



St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
Weld County - Southwest Service Center, 209 County Rd 24 1/2  
Longmont, CO  
May 9, 2022

I. ROUTINE ITEMS

A. Call to Order – *President Smith*

President Smith called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

B. Roll Call – *Assistant Secretary Ruark*

**Board members present:** President Smith, Vice President Varra, Treasurer Rademacher, Secretary Carlson, Directors Sigg, Yanchunas, Moore, Wolford and Golden were present.

**Staff members, consultants and guests:** Executive Director Sean Cronin, Water Resources Engineer Scott Griebing, Office Manager Mona Ruark, and Water Resources Specialist Jenny McCarty were present. Attorney Scott Holwick with Lyons Gaddis and Water Commissioner Shera Sumerford were present.

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

Executive Director reported Mr. Ron Sutherland was not able to attend the meeting and requested postponing agenda item III.A Resolution in Recognition of Mr. Sutherland to the June meeting.

D. New Staff Introduction – *Executive Director Cronin*

Executive Director Cronin introduced the District's new employee, Jenny McCarty, who was hired as Water Resources Specialist. Ms. McCarty gave a presentation of her background and project experience.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of April 11, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of April 29, 2022 Board Retreat Minutes
- C. Approval of March General Fund Finance Reports
- D. Approval of March Enterprise Fund Finance Reports
- E. Approval of C-BT Rental Policy

Treasurer Rademacher moved to approve the Consent Agenda as revised. Director Carlson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. C-BT Rental Fee Setting – *Mr. Scott Griebing*

Beginning in 2022, the District entered into a ten (10) year lease agreement with the Left Hand Water District ("LHWD") for 250 Units of District C-BT water. The LHWD informed the District that it will not exercise its option to lease any of the District's C-BT water in 2022. Therefore, the District may rent the 250 Units of its C-BT water to other entities in 2022. According to the District's C-BT Rental Policy, the General Fund's 107 Units of C-BT water are available to

rent to in-District agricultural producers at a fee determined annually by the Board. Northern Water issued a 70% quota in 2022, resulting in 74.90 acre-feet of General Fund C-BT water available for rent. Staff recommended the Board set the 2022 rental fee for the General Fund C-BT water at \$54.25 per acre-foot. Director Yanchunas made a motion to approve the rental rate for the General Fund C-BT water at \$54.25 per acre-foot for 2022. Vice President Varra seconded the motion. The Board discussed factors for setting the rental rate, and following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. PRESENTATION ITEMS

##### A. Copeland Reservoir Pre-Design Tasks – *Mr. Scott Griebling*

To help determine the project design and permitting of the Copeland Reservoir rehabilitation project, Mr. Griebling reported the following tasks are needed: 1) outlet works scope, 2) bathymetric survey, and 3) aquatic resource delineation. The Board discussed the costs of these tasks and requested staff to obtain additional information for the outlet works scoping. The results of all three tasks are expected to be completed for the Board to review at the August meeting.

#### V. REPORTS

##### A. Finance Committee Report – *Treasurer Rademacher*

Treasurer Rademacher reported the Finance Committee met earlier today and reviewed 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financial reports and invoices. The audit is expected to be completed by the end of May.

##### B. Water Commissioner Report – *Ms. Shera Sumerford*

Commissioner Sumerford presented the following report:

- There is a call on the mainstem of the South Platte River at Reservoir #8, admin #19531, 6-23-1903
- The call on St. Vrain Creek is Rough and Ready Ditch, admin 7012, 3-13-1869.
- The St. Vrain Creek at Lyons gage reading was 94.4cfs at 8AM on 5/9/2022.
- Reservoir readings in the basin at the end of April were at 62% of capacity.
- Snowpack numbers show the Upper Colorado basin at 82%, the South Platte basin at 86%, and the St. Vrain basin at 81% of average for this time of year.

##### C. Legal Report – *Mr. Scott Holwick*

Mr. Holwick presented the following report:

- There were no applications of potential interest in the March resume for Water Division No. 1.
- In the Application To Amend The District's Aug Plan, Case No. 21CW3018, the Court entered the final decree in this case on April 14th.
- On January 20, 2018, the District obtained a finding of diligence for the Coffintop conditional water storage rights in Case No. 17CW3117. The District will need to file a water court application on or before January 31, 2024 to continue these conditional water rights.
- In the Application Of Little Thompson Water District, Case No. 21CW3112, the Water District seeks a finding of reasonable diligence for conditional water rights and to perfect 1,157.03 AF (out of 1,400 AF; appropriation date of August 4, 2005) for Bayshore Lakes. The Water District circulated documents supporting its claims on January 21st. Deere & Ault reviewed, and Counsel has submitted a follow-up question to the Water District.

Director Yanchunas moved to authorize Counsel to execute a stipulation in Case No. 21CW3112 contingent upon the Water District satisfying Deere & Ault's questions on the claim to perfected a portion of the conditional water storage right. Treasurer Rademacher seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- For Case No. 21CW3216 – Notice Of Filing Of Final Decennial Abandonment List For Water Division No. 1, the State filed the final abandonment list in the December resume and protests must be filed no later than on June 30, 2022.
- Counsel is exploring participation in a legislative modification to the 811 Statute to alleviate compliance costs and administrative burdens on ditch companies.
- The legislature convened on January 12, 2022. Counsel did not report on any bills relevant to the District.

**D. Projects and Programs Report – Mr. Scott Griebling**

Mr. Griebling presented the following report:

- Snowpack declined through April and warm weather is forecasted, which may result in lower than average runoff.
- Staff is monitoring Lake No. 4 for spring flows to fill it and are developing alternative plans to satisfy the depletion replacement requirements of the District's Augmentation Program in the event Lake No. 4 does not fill.
- Staff will mail 2022 invoices to Augmentation Program members once the District receives approval from the State.
- Ms. McCarty and Mr. Griebling conducted field work at Copeland last week.
- Ms. McCarty is working with Deere & Ault on next steps on CIF projects.
- Staff submitted comments to Boulder County Floodplain Permitting Amendments and the County accepted the District's request for exemptions for small water measuring devices.
- The office remodel is moving forward with drywall work starting this week.

**E. Executive Director Report – Executive Director Cronin**

Executive Director Cronin presented the following report:

- An executive summary will be added to next month's Board meeting packet as requested at the retreat.
- The Jamestown Fire Mitigation Project is making progress and has received a lot of community support.

**F. Items from the Board**

- Director Yanchunas reported Northern Water is looking at increasing the C-BT quota later this week.
- Treasurer Rademacher reported Highland Ditch is considering whether to set up a non-potable water system.

At 2:15 PM, Director Yanchunas moved to adjourn the meeting, Director Sigg seconded the motion, and the motion passed with unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Mona Ruark, Assistant Secretary

  
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Christopher Smith, President