

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #6
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
February 12, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101
And By Zoom/Teleconference**

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

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

Guests: Chris Schaefer, Deb Sarason, Jessica Valdez, Hayden Christensen, Curtis Chavez, Justin Rogers, Erin Minks, David Valdez.

Meeting Called to Order

President Faucette called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Virgil Valdez led the opening prayer.

Approval of the Agenda

President Faucette asked for changes/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.

Election of Officers

President Faucette turned the meeting over to Pete Ampe for Election of Officers. Pete Ampe reminded the Board of the current officers and opened up the floor for nominations for President including self nominations or a nomination to maintain the current slate of officers. A motion was made to maintain the current officers. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

President Faucette asked for any changes/amendments or a motion to approve the consent agenda items:

- November 5, 2024-Quarterly Meeting Minutes
- November 5, 2024-Executive Session Minutes
- November 20, 2024-Special Meeting Minutes
- November 20, 2024-Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Faucette asked for public comment. There was none.

Attorney's Report

President Faucette asked for the Attorney's report. Pete Ampe updated the Board on the Texas vs New Mexico and Colorado US Supreme court case. He reported the other Subdistricts continue their efforts to secure permanent sources of remedy and highlighted the filing of the first change case on behalf of Subdistrict No. 2. Mr. Ampe explained the increase of SWSP requests and activity amongst staff in preparation of the Annual Reports and Annual Replacement Plans.

Engineer's Report-Clinton Phillips

President Faucette asked for the Engineer's report. Clinton Phillips presented the Subdistrict No. 6 Alamosa/La Jara Monitoring Wells update. He highlighted the departure of the District's Well Technician and the lack of current well measurements. Mr. Phillips gave an update through October 2024 and went over the change compared to the 2015 baseline and 2023 by model layer. Mr. Phillips reported providing the individual hydrographs in the packet to the Board.

Program Manager's Report

President Faucette asked for the Program Manager's report.

- Financial Report

Angelo Bellah went over the costs and expenses covered by the District for and since formation as well as the remaining balance due to the District. He presented the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement. He went over the assets, liabilities and the equity. Mr. Bellah gave an update on the issue with Rio Grande County not including the Subdistrict fees on tax notices. He presented a summary of budgeted items, the certificate of deposit account and the money market account balances.

A motion was made to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

- Water Accounting and Portfolio Update

Angelo Bellah provided a water accounting update which included the amount of water covered by the Closed Basin Project for depletions, the current reservoir balances and forbearance agreements.

- Preliminary Water Report Update

Angelo Bellah provided the Preliminary Water Report due date and gave an update on the consumptive use rate change request to DWR.

- 2025 Annual Replacement Plan Update

Mr. Bellah provided the 2025 Annual Replacement Plan due date and asked the Board for direction on the forbearance agreement bonus rates.

A motion was made to approve the forbearance agreement bonuses and grant staff authority to negotiate with nonprofits to take a lower bonus for the year without further action from the Board. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mr. Bellah asked for direction on leasing Santa Maria Reservoir Company Monte Vista Canal shares for the 2025 ARP. He gave the number of shares to be leased in 2025, the dollar amount per share and total to lease the shares.

A motion was made to pursue Santa Maria shares. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mr. Bellah reported on an offer from the San Luis Valley Irrigation Well Owners to lease water stored in Platoro Reservoir. He provided the potential acre foot amount of water available for lease to remedy depletions on the Conejos River. Mr. Bellah highlighted the cost per acre foot and the total cost to the Subdistrict if they were to lease all the water available.

A motion was made that Subdistrict No. 6 lease the Taos Valley No. 3 water that's available in the Platoro reservoir, and lease any extra if it becomes available that is not leased by the other Subdistricts. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

- 2025 Irrigation Season Projects

Angelo Bellah provided an update on the filing of the San Luis Valley Irrigation Well Owners Taos Valley No. 3 SWSP for 2025. He reported the Santa Maria Reservoir Company water had been purchased from Subdistrict No. 1 and Jamie Harts fish well was under contract with the Subdistrict. Mr. Bellah gave an update on the Monte Vista Canal SWSP and explained why it may not be feasible this year. Discussion was held on whether or not to proceed with the Monte Vista Canal SWSP.

A motion was made to not proceed with the Monte Vista Canal SWSP for 2025 and move the wells to the Pumping Reduction Program. The motion was seconded. Virginia Christensen abstained. The motion passed.

Mr. Bellah presented the 2025 Pumping Reduction Program application rankings. He gave the amount budgeted for the program, the acre foot amount of reduction and the cost to fund all eight (8) applications. Discussion was held on advertising in order to receive additional applications. Rose Vanderpool explained the situation last year with a shared well. Mr. Bellah presented the results of the Pumping Reduction Program from last year.

A motion was made to accept all 2025 Pumping Reduction Program Applications. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Staff was directed to bring any additional Pumping Reduction Program applications received to the Board for consideration. Staff was also directed to send out a simplified letter to Subdistrict members informing them of the amount they could be compensated for based on historical consumptive use.

Mr. Bellah updated the Board on the Los Sauces SWSP. He reported on the acceptance of the counter offer and the next steps.

A motion was made to accept the counter offer at 5% for 2025. The motion was seconded, one nay vote. The motion passed.

Mr. Bellah gave an update on the Alamosa Creek Canal 2025 SWSP and the Terrace Irrigation Company Storage Agreements.

Subdistrict Member Wells

President Faucette asked for Subdistrict member wells.

- *Curtis Chavez*

Curtis Chavez explained how he is attempting to save money by separating his flood and sprinkler use. He reported having a meter on his sprinkler. President Faucette asked if there was any comingling water going through his sprinkler. Mr. Curtis explained it could be separated. Discussion was held on the number of meters it would take to accomplish Mr. Curtis' request and the risk of setting a precedence for others to make the same request. Rod Reinhardt highlighted the risk Mr. Chavez would be taking of being penalized in connection with the water going to his ditch. Gerald Faucette reported a precedence had already been set on a similar situation a few years ago. President Faucette suggested a second meter be installed in order to be verifiable. Austin Miller highlighted the importance of having the meter certified.

A motion was made to accept splitting the acre foot charges between sprinkler and flood so long as that difference can be verified by putting a second meter going to the sprinkler, the difference between the master meter and the meter at the sprinkler will be assumed to have gone to flood and meters must be verified and second meter must be reported to the Subdistrict otherwise the master meter will control and assume everything went to sprinkler. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

- *Joseph Valdez*

Angelo Bellah reported on wells located in between La Jara and Alamosa owned by Joseph Valdez who has asked if Subdistrict No. 6 would be interested in utilizing/leasing/purchasing the wells for sustainability and or augmentation. He provided the WDIDs, pumping averages and reported on the inactive status of one of the wells. Mr. Bellah presented a map showing the location of the wells and the distance to the Alamosa River. David Valdez highlighted the 80/20 shared ownership of the collapsed/inactive well. Mr. Bellah described potential ways the well could assist the Subdistrict. Discussion was held on whether or not the well would qualify for the Pumping Reduction Program. Mr. Valdez described the other two (2) wells and reported one of them was enrolled in the Pumping Reduction Program. President Faucette requested the Board be provided with an HCU analysis prior to making a Board decision.

Virigina Christensen reported on the need to have a discussion regarding contract wells in executive session.

Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice Regarding Negotiations for the Lease/Purchase of Real Property

President Faucette asked for a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal advice regarding negotiations for the lease/purchase of real property. A motion was made at 4:02 p.m. to enter into executive session to receive legal advice regarding negotiations for the lease/purchase of real property. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ampe stated the Board was entering into executive session pursuant to section 24-6-402(4) to receive legal advice regarding negotiations for the lease/purchase of real property and the Board would take no formal action or position during the executive session

Possible Action Following Executive Session

President Faucette asked for possible action following executive session. There was none.

Direction for Staff

President Faucette asked for direction for staff. There was none.

Next Meeting

A special meeting was scheduled for April 10, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.



President



Secretary/Treasurer