

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #5
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
February 13, 2019, 1:00 p.m.
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room
Alamosa, Colorado 81101**

Present: David Schmittel, President; George Whitten, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Dale Gerstberger, BOM; Cory Hill, BOM and Peggy Godfrey, Ex-Officio Member.

Excused: Kit Caldon, BOM

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Amber Pacheco, Program Manager; Chris Ivers, Deputy Program Manager; Allen Davey and Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; and, April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Deb Sarason, Cody Redden, Phil Ortega, Joann Ortega.

Meeting Called to Order

President Schmittel called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda and Approval of Minutes- January 16, 2019, Quarterly Meeting

President Schmittel asked for any other changes or additions to the agenda. George Whitten asked to include a discussion on the letter he sent the Board of Managers in the New Business section of the agenda. A motion was made by George Whitten to approve the Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dale Gerstberger and unanimously approved.

Attorney's Report

President Schmittel asked for the Attorney's Report. Pete Ampe reported he and Amber Pacheco have been working on Plans of Water Management for the other Subdistricts and will bring some ideas from those Plans to this Subdistrict for the Board to consider. Mr. Ampe also reported they are working on trying to figure out what Subdistrict No. 5's share of sustainability in the Saguache Response Area is. Mr. Ampe stated Subdistricts No. 1, 2 and 3 are working on their Annual Replacement Plans and working to get replacement sources lined out. Those Subdistricts are also working on forbearance agreements and plan to have their Annual Replacement Plans filed in mid-April of 2019 and will start making replacements May 1st of 2019. Mr. Ampe reported Subdistricts No. 4 and 6 are moving quickly on their Plans of Water Management and plan to start making replacements in 2020 along with this Subdistrict.

Review and Edit of the Draft Plan of Water Management

President Schmittel asked for a review of the draft Plan of Water Management.

- Ms. Pacheco provided the Board with a scenario of the Saguache Subdistrict monthly net stream depletions for 2018.
- Ms. Pacheco and Pete Ampe highlighted the changes and edits made to the draft Plan of Water Management since the last meeting.
- Discussion was held on possibly expanding the CREP program or establishing a new one for other Subdistricts.
- Ms. Pacheco received a preliminary report of the 1978-2000 groundwater withdrawal averages and stated Chris Ivers is reviewing the data before he can prepare an analysis of the Subdistrict's proportional share of those groundwater withdrawals for the Board to consider.
- Discussion was held on Snowtel data and how it may relate to the stream flow. Mr. Ampe suggested Davis Engineering could perform more research at the Board's request.
- The Board held a discussion on new commercial wells and whether or not the Subdistrict was required to allow them to contract with the Subdistrict. Mr. Ampe stated the Subdistrict does not have a legal responsibility to allow them to contract.
- A discussion was held on Rio Grande Canal surface water credit and recharge in the Saguache area.



- Mr. Ampe reminded the Subdistrict Board they will need to get creative with the Fish and Wildlife, as well as Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and start working together to see what will benefit Subdistrict No. 5.

New Business

George Whitten discussed how things have changed over time in the Saguache area. He stated the top quarter of farmers are going to buy out the bottom quarter who are the ones least able to deal with the changes. Mr. Whitten stated the Subdistrict has the task of trying to save the economy that was built on a resource that was not there and he is unsure how it can be done. Mr. Whitten stated one farm in his community pumps the majority of the water and the Subdistrict is doing all of this work to make sure that farm does not have a high fee. Mr. Whitten said it is important to get the Plan of Water Management right because it will impact the community and stated if they are able to maintain the aquifer, they may have a chance. Pete Ampe stated the Subdistrict has to also remedy its depletions and not injure the senior water rights. Discussion was held on acquiring new measurement devices on Saguache Creek in order to see how much water is being used and how much water is being recharged. Peggy Godfrey stated a person familiar to the area would be the best person to place the monitoring devices.

Next Meeting

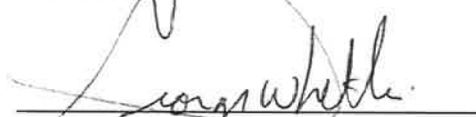
The next Annual meeting will be held on April 17, 2019.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Dale Gerstberger to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by George Whitten and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.



President



Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer

