

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

Christy Doon, City of Salida Administrator
Travis Payne, Canon City Water Superintendent
Sean Kelly, Town of Poncha Springs
Dwayne McFall, Fremont County Commissioner

GUESTS PRESENT

Joe Stone, Heart of the Rockies Radio News

GUESTS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERNING)

Justin Kurth, Regional Director and Outreach Coordinator for US Rep. Brittany Pettersen

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Canterbury led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were asked to introduce themselves.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF November 14, 2024

The minutes of the meeting on November 14, 2024, were approved upon motion by Director Hilderbrand with a second by Director Telck.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon motion by Director Goodwin with a second by Director Payne, the Board approved the monthly financial reports dated November 30, 2024. Upon motion by Director Goodwin with a second by Director Telck, the Board approved the monthly financial reports dated December 31, 2024.

Adoption of an official posting place:

Upon motion by Director Donley, with a second by Director French, the Board approved the front lobby of the Ken Baker Water Enterprise Building and the website as designated official posting places.

PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Kurth from the office of Rep. Brittany Petterson, briefly informed the Board of the John Griffin Regional Reservoir project. He stated that it is a Water Resources Development Act provision that has been authorized but not appropriated on the Arkansas River. He further stated that it is a 50 million dollar investment from the US Army Corp of Engineers applied for by the City of Canon City and has been authorized through Congress.

Director Donley asked where the project will be located. Hydrologist Gertson stated that the project will be located at the old sanitation facility. Mr. Kurth added that it is East of 9th Street in Canon City.

Advisor Scanga questioned the feasibility of the project. He said a reservoir cannot be built in water. He stated that it is essentially a wetland and would require a liner and a drain and there is nowhere for the water to be drained. He added that it is "a bridge to nowhere". Mr. Scanga expressed that he understands the desire to enhance the park, however building a water storage facility at the same time doesn't make sense and the money would be better spent on a project that would be beneficial to the entire Arkansas Basin. He proposed use of the money for expanding DeWeese Reservoir by putting some of Canon City's water supply in the reservoir. Mr. Scanga said Canon City Water Superintendent, Travis Payne suggested putting a pipe across Grape Creek so when there is a spill in the river which would contaminate Canon City's water supply, the city would have a clean water supply and effective storage. Advisor Scanga articulated that this project is building a pond to evaporate water, essentially using water without replacement and without any benefit to anyone.

Director Payne and Director Hilderbrand concurred with Advisor Scanga's thoughts. Director Payne commented that the pump back up to the water treatment plant will cost more than the reservoir and questioned the feasibility of pumping back.

Advisor Scanga asked Mr. Kurth about the possibility of utilizing the funding to accomplish the same

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benefit but not build a reservoir in the proposed area? Mr. Kurth stated that he could take Mr. Scanga's question to the team, however, once Congress authorizes the use of money for a particular purpose, it would take another act of Congress to change the authorization. Mr. Scanga stated how wasteful the use of 50 million dollars for this project is. He added that it would make sense if the money could be redirected to a really good project which achieves the same purpose and work through the technical aspects of the project while still granting Canon City the same benefit for less money.

Manager Felt asked Mr. Kurth if there may be an opportunity to speak with the team and possibly Congresswoman Petterson to express the Board's concerns with the project? He stated that when a group of the District's nature has identified so clearly issues with this type of project, it should be something the Congresswoman and team would want to get ahead of. Mr. Kurth stated he would be happy to connect the District with the team members and asked that the Board connect with Canon City to find out why they applied for it.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

None

PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT- Gracy Goodwin

Project Manager Goodwin shared a power point for January 2025 project updates. The report included project updates on Round Mountain Reservoir Feasibility Study and Construction Grant, Trout Creek Intra-Ditch Exchange, Trout Creek Park Alluvial Storage, DCP Upgrade and Expansion, and USGS Study Phase 3.

PM Goodwin briefed the Board on monitoring well #2 for the Trout Creek Park Alluvial Storage project. She stated that several pump tests were conducted since the initial production was not large enough. She further stated that the larger pump did not produce the quantity of water desired. PM Goodwin added that she is currently working with Engineer Manera and Hydrologist Gertson on the well data to determine the best well location.

Engineer Manera expressed that he was hoping for better pumping results. He said the pumping rate of 110 to 120 gpm's was disappointing. He explained that out of the approximate 90 feet of well casing below the river level there was a small zone that was a heavy producer but the production varied throughout the well. He stated that it isn't a well size or screening issue; it is due to limited zones of water production. Engineer Manera further explained options moving forward include a bigger well with a larger casing or drilling multiple wells.

Hydrologist Gertson explained that the monitoring well is approximately 70 feet away from where they were pumping with a draw-down of less than 2 feet at a 3 hour rate. Mr. Manera commented that the data indicates that it is good for not impacting wells in the area but also the interconnectivity is not yielding what was anticipated.

Advisor Scanga proposed alternatives to using a well for water supply. Through discussions with GM Felt, Hydrologist Gertson and Engineer Manera, he suggested using either the Bray-Allen Ditch or the Helena Ditch, as the pipeline would cross these ditches. His idea was to run water down one of the ditches and pump directly out of the ditch thus avoiding the need for a well. He also felt that if the District has to go back to court anyway, it might be more advantageous to amend the decree to include a direct diversion structure from one of these ditches as a potential substitute water supply, in addition to lowering the minimum diversion increment in the decree.

Atty Burgemeister stated that both options require amending the existing decree. He said the decree was a typical stipulated decree that was reached through negotiation and compromise. He pointed out that whether any opposers to the original decree would have more concern about Bray-Allen or Helena Ditch versus a well it would still take effort to amend the decree. He expressed that switching to one of the ditches seems less objectionable than having to lower the half cfs increment. He explained that the Division Engineers' concern and reason for that increment was whether there was enough water available to be administrable, and whether a half cfs in reduction to diversions would show up on the Trout Creek

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Company's flume in order to justify a half cfs out of priority diversion of the reservoir. He added that if it is lowered too much, you perhaps dip into the margin of error.

Hydrologist Gertson cautioned about the use of the Bray-Allen Ditch due to access and maintenance issues associated with the wing wall in the creek that a wash out in 2019 removed. He added that access is difficult. Mr. Gertson suggested that pumping from the Helena Ditch would be more cost effective.

Mr. Scanga proposed that during negotiations with the Department of Corrections, (DOC) and Cogan's, the District could suggest taking over the maintenance costs on the Helena Ditch to a certain point and incorporate it into the diversion point for the substitute supply. He said it could be a win-win by gaining alluvial storage and substitute supply source and potentially put in a divider to divert by gravity to the Moltz pond where the District stores water and back into the Trout Creek Co. Ditch. Advisor Scanga explained that it would eliminate the power issue and cost of pumping. He added that it could be a good investment and a good negotiating point for the rest of the Alluvial Storage project.

Engineer Manera stated that from a pumping standpoint either source would be very feasible. He further stated that it draws into what the initial project was trying to accomplish.

CONSULTANT REPORT – Richard Brown

A written report from Legislative Consultant Brown was made available for Board Members to review. Mr. Brown was not present at the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

RESUME REVIEW COMMITTEE

Nothing of significance in the November 2024 Resume

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Following extensive discussion and upon the recommendation of the HR Committee, the Board approved modifications to the existing staff health insurance plan.

Upon Motion by Director Payne, seconded by Director Hilderbrand, the Board approved an extension of health care insurance benefits to cover 50% of the premium for staff dependents.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Greg Felt

Manager Felt informed Board members of Ken Baker's upcoming funeral services on January 10, 2025. Many Board members expressed their condolences and acknowledged Mr. Baker's significant impact on the District and its members. Advisor Scanga emphasized Ken Baker's crucial role in the district's formation, stating that without his efforts, the district would not exist. He expressed his condolences and reflected on their long working relationship, noting Mr. Baker's significant loss..

ENGINEERING REPORT – Colorado River Engineering, Chris Manera

Engineer Manera added his engineering update during PM Goodwin's monthly report above.

LEGAL REPORT – Law of the Rockies, Kendall Burgemeister

Opposition updates, transactional matters, applications, and updates were included in the Law of the Rockies written report presented by Atty Burgemeister. The report was made available to all Board members prior to the meeting.

There was discussion regarding the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) proposing amendments to instream flow rules as required by passage of SB-24-197, which authorizes leases of storage water rights to support instream flows in stream reaches without decreed instream flow water rights. Atty Burgemeister stated that he participated in a public comment meeting and the rules are largely procedural and should be monitored to ensure they are consistent with state statute, which requires prevention of injury to existing water rights.

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CHAIRMAN & DIRECTOR REPORTS

Director McMurry informed Board members of a gray wolf recently spotted within the county. Director Payne informed the Board that the quarterly District report for December 2024 property taxes, ownership taxes, and interest on investments were over 100%. He said it is not always easy to do and expressed a job well done.

NOTICES & MEETINGS

- **CWC Annual Convention: January 29-31, 2025, Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conf. Center**
- **Arkansas Basin Roundtable: February 12, 2025, Pueblo Community College**
- **Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: March 5-6, 2025, Pueblo Convention Center (Local Leaders Dinner on evening of March 4, 2025)**

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board or Enterprise and upon motion by Director Donley and approval of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:51pm.


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Respectfully submitted,




Gregory W. Felt, General Manager



Timothy C. Canterbury

absent - no signature

Mannie Colon



Robert B. Donley



Ben Lenth



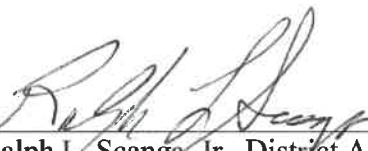
Tom E. French



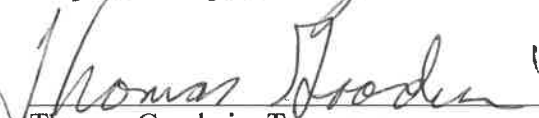
Brett A. McMurry



Mike Shields



Ralph L. Scanga, Jr., District Advisor



Thomas Goodwin, Treasurer




Richard Hilderbrand



Albert Eggleston



Warren Diesslin



Tim Payne



Tony Telck