

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
March 4, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101
And by Zoom Teleconference**

Present: Jake Burris, President; Clay Mitchell, Vice-President; Michael Jones, Secretary/Treasurer; Miguel A. Diaz, BOM; Tony Holcomb, BOM; Chris Miner, BOM; Jamie Hart, BOM; Brett Hemmerling, BOM; Patrick Brownell, BOM; James Cooley, BOM; and Mike Kruse, Ex-Officio Member.

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

Guests: Deb Sarason, Brian Rue, Peggy Godfrey, Dee Greeman, Willie Hoffner, Wayne Brown, Andy Jones, Rob Phillips, William Myers, David Frees.

Meeting Called to Order

President Burris called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda

President Burris asked for changes, additions or approval of the agenda. The agenda was amended to add discussion and possible action on the consideration of a Participation Contract from Saguache County. A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Brett Hemmerling and unanimously approved.

Election of Officers

President Burris asked for election of officers. Pete Ampe reminded the Board of the current officers; he opened the floor for nominations including self nominations for President or a motion to retain the officers as currently appointed. A motion was made by Miguel Diaz to retain all of the current officers. No other nominations were made, the motion was seconded by James Cooley and unanimously approved.

Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

President Burris asked for disclosure of potential conflicts of interest. Pete Ampe explained the purpose and procedure of the disclosure.

Tony Holcomb: Groundwater, Rio Grande Canal.

Chris Miner: Groundwater, Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria, McDonald Ditch.

Brett Hemmerling: Groundwater, Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria, Shockrol Ditch, King Callan Ditch.

Clay Mitchell: Groundwater, Prairie Ditch, Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria.

Jake Burris: Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria, Farmers Union, Enterprise Ditch, Scotch Ditch, groundwater, Lagarita Creek.

Michael Jones: San Luis Valley Canal, Farmers Union, San Luis Valley Irrigation District.

Miguel Diaz: Billings Ditch, Prairie Ditch, Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria.

Jamie Hart: Santa Maria, Rio Grande Canal, McDonald Ditch, Butler Ditch, groundwater.

Patrick Brownell: Farmers Union, San Luis Valley Canal, Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria.

James Cooley: Prairie Ditch, San Luis Valley Canal, Farmers Union, Annie Rabur, Rio Grande Canal, Santa Maria.

Mike Kruse: Groundwater, Rio Grande Canal, San Luis Valley Canal, Farmers Union, Santa Maria, Enterprise Ditch, Scotch Ditch, La Garita Creek.

Approval of the Minutes

President Burris asked for approval of the following minutes:

- December 2, 2024-Special Meeting
- December 4, 2024-Quarterly Meeting
- January 14, 2025-Special Meeting

A motion was made by Miguel Diaz to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Tony Holcomb and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Burris asked for public comment. Willie Hoffner commented on a meeting he attended with Linda Ramirez and Wylie Keller regarding the five (5) year running average on the Johnny Smith water source on Carnero Creek. He reported on the creek water not making it to his property. Mr. Hoffner thanked the Board for serving and asked them to realize the privilege they have to be able to pump a well.

Program Manager's Report

President Burris asked for the Program Manager's report.

- *Program Manager Quarterly Report*

Quinton Norris reported he has learned a lot in the last two (2) months as Program Manager of Subdistrict No. 1. He provided the number of applications received for the Well Purchase Program (WPP) and the Fallow Program. Mr. Norris reported submitting the Annual Report and the likelihood of having overpaid last year. He highlighted a request from the Board of Directors to schedule a visit to the recharge ponds. Mike Kruse commented on the amount of storage water used last year.

- *Financial Report*

Kylie Gregg went over the Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement, Statement of Cash Flows and Budget to Actual. She highlighted the payments to be made by the other Subdistricts for Santa Maria shares and reported on the revenue, miscellaneous and large costs in the variable.

A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by James Cooley and unanimously approved.

Attorney's Report

President Burris asked for the Attorney's report. Pete Ampe provided an update on the changes to the RGDSS model and the date of the next PRT meeting. He updated the Board on the Texas vs New Mexico and Colorado court case and reported on the upcoming trial dates in 2026.

Engineer's Report

President Burris asked for the Engineer's report. Clinton Phillips presented the change in the unconfined aquifer storage study update. He gave the change for January 2025, change between January 2024 and 2025, the current aquifer level, the current five (5) year average and the acre foot amount needed to get to the -400,000 level. Mr. Phillips presented a snapshot graph of the study period through 2025 and the overall study period graph.

Discussion and Possible Action Items

President Burris asked for discussion and possible action items.

- *District Property Recharge Pits Project*

Clinton Phillips gave a recap on the completion of the first recharge pit project and the Boards approval of recorders for the facility to be installed prior to taking water. He described the next project to be located on the Lacy property and the plan to study the difference between a shallow vs a deeper pond. Mr. Phillips went over the potential for future projects on the other two Subdistrict properties. Discussion was held on possibly applying for grant money to assist with the funding of the studies.

- *2025 District Property Leases*

Quinton Norris reported receiving a bid from the Browns requesting to lease the Medano property.

A motion was made by Miguel Diaz to approve the Pasture Lease Agreement with Wayne Brown on Medano property for 2025. The motion was seconded by Michael Jones and unanimously approved.

- *Appeals*

Quinton Norris presented the Hooper Ridge Farms, Kenneth Carpenter, JC Farms, Tillman and Altitude Ag appeals along with staff recommendations. President Burris reminded those with wells not being used to file them as inactive.

A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve all of the appeals as presented. The motion was seconded by Patrick Brownell, James Cooley recused, the motion passed.

- Surface Water Inclusion Contract

Quinton Norris presented the Sand Dune Farm, LLC Surface Water Inclusion Agreement for 150 shares of San Luis Valley Canal. Patrick Brownell recused himself.

A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to approve the Surface Water Inclusion Agreement. The motion was seconded by Miguel Diaz, Patrick Brownell recused himself, the motion passed.

- Storage Water Accounting

Amber Pacheco reported assisting with the reservoir balances for the Annual Report. She highlighted the different types of water and where the water is being stored. Ms. Pacheco provided the total acre foot being stored and the agreements/costs associated with storing the water. She explained how there may be opportunities to explore ideas on how to manage the stored water going into the new Plan of Water Management. Staff was directed to add an action item to the next meeting agenda to discuss a plan regarding the water being stored by the Subdistrict.

The Board recessed at 2:52 p.m. and resumed at 3:06 p.m.

- Well Purchase Program Offers and Fallow Program Applications

President Burris reported on the number of Fallow Program applications and Well Purchase Program (WPP) offers that had been received and ranked by staff. He asked the Board to discuss and decide which Well Purchase Program offers to approve/deny then use the remaining budgeted funds to approve however many Fallow Program applications possible. Pete Ampe explained why Board of Manager recusals would not be necessary. Disclosures were made by the Board of Managers whom submitted applications for the programs. Clay Mitchell asked for staff and engineering to identify the applicants which would result in the largest impact. Michael Jones advocated for the Fallow Program and Mike Kruse for the Well Purchase Program. Discussion was held on the dollar amount available in the budget to fund the programs and the intent of the escrow funds. Quinton Norris went over staff recommendations. Discussion was held on how the rankings compare to the ones from the prior year and why the applicants chose to apply to the Subdistrict WPP rather than CREP.

A motion was made by Jamie Hart to accept the bids for Well Purchase Program application No. WPP2, WPP1 and WPP8, which are the top three (3) and on the Fallow Program accept the bids for ranking No. 1 through eighty (80) and if necessary, using some of the funds from the Subdistrict Escrow Account. The motion was seconded by Clay Mitchell, James Cooley abstained, the motion passed.

A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to fund the Fallow Program up to \$2,027,110, which represents the top eighty (80) ranked and if someone drops out just move down the list until the \$2,027,110 is used up. The motion was seconded by Brett Hemmerling. The vote was as follows:

Clay Mitchell-YES
Brett Hemmerling-YES
Jake Burris-YES
Michael Jones-YES
Miguel Diaz-YES
Jamie Hart-NO
James Cooley-NO
Patrick Brownell-NO
Chris Miner-NO
Tony Holcomb-NO

Mike Kruse cast the deciding vote, and with his 'no' vote, the motion failed.

- Participation Contract

President Burris summarized the request for a one year (with yearly roll over) Participation Contract from Saguache County for a commercial well at Leach Airport.

A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to accept the Participation Contract. The motion was seconded by James Cooley and unanimously approved.

Board of Mangers Open Discussion

President Burris asked for Board of Managers Open Discussion. There was none.

New Business

President Burris asked for new business. There was none.

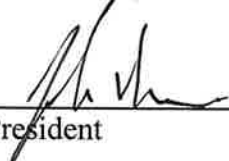
Next Meeting

A special meeting was scheduled for April 9, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.



President



Secretary/Treasurer