of the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment
- Implementing Colorado Water Plan and San Luis Valley CCI grants and Mineral County contribution received for 30-Mile Stock Unloading area for fencing and hardened access points, Rio Grande Campground restroom facility and hard-bottomed boat ramp, and Ute Creek Campground restroom facility, trail work, and restoration work
- March 2019 Public Information Training
- Provided Task Order #10 and #11 funds for the initial part of the Alamosa Radar project (in progress)
- Fabrication of two interpretive signs along the Silver Thread Scenic Byway
- 416 fire using RWEACT probes for Water Quality Project and gauges used for monitoring
- Spring Fire using RWEACT gauges for monitoring
- Spring Fire recovery assistance with Costilla County (implementing CUSP grant)
- Fund-development for future RWEACT projects
- Complete five-year Strategic Plan (2019-2023)
- Add board members from Conejos and Costilla county (if they choose)
- Participate in 2-3-2 efforts (2 states, 3 rivers, 2 forests collaboration)

RWEACT (Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team) -- together with the Rio Grande National Forest and funded through the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Department of Local Affairs, and the Office of Emergency Management -- works to promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety and resiliency of communities and watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin of Colorado. More organizational information can be found at www.rweact.org or 970-596-9071 (call or text)

Colorado Forest and Water Alliance, has been formed to address Forest Health Conditions: main purpose is to Advocate with a clear single message.

The members of the Colorado Forest and Water Alliance

Colorado Water Congress

The Nature Conservancy

The Colorado Timber Industry Assoc.

Front Range Water Investment Partners ^{Front Range} water providers

Club 20



Kogovsek & Associates, Inc.

Memorandum

TO: Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board of Directors

FROM: Christine Arbogast

DATE: January 15, 2019

RE: Update

My apologies for scheduling conflicts which prevent me from joining you for today's board meeting.

As you well know, the federal government shutdown continues, and it includes the USDA. While several departments' appropriations bills were approved in the fall, USDA and a few others were not and are caught in stalemate over border security.

This means FSA offices are closed, documents are not being processed and some payments to farmers not already deemed mandatory are not being made.

It also means that the all important steps of writing rules and regulations to implement the farm bill passed at the end of the year are delayed. It potentially also affects the release of the 2020 budget proposal for USDA and all of federal government.

Monitoring and participating in the implementation actions was deemed a top priority by the recent meeting of the National Water Resources Association. The two primary areas of interest are forest health/fire and the conservation programs.

The implementation process is important. It should reflect the intent of the legislation passed by Congress, but leaves some room for agencies to "spin" the process for programs and authorities. Monitoring the implementation and congressional oversight are another step. In the Farm Bill process.

As we go into a new session of Congress, with the House now controlled by the Democrats, we are likely to see a bit of a shift in focus on some issues. However, the Farm Bill passed with strong bipartisan support and efforts to "revisit" such issues (with the exception of the SNAP rule developed by USDA in absence of changes in the Farm Bill itself) are not likely.

Water interests focused on the forest health/fire/watershed management issues are generally pleased by actions last Congress on fire borrowing and on the Farm Bill provisions. However,



there some areas, including management tools in headwaters areas, which did not get addressed. The NWRA and other groups (Family Farm Alliance, which meets in about a month) are developing plans to work with the USDA directly on identifying administrative steps which might be helpful and not require congressional authority.

The Bureau of Reclamation's funding for FY '19 was among those approved last fall, and so the Bureau continues to function during the shutdown of their agencies

The West in particular awaits the nomination of a new Secretary of the Interior. While Deputy Secretary Bernhardt's name remains in the mix for a nomination, the rumor mill says that he has told the White House he prefers to remain in the Deputy Secretary position, doing the nuts and bolts of running the department. The "front runner" in the rumor mill appears to be former Senator Dean Heller of Nevada, who lost his bid for re-election last November. He would easily be confirmed by the Senate if he is nominated. There is no word on timing.

In the meantime, many other positions in the Department remaining in "acting" leadership status.

The future of the reorganization of the Department is also in question. The Democrats now controlling the House are said to favor blocking it. And, a new Secretary may not deem it a priority as former Secretary Zinke had. In the local, area and regional agency office, there is a great deal of concern about the workability of the plan; who is to sign off on certain documents, budget coding, etc.

I will continue to be engaged in the discussions regarding groundwater transfer proposals, and have discussed those plans with the delegation staff. While the federal nexus remains uncertain at this point, they are interested in staying informed and in the District's official position.

I will continue to monitor all of these issues and keep you informed on activities and progress. Please contact me with any questions or comments or suggestions you might have.

