**QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS**
**OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1**
**OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
**June 3, 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 Sheldon Rockey, Ex-Officio Member.

**Staff and Consultants:** Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins P.C.; Quinton Norris, Program Manager; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; Kylie Gregg, Office Manager; and, April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

**Guests:** Deb Sarason, Brian Rue, Andrea Rue, William Myers, Jessica Valdez, Ryan Smith.

**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. President Burris welcomed Sheldon Rockey and thanked Mike Kruse for his time on the Board as Ex-Officio Member.

**Approval of the Agenda**
President Burris asked for changes, additions or approval of the agenda. The agenda was amended to remove the Oath of Office for Mr. Rockey as that would be done by the Board of Directors. A motion was made by Clay Mitchell to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Miguel Diaz and unanimously approved.

**Approval of the Minutes**
President Burris asked for approval of the following minutes:

- March 4, 2025-Annual Meeting
- April 2, 2025-Special Meeting
- April 9, 2025-Special Meeting

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

**Public Comment**
President Burris asked for public comment. There was none.

**Request for Support**
President Burris asked for request for support.

- *Assistant Professor Ryan Smith (CSU, Civil and Environmental Engineering)*

Ryan Smith introduced himself and went over his background in hydro geophysics. He explained his plan to submit for a grant from CWCB, answered what airborne electromagnetics is, gave an overview on what he is proposing to do and how it works. Mr. Smith described how the survey could be beneficial to the San Luis Valley and add to the work and research already done. He reported on his conversations with Willem Schreuder and how the data could be used in the model. President Burris said he would be in favor of the request to support and that any new hydro information could be useful. Miguel Diaz commented on a similar study done to the east and described how the study may be helpful in identifying the problematic locations. Sheldon Rockey and Chris Miner said they would be interested in the Board of Directors thoughts. Jamie Hart expressed interest and suggested Subdistrict No. 1 should consider funding a large portion of the match. Discussion was held on how it would fit into the 2026 budget.

A motion was made by Miguel Diaz to direct staff to submit a letter of support to the CWCB expressing Subdistrict No. 1's support for the project, to be a part of the 2026 budgeting process to determine the amount to be allocated. The motion was seconded by James Cooley and unanimously approved.

**Program Manager's Report**

President Burris asked for the Program Manager's report.

- *Financial Report*

Quinton Norris presented the Balance Sheet. He went over the accounts receivables, total current assets, liabilities and equity. Mr. Norris highlighted the upcoming building payment, provided the unrestricted CD balance and presented the Profit and Loss Statement. Kylie Gregg highlighted the rate change and renewing of the CD in July.

A motion was made by Michael Jones to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Miguel Diaz and unanimously approved.

- *Program Manager Report*

Quinton Norris highlighted the submittal and approval of the Annual Replacement Plan (ARP). He reported receiving Farm Plan updates and doing fallow field visits. Pete Ampe reported on the release of new response functions and workbooks in connection with phase 7 of the groundwater model. Wylie Keller described some of the model changes on Saguache Creek and the Rio Grande. Staff was directed to invite Willem Schreuder to the next Board meeting to discuss changes to the model. Mr. Norris updated the Board on Subdistrict No. 1 properties including the recharge ponds. He highlighted the current reservoir account balance sheet prepared by Amber Pacheco.

**Attorney's Report**

President Burris asked for the Attorney's report. Pete Ampe gave an update on the Texas vs New Mexico and Colorado US Supreme court case. He reported when the SWAG trial and the Plan of Water Management No. 4 trials would begin. The Board requested copies of the correspondence/reports in connection with the litigation cases. Discussion was held on what changed in the current SWAG filing.

**Engineer's Report**

President Burris asked for the Engineer's report. Clinton Philips was not present. Pete Ampe provided the Change in Unconfined Aquifer Report for April 2025.

**Discussion and Possible Action Items**

President Burris asked for discussion and possible action items.

- *Appeals*

Quinton Norris presented the Consaul Farms and purchase of Sun House Ventures appeal. He went over the analysis of Subdistrict staff and recommendation to approve.

A motion was made by Chris Miner to adopt the staff recommendation and approve the appeal. The motion was seconded by Michael Jones and unanimously approved.

Mr. Norris presented the AgVance Farmland LLC and Monte Vista Farmland appeal. He went over the analysis of Subdistrict staff and recommended Board direction.

A motion was made Clay Mitchell to deny the AgVance Farmland LLC and Monte Vista Farmland appeal for both years. The motion was seconded by James Cooley and unanimously approved.

Mr. Norris presented the Circle D Farms appeal. He went over the analysis of Subdistrict staff and recommendation to approve.

A motion was made by Patrick Brownell to adopt the staff recommendation and approve the appeal. The motion was seconded by Michael Jones and unanimously approved.

Clay Mitchell recused himself from the next two (2) appeals.

Mr. Norris presented two (2) Mike Mitchell Farms, LLC appeals. He went over the analysis by Subdistrict staff and recommendation to approve.

A motion was made by Jamie Hart to adopt the staff recommendation and approve both Mike Mitchell Farms, LLC appeals. The motion was seconded by Brett Hemmerling. Clay Mitchell recused, the motion passed.

- *Surface Water Inclusion Contract(s)*

Quinton Norris presented the McCullough Farms, LLC Surface Water Inclusion Agreement. He went over the qualifying conditions supplied by the applicant and the qualifying conditions identified by the Subdistrict. President Burris reported on an agreement between the McCullough's and Shawn Schulz. Discussion was held on imported vs native water and if/how the water would benefit the Subdistrict and the unconfined aquifer.

A motion was made by Jamie Hart to approve the Jim McCullough Farms, LLC Surface Water Inclusion Agreement. The motion was seconded by Tony Holcomb.

Discussion was held on setting a precedence and possibly having them come in and discuss further.

The motion was voted on, those in favor were Jamie Hart, Tony Holcomb, Chris Miner, Brett Hemmerling, Patrick Brownell. Those opposed were Michael Jones, Clay Mitchell, Jake Burris, Miguel Diaz, James Cooley. Sheldon Rockey was required to vote to break the tie vote, and with his 'yes' vote, the motion passed.

Quinton Norris presented the Zapata Seed Company Surface Water Inclusion Agreement.

A motion was made by James Cooley to approve the Zapata Seed Company Surface Water Inclusion Agreement. The motion was seconded by Clay Mitchell. Patrick Brownell recused. The motion passed.

**Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice Concerning Potential Purchase of Real Property and to Receive Legal Advice Thereto**

President Burris asked for a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal advice concerning potential purchase of real property, and to receive legal advice thereto. A motion was made by Miguel Diaz at 3:49 p.m. to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Patrick Brownell and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ampe stated the Board was entering into executive session pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(a) to receive legal advice concerning potential purchase of real property, and to receive legal advice thereto. The Board would take no formal action or position during the executive session.

**Board of Mangers Open Discussion**

President Burris asked for Board of Managers Open Discussion. Clay Mitchell requested a discussion regarding the Subdistrict's water in storage be included on the next meeting agenda.

**New Business**

President Burris asked for new business. There was none.

**Next Meeting**

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

President

Secretary/Treasurer