

**BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
March 2, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
By Zoom Teleconference**

Present: Brian Brownell, President; Carla Worley, Vice-President; Jamie Hart, BOM; Miguel A. Diaz, BOM; Sheldon Rockey, BOM; Clay Mitchell, BOM; Chris Miner, BOM; Les Alderete, BOM; Tony Holcomb, BOM; Asier Artachevarria, BOM; Mike Kruse, Ex-Officio.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins P.C.; Marisa Fricke, Program Manager; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Amber Pacheco, Program Manager; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; Michael Carson, Data Base Administrator; and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: William Myers, David Hofmann, Deb Sarason, Peggy Godfrey, Kim Cooley, Steve McCullough, Remington Durre, Greg Higel, Jake Burris, Brian David, Margaret Goehl Trujillo, Brad Grasmick, Ernie Myers, and Steve Keller.

Meeting Called to Order

President Brownell called the budget hearing to order at 1:06 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

President Brownell asked for amendments or an approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Carla Worley to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Clay Mitchell and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Brownell asked for public comment. Brad Grasmick reported on a letter sent to Pete Ampe regarding comments on the proposed 2021 budget on behalf of NEWUA. Pete Ampe confirmed receipt of the letter which included a settlement offer with a water value of \$90, he reported forwarding the letter to the Board of Managers. Carla Worley asked for clarification on the volume of water listed on the spreadsheet. Marisa Fricke provided the total number of Well Permit Purchase offers being 10 wells that had been submitted and the total dollar amount of \$5,597,000 to fund the purchases. Mike Kruse stated he wants NEWUA to understand this is a bidding process and there is private information in the contracts that cannot be shared so that there are no unfair advantages to anyone. Asier Artachevarria asked Ms. Fricke if the offers presented would be accepted based on the parameters set by the Board. Ms. Fricke responded the wells do have consumptive use average to high that would help us to our goal, so the wells that have been submitted Ms. Fricke feels would be ones the Board would purchase.

Discussion was held on the budget, the offers and the funding of the Well Permit Purchase program. Pete Ampe updated the Board on the Annual Report which was just filed. He reported Subdistrict No. 1 groundwater pumping at 244,000-acre feet which is just below the ten (10) year average of 245,000, round numbers, and the net groundwater consumptive use was 123,905 acre feet which is the second worst or highest since 2012. Further Discussion was held on the amount of water and number of wells the Subdistrict plans to retire with the Well Permit Purchase program.

Discussion and Approval of the Revisions to the 2021 Subdistrict #1 Budget

A motion was made by Asier Artachevarria to approve the proposed \$90 variable fee settlement budget. The motion was seconded by Les Alderete. Discussion was held on past variable fee budgets and the possibility of negotiating.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Brian: NO
Carla: NO
Clay: NO
Asier: YES
Les: YES
Tony: NO
Jamie: NO
Sheldon: NO
Chris: NO

Miguel: NO

The motion fails with eight (8) no's and two (2) yeses.

A motion was made by Jamie Hart to keep the fee at \$150 as presented in the budget. The motion was seconded by Carla Worley. Asier Artaechevarria commented on the potential affect the Well Permit Purchase program could have on land values.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Brian: YES
Carla: YES
Clay: YES
Asier: NO
Les: NO
Tony: YES
Jamie: YES
Sheldon: YES
Chris: YES
Miguel: YES

The motion passed with two (2) no's and eight (8) yeses.

Pete Ampe explained the process going forward with amending the budget.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



President



Secretary/Treasurer