

These written minutes represent the general discussion of the DWCD Board of Directors, DWCD staff, and participants at the DWCD board meeting, and they include a record of any and all board actions taken at the meeting. The written minutes are not intended to provide a word-for-word account of the board meetings. Nor are they a direct quote of any statements offered at board meetings. All DWCD board meetings are recorded on audio tape.

## DOLORES WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE

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### MINUTES Regular Meeting July 11, 2019

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**CALL TO ORDER** Bruce Smart, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

**ROLL CALL** Bruce Smart, President  
Simon Martinez, Vice-President  
Don Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer  
Godwin Oliver, Director  
Wes Wilson, Director  
Glen Fish, Director  
Sheldonna Z. Ives, Director  
Mike Preston, General Manager  
Ken Curtis, Engineer  
Lloyd Johnson, Maintenance Supervisor  
Lisa Jordan, Office Administrator  
Robert Stump, Bureau of Reclamation  
Adam Reeves, Attorney  
Dan McCarl, Attorney  
Doug Pickering, Colorado Division of Water Resources

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Brandon Johnson, General Manager MVIC; Rich Landreth, City of Cortez; Ed Millard, Montezuma County/IBCC/SWBRT, Leroy Oliver, FS Irrigator; Jim Farrier, FS Irrigator; Greg Vlaming, High Desert Conservation District

### MINUTES

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE JUNE 13, 2019 ENTERPRISE MEETING AND MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE JUNE 13, 2019 PETITION HEARING.**

**MOTION: SIMON MARTINEZ**

**SECOND: GODWIN OLIVER**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY GLEN FISH AND SHELDONNA Z. IVES ABSTAINED.**

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MAY '19 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF PAYABLES AS PRESENTED.**

**O&M: AP/CHECK #37314-37380 & PR/CHECK #123345-123396  
\$219,830.66**

**MOTION: SIMON MARTINEZ**

**SECOND: WES WILSON**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**O&M REPORT** – Lloyd reported the following:

**McPhee Dam** – Log and debris removal is currently in progress, which will continue for the next few weeks.

**Power Plants** – McPhee Power Plant continues to run at 75 cfs (1.2 megawatts) and Towaoc Power Plant has been running near 300 cfs (8 megawatts). Both plants have been running continuously since startup this season.

**Laterals** – Several downstream valves at delivery boxes have been replaced. One new M&I tap was installed, several others will be installed later in the season.

**DCL&G** – Several new taps were installed, two more installs are in the planning stages.

**South Canal** – There were two power outages this month on the underground power line between Pleasant View and Ruin Canyon. The first was a fault in a load break elbow in a junction box, then five days later an underground splice failed. It was explained that the faulty splices were the fault of the contractor who is under contract with WAPA. WAPA is aware of the issues. It was stated that the response time from WAPA has improved greatly, this is a matter of a poor contractor. Godwin asked if there was a way to get the equipment to test for the faults. Ken explained that even if DWCD could locate/detect a problem we are not allowed to open any of WAPA's boxes or work on their equipment. Mike stated that even though the response time is much better we need to go back and re-visit the arrangement that we have with WAPA. The WAPA staff comes from Shiprock and the backup team is from Montrose. The final contract is scheduled for October 10, 2019. Ken stated that DWCD may try to perform the onsite inspections with the contractor this time. Simon asked if this concerns the BOR. Robert stated that WAPA is separate and it concerns the BOR as far as it affects the facilities but BOR doesn't have any authority. The other item of concern is that there is cable in the ground that has been there a long time and WAPA needs to budget for new cable.

## **ENGINEERING AND WATER MANAGEMENT REPORT**

**High Desert Conservation District (HDCD) Update on FSA Irrigators Irrigation Water Management (IWM) and Water Conservation Grant Update** – Greg Vlaming there are around 10 producers lined up to participate in the IWM project. Greg stated along with DWCD's contribution, HDCD has received funding from SWCB and Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB). Greg explained the process of nozzle exchange to help farmers transition to flow control nozzles. Greg's hope is to be able to quantify the water savings and also to lower the cost of water to the irrigator. Greg stated that this project can save water and help with soil erosion. Greg stated that if he doesn't use DWCD's contribution this year he would like to save the funds for other years. Greg stated that a big question is what is the life expectancy of this nozzle and there may be an experiment done in 3 years to see how the nozzle is wearing.

**Cortez Office Parking Lot** – Ken stated that DWCD received some quotes and would like to discuss this in executive session as it may lead to negotiations.

**Water Accounting**– Ken presented the **1)** CPW mussel inspections have seen twice as many infested boats around the state this season as last season with only half the year past. Most of these boats are coming out of Lake Powell there have been boats caught at McPhee. This remains a concern. There is still nothing to control or eliminate mussels once a reservoir has been infested. **2) June Inflow/Outflow** –Ken stated that the starting elevation in June was 6,912.88' and ended the month with a full reservoir (6,924.02'). **a)** Dolores River inflows were high the month of June. **b)** UF&RE started slow and steadied out. **c)** MVIC crossed into 300 cfs per day at the beginning of June and stayed low until the end of the month, ending the month with flows around 400 cfs. MVIC did lose the call water this year with the spill coming in late and steady. **d)** There was a lot of spill water this season, around 120K AF by the end of the month. **e)** There was not much rain in June and the temperature didn't break 90 degrees until the end of the month. **3) July Inflow/Outflow** – Ken stated that active capacity in the reservoir is around at 229K AF. **a)** The Dolores River began a steady ramp down on June 30. Total inflow is matching the outflow. **b)** UF&RE jumped up the last few days and MVIC is in a more consistent mode above 400 cfs. **c)** Dove Creek Canal flows are now above 200 cfs and reached as high as 289 cfs and expected to continue. **d)** The spill ended July 10, 2019 yielding 135K AF of excess. **4)** Ken stated that the Supply Sheet was normal, all entities will have a full supply this season. MVIC is estimated to have around 135K AF of non-project and just under 11K AF of project water this season. Full Service Irrigators will also have a full supply. The first post card was sent to Full Service Irrigators advertising 25" and authorized to go up to 28" but there hasn't been anyone approaching that level yet this season, so no second post card yet. **5)** WY2019 Project Use Forecast shows 18 years minus the drought years. Ken stated that we are

normally around 23K AF of deliveries in an average year and projections show that we will need to make up around 9K AF in deliveries due to the wet spring. Ken expects water sales will be between 43-49K AF. UF&RE are about 4,000 AF behind, but may be able to adjust to use all their water this year. MVIC is normally around 57K AF and they are behind 21K AF at this time. Ken noted that Narraguinnep was topped off this week. Ken stated that there should be runoff later than normal, July and August are predicted to have more than normal snowmelt runoff which is unusual. Ken stated that he doesn't anticipate using Class B water.

**5) MVIC Project Water Calculation Sheet** – Ken noted that direct diversions are low. Groundhog is going to come close to full and Narraguinnep is full. Stored water in McPhee is estimated. There is no evaporation since it was on a free river.

**Projects Update** – Ken stated that regarding the power line outage, DWCD staff is looking into mass texting and will ask farmers if they are interested receiving text messages when there are problems. The text messaging will be set up to allow texting by block. Ken noted that DWCD has cell phones numbers for most users but updated information is always useful.

**Other** – Ken stated that the remaining information is Colorado River related. Ken stated that Ed Millard is going to comment on the longer term (5 year) forecast model for Lake Powell. Ken stated that the short term BOR 24-month study shows no upcoming shortage based on Most Probable forecast. The 5 year model is projecting ahead using the full inflow record for 112 years and only shows almost no chance of dropping below the power generation threshold. Ken stated that the way this is being summarized is that there is probably no risk in the short term. Ed stated that Chris Treese said that this modeling is based on initial conditions, Ed doesn't think the modeling is something to hang your hat on. Although, if there are 3 to 4 years of drought Demand Management will be a problem. Ed stated that there is another modeling that projects releases from Lake Powell over the next 5 years.

For the Board Books there was a *West Slope Agriculture Demand Management Policies and Strategies* paper from Don Schwindt, dated June 6, 2019 and the Grand Valley Water Users Association Conserved Consumptive Use Pilot Projects Final Report.

**ADJOURNMENT** Dolores Water Conservancy District Water Activity Enterprise Board meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM

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Donald W. Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer

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Bruce Smart, President

# DOLORES WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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## MINUTES Regular Meeting July 11, 2019

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**CALL TO ORDER** Bruce Smart, President, called the meeting to order at 8:07 PM

Bruce Smart, President  
Simon Martinez, Vice-President  
Don Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer  
Godwin Oliver, Director  
Wes Wilson, Director  
Glen Fish, Director  
Sheldonna Z. Ives, Director  
Mike Preston, General Manager  
Ken Curtis, Engineer  
Lloyd Johnson, Maintenance Supervisor  
Lisa Jordan, Office Administrator  
Robert Stump, Bureau of Reclamation  
Adam Reeves, Attorney  
Dan McCarl, Attorney  
Doug Pickering, Colorado Division of Water Resources

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Brandon Johnson, General Manager MVIC; Rich Landreth, City of Cortez; Ed Millard, Montezuma County/SWBRT

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#### MINUTES

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE JUNE 13, 2019 REGULAR MEETING, JUNE 13, 2019 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING.**

**MOTION: GODWIN OLIVER  
SECOND: WES WILSON  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Don asked Adam what items make up "General Matters" on the legal sheet. Adam stated that some of it may be LEMing and some items may have been Himes Creek. Adam will look into this, MBSS and DWCD may need to harmonize the categories on the legal sheet.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MAY '19 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF PAYABLES AS PRESENTED.**

**ADMIN: AP/CHECK #11332-11344**

**\$25,696.58**

**MOTION: WES WILSON  
SECOND: SIMON MARTINEZ  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### AGENCY REPORTS

#### BOR Report

Robert reported that **1) The MOA/Basin Fund** – pump work will begin at the end of the water season. Staff is working on specs for valves and actuators. **2) Water Operations** – Robert stated that the spill wound down on July 10, 2019, there was 134,600 AF released over 51

days. There will likely be a post-operations meeting, that will be open to the public, later this year. Robert stated that there were a lot of ecological and recreation needs met during this year's spill. Communication was set up nicely and he has received a lot of positive feedback. Robert stated that the ramp down worked out nicely. Don stated that the communication was good and that the key is in the Web postings that were put out which were spelled out nicely. Bruce asked if there has been feedback from the recreation community. Ken stated that we were guaranteeing around 3 weeks of boating to begin with, messaging this season was clear and went well. Mike noted that everyone on the review group looked at the messages before they were made public.

### **Division of Water Resources Report**

Doug stated that Summit Reservoir didn't fill this year, they were 5 feet from the top. A ditch that feeds the reservoir on the north side of a steep slope never did thaw causing the reservoir to remain low.

### **T/H Committee Report**

Godwin reported that the THC Committee had a meeting June 26, 2019. **1)** The Committee paid DWCD and MVIC. **2)** The Committee will begin working on the 2020 Budget. **3)** The Committee set up a THC Summer Tour. All parties will meet at the Cortez Office at 8:00 a.m. on July 24, 2019 for the tour.

Don stated that he had a blow up in a pipe that was more than likely pond weed plugging a valve. Don stated pond weed is still hitting his headgate and he has had pressure up to 100 lbs. Don stated that they are taking shifts to flush the screen in the night to keep the pond weed from building up. It was stated that the canal has been treated and that pond weed and algae have been terrible this season. Don asked how long it will take for the pond weed to be eliminated. Lloyd will discuss this with Frank and see if he has any ideas on how to alleviate this problem. Simon stated that UF&RE has been having similar issues.

**Next T/H Meeting** – The Committee will meet at the DWCD, Cortez Office July 24, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the Cortez Office for the Tour and meeting to follow.

### **MVIC Report**

Brandon reported that **1)** MVIC has switched the end screen on THC and noted that the spray bar hasn't been working causing the moss to be pushed on through. MVIC is contemplating having night shift crews they will definitely be working weekends to keep the pond weed cleaned out of the screens. **2)** MVIC's Board raised the allocation to 48" for MVIC shareholders. **3)** Groundhog has four feet to go before it is full and in coming up a tenth per day.

## **GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT/DECISION ITEMS**

**Summer Water Congress** – SWC will begin August 20-22 please RSVP to Gina for reservations for Water Congress and lodging reservations. The schedule of events was in the Board packet.

**MVIC 87.3cfs Water Rights Filing** – Adam stated that he and John Justus are close resolving this issue if both Boards are in favor. There will be further discussion in Executive Session.

**Board to Board, July 16, 7:00PM, DWCD** – It was determined that there will not be a Board to Board meeting in July.

**“What's New in Colorado Ag Policy”** – Lewis Arriola Community Center, 9:30 AM, July 12. Colorado Ag Commissioner Kate Greenberg and the NRCS Workgroup on Implementing recently legislated Farm Bill provisions will provide information and answer questions about Colorado Department of Ag Priorities and about Federal Farm Bill provisions that could be of interest to local farmers. Kate Greenberg is from Southwest Colorado, and prior to becoming Commissioner of Agriculture, managed the Young Farmers Program. The meeting announcement that was emailed to the Board and was sent out in the recent Full Service billings.

**Rocky Mountain Restoration Institute** – Mike stated that he attended the Rocky Mountain Restoration Institute meeting on July 10, 2019. Mike stated that the Southwest is in a great position to get additional funding and the DWRF group has been vital in advancing Forest Health towards pace and scale of treatments and supporting the needed wood product businesses.

### **Colorado River Compact Issues, Drought Contingency Planning, Demand Management**

– There was a meeting of the Southwest Basin Roundtable DCP/DM Subcommittee at DWCD from 1:30-2:30 on July 10, and subsequent discussion at the Roundtable which began at 3:00PM. Board members are welcome at these events.

Information gleaned from the Roundtable process, combined with the presentation of the Mark Harris panel on May 28, combined with the appointment by CWCB of the Demand Management Working Groups and the West Slope Caucus on June 20 lay a good foundation to take DCP/DM issues up post farming season. We are planning to meet directly with Farmers, who want to discuss DCP/DM in-depth, and could also have another round of Board discussion at the annual Brainstorm.

An emerging aspect of the Compact Compliance discussion is the “Grand Bargain” strategies that Ed Millard introduced to the Board in June from the CU Conference on June 6 and 7 entitled: “Charting a Better Course for the Colorado River: Identifying the Data and Concepts to Shape the Interim Guidelines Negotiation.” These alternatives, intended to avoid compact calls by the Lower Basin and protracted legal battles, can be incorporated in the discussions described above.

Mike explained that the Four West Slope Basin Roundtables document in the packet make available risk assessment methodology under the interim guidelines for Lake Powell equalization. Mike also discussed who is impacted by curtailment of all post-compact rights. Mike stated that there needs to be a time scheduled to discuss Demand Management and other alternatives outside of a Board meeting and probably not during farming season when Board members are unable to attend.

Mike asked for input regarding the SWBRT meeting. Ken stated that the modeling shows the risk and shows that DWCD is better off with a statewide call rather than basin-by-basin. Ken stated that he brought a sheet of CDWR critical reservoirs and trans-mountain diversions. The table shows the Water Right/Reservoir, Inflow, Source, Volume, Appropriation Date and Admin Number. Ken stated that he is looking at the BOR 24-month studies but the next round of interim guidelines may be more important to us. Ken stated that there are a lot of people that are looking at SW Ag to supply Demand Management. Don stated that this is a political place and the questions don't have black and white answers because no one has agreed. Don stated that one of the things that he is trying to design is a process to reach out to the myriad of water rights users on the West Slope. The farmer's water rights matter, as Colorado is different in that in the other states the water rights holders are at the table. In Colorado there are individual water rights at stake and they all have a voice that needs to be listened to. Mike stated that the role of the Board is to set up farmer meetings so anyone in the farming community can participate. Mike stated that DWCD Board, SWCD Board, and a Farmer Group need to get organized to get to the level of participation that Don is talking about.

Ken stated that Ed Millard is the newest member of the IBCB and asked Ed if he had any input on the SWBRT discussion. Ed stated that Division 7 carried a lot of the discussion. Ed stated this was a very informative and interesting discussion. Ed stated that there was a slide provided that said “share the pain” but it is unclear who is sharing the pain. Don stated that “share the pain” needs to be shared by the Trans-Mountain diversions and the West Slope. Don stated that Central Arizona Project (CAP) is the junior right and has put this water to use and it may be harder to reign them back. Ed went to the UCRC Demand Management workshop in Salt Lake and it gave the perspective of the other states.

Mike stated that the Board should decide in what format they would like to discuss these topics, we need to figure out where and how to sponsor these discussions. Mike stated that once people are educated on the topics, they can ask questions on what to read and how to pursue the interests. Ken stated that he is willing to go to the field to meet with irrigators. Ken stated that the more he digs into the subject the more he believes that this is a political matter and people shouldn't get caught up in the numbers and the graphs, the solution has to be political. Simon would like to cover this at a Brainstorm Session to discuss this topic in depth. Don would like to have some evening meetings as this is a very important topic.

### **Phase III Risk Assessment, West Slope Roundtable Caucus, Grand Junction, June 20**

– The Risk Assessment makes clear that we in the Southwest Basin with our junior storage rights are at risk if a compact call occurs. The Dolores Project also relies heavily on power generation elevations at Lake Powell. Consumptive Uses by the Dolores Project involve a 1940 post compact storage right. In the months to come, we will unpack the Phase III Risk Assessment for anything else that we can learn pertaining to the Southwest Basin and the Dolores Project that will inform the DWCD strategy for dealing with Compact Compliance challenges and options as they arise.

**Himes Creek Instream Flow** – Adam stated that there has been a joint stipulation negotiated with the CWCB staff. Negotiations are done and the attorneys are recommending the Board accept the stipulations at the July 17 meeting. West Resource Advocates will withdraw if the stipulations are accepted.

### **Activities and Meetings since Last Board Meeting:**

June 14: Meeting with Empire Electric Board, Forest Health, Fiber Utilization Study, Bio-mass Power – Mike, Ken, Ellen Roberts

- June 20: West Slope Caucus Meeting, Ute Water Company, Grand Junction, 10:00-3:30, RSVP for lunch
- June 17: Meeting with Mike Smith of RenewWest, on carbon sequestration benefits of producing wood products and generating power with controlled emissions in comparison with wildfires and controlled burns – Mike
- June 18: DWRP Field Trip to Key Logging and Bio-Mass Reduction Sites addressed in the Dolores Ranger District Lone Pine EA - Mike
- June 19: Spill Management Group – Ken, Eric, Robert, Mike
- June 20: West Slope Roundtable Caucus, Grand Junction, Phase III Risk Assessment – Mike, Ken, Don
- June 25: DWRP Timber Industry Working Group – Mike, Ken
- June 26: Spill Management Group – Ken, Eric, Robert, Mike
- June 26: Towaoc-Highline Committee
- June 27: LEMing, Durango
- July 3: Spill Management Group, DWCD
- July 9: MVIC Board Meeting
- July 10: Roundtable DCP/DM Subcommittee, 1:30-2:30PM DWCD
- July 10: Southwest Basin Roundtable, DWCD, 3:00PM (2:30 Social Time)
- July 10: Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative, Golden – Mike

**Upcoming Meetings and Activities:**

- July 17: DWRP Coordinating Committee, 10:00AM
- July 17: DWRP Collaborative
- July 24: Towaoc-Highline Tour, 8:00AM, DWCD RSVP to Brandon so he can Organize Transportation
- August 7: DWRP Coordinating Committee, DWCD 10:00AM
- August 7: DWRP Collaborative Meeting, DWCD, 1:30PM

**Legal Report** – Adam stated that everything he has to discuss in the legal report should be discussed in executive session.

**Other** – Don stated that the next SWCD meeting will be held in Montezuma County on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> with a tour led by Ken. The meeting location has not been set.

**MOTION: MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PER CRS 24.6.402(b) TO OBTAIN ADVICE FROM COUNSEL AND CRS 24.6.402(e) MATTERS OF NEGOTIATION IN DISCUSSION ON THE MVIC 87.3 FILING, BIDS TO RESURFACE THE CORTEZ OFFICE PARKING LOT AND PLATEAU CREEK DUE DILIGENCE.**

**MOTION: GODWIN OLIVER  
SECOND: SHELDONNA Z. IVES  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**RECESSED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:35 P.M.  
RECONVENED REGULAR MEETING AT 10:18 P.M.**

**REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Adam reported that in Executive Session the Board discussed the MVIC 87.3 filing, bids to resurface the Cortez Office parking lot and Plateau Creek due diligence. Direction was given to negotiators. No decisions were made.

**NEXT DWCD BOARD MEETING** – Thursday, August 8, 2019 - 7:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 10:19 P.M.