



St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Liberty Grange Hall, 2029 Highway 66, Longmont 80504
And Via Zoom
May 10, 2021

I. ROUTINE ITEMS

A. Call to Order – *President Smith*

The Board of Directors held its meeting in person at the Liberty Grange Hall and also via Zoom. President Smith called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM and asked that Assistant Secretary Lee call the roll.

B. Roll Call – *Assistant Secretary Lee*

Board members present: President Smith, Vice President Varra, Secretary Carlson, and Directors Sigg, Sutherland, Wolford, and Yanchunas were present in person, and Director Golden was present via Zoom. Treasurer Rademacher was not present with an excused absence.

Staff members and consultants present: Executive Director Sean Cronin, Water Resources Engineer Scott Griebing, and Assistant Secretary Donna Lee were present in person. Engineer Mark McLean, with Deere & Ault, Scott Holwick, with Lyons Gaddis Attorneys and Counselors, and Water Commissioner Shera Sumerford were present via Zoom. Elizabeth Black, The Citizen Science Soil Health Project, was an in-person presenter at this meeting.

C. Amendments or Additions to the Agenda – *President Smith*

President Smith asked if there were any changes or additions to the Agenda. Mr. Cronin replied that there were additions and added Agenda Items V.E., Director Compensation, V.F., Office Space Committee Report, and V.G., Lake 4 Update.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Motion: Approval of April Minutes

B. Motion: March General Fund Finance Reports

C. Motion: March Enterprise Fund Finance Reports

ACTION NEEDED

President Smith asked if there were any questions, concerns, or discussion regarding the Consent Agenda items. Director Sigg noted the draft minutes reflected Jason Roudebush being present, and that should have read Scott Griebing instead. Since that was the only change, President Smith called for a motion. Secretary Carlson moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction to the draft April minutes changing Jason Roudebush's name to Scott Griebing's. Vice President Varra seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. The Citizen Science Soil Health Project – *Ms. Elizabeth Black*

Ms. Black provided a PowerPoint presentation covering the work she has been doing over the past year. Elizabeth stated 47 growers participate in the Project, 4 of whom were sponsored by the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District. Ms. Black explained the Haney Soil and PLFA Tests she used to gather data for a tillage score. She stated that the growers made a ten-year commitment to the program, and this year is the second year of the program. Ms. Black said they looked at a total of 251 soil samples, and they looked at phosphorus levels, pH levels, and soil texture, and compared findings in spring and fall samplings, noting the Fall median is higher than the Spring. Ms. Black said they gave awards this year for Vegetable Production, Home Growers, Commodity Growers, and Pastures.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Fourth Amendment of the Lake 4 IGA with Boulder County – *Executive Director Cronin*

Executive Director Cronin directed the Board to the Memo in their packet. Mr. Cronin stated that this fourth amendment to the Lake 4 IGA with Boulder County was to bookend the project. He reminded the Board about how Boulder County Parks and Open Space is paying 50% of the pipeline cost. Executive Director Cronin was commended on the work he did to ensure that arrangement was in place with Boulder County. Director Sigg moved to approve the Fourth Amendment of the Lake 4 IGA with Boulder County upon correcting any typos before signing. Vice President Varra seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Copeland Reservoir Update – *Mr. Scott Griebling*

Mr. Griebling provided the Board with a short update stating he would be applying for a feasibility study grant through CWCB. After that, he noted that the next steps would be to move forward with lining the reservoir and then determine to what extent the inlet could be improved. A question was raised about whether further research is being done on the property and about the District's plans to retain all of the property. Executive Director Cronin talked about looking at the contractual obligations. Staff agreed to bring this item back to the Board in June as a package deal.

B. 2021 Staff Workplan – *Executive Director Cronin*

Executive Director Cronin referred the Board to the Memo in their packet. Mr. Cronin stated the percentages presented in the Memo were based on the number of working days for 1.5 FTEs. He said that with Scott Griebling now on Board, the totals are slightly more than 100% of those tasks listed. Executive Director Cronin stated the document is more of a guide and number one on the list is not a higher priority than number two. He continued saying that something else must fall off or get pushed down the list if something else comes up. The Board noted that the timeline moves, which allows staff to measure progress. The Board mentioned that the Workplan should not stop at the end of the year but continue to move forward. The Board suggested that staff generate a year-end report that addresses what was accomplished based on the plan looking into the future. Another suggestion was to add an item for unplanned tasks. The Board described the Workplan as a staffing tool that shows

what staff can accomplish and can identify when there is a need to add another staff member and, thereby, able to justify it. Executive Director Cronin said that not all the 7A items are part of the 16 tasks listed in the Workplan. The Board noted that staff would need to measure results and decide how to handle changes in priorities.

C. Creek Improvement Facilities-Update – *Mr. Scott Griebling*

Mr. Griebling stated that, since there was a delay in completing Lake 4, staff are now working on a project to identify locations and opportunities for Creek Improvement Facilities. Scott said he and Sean are meeting to select sites in the Basin while keeping the project goals in mind. Mr. Griebling talked about organizing a workshop that he and Sean would facilitate to look at the Basin with Google Earth. He stated there are challenges to any site but believes it would be beneficial to broaden the view by talking to stakeholders and experts. Scott spoke about November being the timeline to identify locations for a Creek Improvement Facility with the scope of work occurring in 2022. Mr. Griebling stated that Phase 1 involved the Board approving the Stream Management Plan Report. He further explained that Phase II includes getting up-to-speed and identifying several sites or improvements this year or screening, then sifting through the work and whittling it down to what facility is or which facilities are most useful and most cost-effective. The Board asked about budget planning, and if the scoping of work on this project does not happen until the November/December timeframe, wouldn't the budget planning be done by then. Executive Director Cronin replied, stating it could be a tight turnaround. However, he noted that the Board has talked about a specific budget item to add when they approve the budget in December. Mr. Cronin further stated that these funds are General Fund dollars and can be reallocated in January or February. Mr. Cronin said he has a relatively good idea of forecasting what will need to in the Workplan in 2022.

D. In-Person Meetings – *President Smith*

President Smith stated he wanted to get an idea of what people are comfortable with regarding getting back together to meet in person, especially since most Directors were ready and willing to meet in person for this Board meeting. Director Golden was participating via Zoom, and he stated he was unable to see everyone in the room. President Smith asked about the need to have a roll call vote to which Mr. Holwick responded that it was not necessary if the minutes reflect which Director voted against an item. Mr. Holwick further stated a roll call vote should be taken when a Director does vote Nay on an item. President Smith asked what the immediate plan was for future meeting space, asking Ms. Lee to check on the availability of the Liberty Grange Hall for future meetings.

E. Director Compensation – *Executive Director Cronin*

Executive Director Cronin stated the Court approved the request for an increase in the maximum yearly compensation from \$1,200 per year to the maximum total allowed by statute of \$2,400. Mr. Cronin explained how the Board could allocate the \$2,400 and determine which meetings of the Board they want to cover by it, i.e., agenda setting meetings, committee meetings, sub-committee meetings, and/or meetings that require a quorum. The Directors wanted time to think about their preferences; therefore, this item will be on the June Board meeting agenda to determine how everyone wants to move forward.

F. Office Space Committee Report – Directors Sigg, Varra, and Yanchunas

Director Sigg stated the Committee met with Keith Kanemoto, Realtor, and Doug Sigg, Owners Representative, and visited the first available property that met the District's parameters that morning. She stated the space was approximately 3,050 sq. ft. The seller was motivated to sell with the asking price of \$549,000. Director Sigg also said she felt the Board needed to act quickly and figure out how to use the C-BT units. She asked the Board to provide the Committee with authorization to make an offer on the property when they were ready to do so. Mr. Holwick also noted that the Board would need to authorize the sale of C-BT as well. Director Wolford moved to approve the sale of C-BT units at \$60,000/unit. Executive Director Cronin explained that the Enterprise Fund has historically been charged back for staff time worked on the Augmentation program and 15% of the rent cost. Executive Director Cronin stated that some of the C-BT units are encumbered, and some are not, which alleviates cash flows in the Enterprise Fund. The Board clarified that Executive Director Cronin has the right to act on behalf of the District and accept offers on 12 C-BT units that will provide the \$750,000 needed for the purchase and any renovations and furniture. Executive Director Cronin stated there were a total of 41 unencumbered C-BT units. Director Yanchunas suggested ten could come from the General Fund and two from the Enterprise Fund. A special meeting of the Board would need to be held in a couple of days to identify the twelve CBT units the Board wants to sell. For the Board to sell C-BT units, a resolution is required. Mr. Holwick noted that a Special Meeting Notice is required by statute to be posted 24 hours before that meeting, and posting the meeting notice on the website and sending a message to each Director by email would meet that requirement. President Smith requested staff schedule a Special Board Meeting.

G. Lake 4 Update – Mr. Scott Griebing

Executive Director Cronin stated Mr. Griebing and Mr. McLean were out getting Lake 4 up and running that morning and that Lake 4 water storage right is in priority. There was no call on the South Platte, and they have not removed the call for Lake 4 but planned to do so the following day. Mr. Griebing stated they cleaned out the remaining debris from the gates, opened the gates, and noted there were 10-11 CFS in South Branch Ditch and that diversions were working well. Scott stated they would fill 40-acre feet in the next 24 hours, 2 feet at a time. Mr. Griebing said he located the equipment for the Lake 4 sensors and recorders. Executive Director Cronin stated that Mr. Griebing and Mr. McLean would be installing instrumentation later in the week, and there would be accounting done in June. They follow the 72-hour rule, which is limited to a 1-acre foot per day, and asked the construction manager to allow the ground to saturate. He also stated that the state engineer would be out to look at it as well.

VI. REPORTS

A. Water Commissioners Report – Ms. Shera Sumerford

Ms. Sumerford stated that:

There was No call on the mainstem on 5/10/21.

Call on the St. Vrain is Akers and Tarr Res, 12-2-1918, admin #27910.

(might go to 'no call' conditions the following day at 8 AM)

At 8 AM that day, the Lyons gauge recorded 319cfs. Shera stated that Button Rock reservoir began spilling the night before. Shera and the City of Longmont are working on a better calculation or "guesstimation" of the amount spilling.

Reservoirs are 65% full as of the end of April.

Snowpack:

Upper CO -- 65%

South Platte --102%

S.V. -- 147% (She was unsure on this value, but this was the estimate of the four sites she discussed with Don Graffis several years in the past)

She and Martin Sarley are working on preparing the St. Vrain for irrigation. Longmont Supply is flushing, and Clough Private is the only ditch running actual irrigation. Supply is running to Divide, Palmerton is running to Burch, Highland runs to the non-jurisdictional(s) and Foothills, Oligarchy is running to both McIntosh and Union, and now South Branch to Lake 4.

B. Legal Report – *Mr. Scott Holwick*

Mr. Holwick directed the Board to the Legal Memo in their packet.

C. Engineers Report – *Mr. Mark McLean*

Mr. McLean shared information from the Water Supply Outlook Report, stating the basin is at 125% of average, which is the highest in Colorado. He also said the NRCS estimate for streamflow for the St. Vrain Basin is at 98% of average.

D. Executive Director Report – *Executive Director Cronin*


Mr. Cronin stated that he had nothing more to report.

E. Items from the Board – *President Smith*


Secretary Carlson shared his experience helping clean up the river after the oil tanker spill that occurred recently. He said he worked with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and that there was a big turnout. Unfortunately, he said, the gas spill killed many trout. It was mentioned that the Left Hand Watershed Center did a stocking in Beaver Analog with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and will monitor off and on channel. They are looking at removing fish barriers. It was also noted that the CWC is stocking over 80,000 trout.

Upon motion by Director Yanchunas and seconded by Director Wolford, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 3:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donna Lee, Assistant Secretary



Christopher Smith, President