

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
February 22, 2019, 2:00 p.m.
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room
Alamosa, Colorado 81101**

Present: Brian Brownell, President; Carla Worley, Vice-President; Mike Mitchell, Secretary/Treasurer; Jamie Hart, BOM; Miguel A. Diaz, BOM by telephone; Tony Holcomb, BOM (by telephone); Sheldon Rockey, BOM by telephone; Asier Artachevarria, BOM and Brian David, Ex-Officio

Excused: Jake Burris, BOM and Chris Miner, BOM

Staff and Consultants: David Robbins, Hill & Robins P.C., Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins P.C. (by telephone), Cleave Simpson, General Manager; Marisa Fricke, Program Manager; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; and Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering.

Guests: Deb Sarason, David Hofmann, Mike Kruse, Tim Gallegos, Kent Palmgren, Joe Slane, Dick Ramstetter, Chad Spearman, John Slane, Tuck Slane, Dennis Beiriger, Grant Beiriger, Steve Keller, James Hart, Les Alderete, Scott Wolfe, J. Ehrlich, Norman Slade, Harriette Mason, Erin Nissen, Grant Mattive, William Myers, Cory Mitchell, Judy Jolly, Maria Hart, Dee Greeman, Chris Eddy, Elfirio Romero, Rob Jones, Jeff McCullough, Tommy Biel.

Meeting Called to Order

President Brownell called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Discussion and Possible Action on Variable Fee and Budget

Marisa Fricke provided the Board with the financials. Ms. Fricke provided an over view of the existing and the new expenditures for 2020 which would affect the 2021 budget. President Brownell stated the funds held in escrow are for committed incentives on CREP contracts. Ms. Fricke provided the timeframe the Subdistrict is required to follow when raising the variable fee. She also provided some statistics on the Subdistrict's current standings of CREP and Fallow enrollment. Ms. Fricke reported on the status of prevent plant as well as the feed back from the Summit and the Ag Conference. Discussion was held on the final carry over figure as well as the letter received from the State Engineer regarding sustainability and the tools that are available. Discussion was held on either raising the variable fee or borrowing money in order to pay program incentives. Many members of the public provided comments and concerns regarding the variable fee.

A motion was made by Sheldon Rockey to not raise the variable fee for 2019. The motion was seconded by Miguel Diaz and roll call vote was taken

Tony Holcomb	No
Miguel Diaz	Yes
Sheldon Rockey	Yes
Jamie Hart	No
Brian Brownell	No
Asier Artachevarria	Yes
Mike Mitchell	Yes
Carla	No
Brian David	Yes

The motion passed 5 to 4.

Members from the audience were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions. Rob Jones voiced his concerns and encouraged farmers to take action on their farms to reduce their usage. Grant Mattive stated they only get one chance per year to farm and action needs to be taken now. Mr. Mattive asked what would it take to lower the line of sustainability. Clinton Phillips explained how the sustainability level was developed. Pete Ampe provided his recollection of how the range of sustainability was developed. Norman Slade commented on the status of the river. Jeff McCullough stated if they knew what the State Engineers actions would be, it might change farmers perspective and change the way they farm. Mr. McCullough asked what the process is to change the Plan of Water Management. Mr. McCullough stated the letter from the State Engineer is a



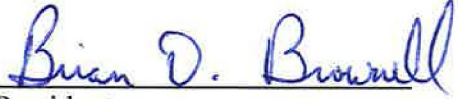
warning, his hope is other farms take action before the wells are shut off. David Hofmann stated he does not foresee them not approving the Annual Replacement Plan this April. Further discussion was held with members of the public and the Board.

Next Meeting

President Brownell announced the next meeting March 5, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



President



Secretary/Treasurer

