

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

MINUTES Regular Meeting January 9, 2020

CALL TO ORDER Bruce Smart, President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

ROLL CALL Bruce Smart, President
Simon Martinez, Vice President
Don Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer
Godwin Oliver, Director
Sheldonna Z. Ives, Director
Ken Curtis, General Manager
Lloyd Johnson, Maintenance Supervisor
Robert Stump, Bureau of Reclamation
Lisa Jordan, Office Administrator
Adam Reeves, Attorney
Dan McCarl, Attorney

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Rob Walker, Engineering Tech, DWCD; Brandon Johnson, General Manager MVIC; Rich Landreth, City of Cortez; Ed Millard, Montezuma County/IBCC/SWBRT

MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE DECEMBER 12, 2019 ENTERPRISE MEETING.

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

**O&M: AP/CHECK #37855-37940 & PR/CHECK #123677-123724
\$244,288.11**

**MOTION: SIMON MARTINEZ
SECOND: GODWIN OLIVER
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

O&M REPORT – Lloyd reported the following:

Pump Plants – One U-Lateral pump at Great Cut Pump Plant is being removed and will be sent in for repairs.

Lone Pine – The Canal Outlet Works is being drained in preparation for an internal inspection of the 84”x 1000’ pipe. Also being inspected are both 5’x7’ slide gates and the intake manifold inside Great Cut Pump Plant. The inspection is scheduled for the week of January 20th. The inspection will be both visual and include the use of the USBR remote crawler camera.

Laterals – Water meters and PRV’s rebuilds are in progress.

PMSC

Eric Tanner’s report – In the month of December, we’ve been quite busy. Staff has finished potholing every probe well on the Dove Creek and Towaoc canals. Replaced the gate PLCs on Towaoc Canal, including Dolores Tunnel Gatehouse, Wellhouses 1 and 2, and 801. Performed basic maintenance on RTUs including vacuuming, battery tests, and connection checks.

POWER PLANTS

McPhee Power Plant – continues to run at 25 cfs.

McPhee Dam – The debris piles removed from the face of the dam in May are being burned and maintenance on the access road to the dam is in progress.

WATER MANAGEMENT REPORT

Water Accounting – Ken stated the **1)** The daily snow precipitation update shows 132% of median SWE, 83% of average precipitation. Ken stated that we are dealing with a dry fall which is imbedded in the projected runoff forecasts, dropping them about 20%. As long as we stay in the storm track this will not be a problem. NRCS has some new SNOTEL graphics which are showing percentage of median at 134%. The low end of this graph for runoff is in the 134,000 AF range. Right now if it dries up, we are on track to just reach a full supply, but then leave the reservoir close to empty if we don’t get additional spring snow storms. Ken noted that we are a little early for predictions and will begin communication with irrigators in March.

Projects Update –

ADJOURNMENT Dolores Water Conservancy District Water Activity Enterprise Board meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

Donald W. Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer

Bruce Smart, President

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DOLORES WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
January 9, 2020

CALL TO ORDER Bruce Smart, President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM

Bruce Smart, President
Simon Martinez, Vice President
Don Schwindt, Secretary-Treasurer
Godwin Oliver, Director
Sheldonna Z. Ives, Director
Ken Curtis, General Manager
Lloyd Johnson, Maintenance Supervisor
Lisa Jordan, Office Administrator
Robert Stump, Bureau of Reclamation
Adam Reeves, Attorney
Dan McCarl, Attorney

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Rob Walker, Engineering Tech, DWCD; Brandon Johnson, General Manager MVIC; Rich Landreth, City of Cortez; Ed Millard, Montezuma County/IBCC/SWBRT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MINUTES

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE DECEMBER 12, 2019 REGULAR MEETING.

**MOTION: SIMON MARTINEZ
SECOND: GODWIN OLIVER
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FOR THE DECEMBER 12, 2019 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING.

**MOTION: SIMON MARTINEZ
SECOND: GODWIN OLIVER
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

ADMIN: AP/CHECK #11420-11435

\$100,211.99

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

AGENCY REPORTS

BOR Report

Robert reported that **1)** Brimhall is still working on five pumps from Ruin Canyon and Pleasant View. Robert stated that they are looking at a change order to repair 13 out of 15 impellers. The impellers are cracked and the repairs required are extensive. Robert noted that the cost of the repairs will use the full allocation of funds for this project and he is working on obtaining additional funding to continue working on pumps at the remaining pumping plants (Dove Creek and Fairview). **2)** Robert is working with Lloyd on the inspection of the slide gates and the intake manifold inside Great Cut Pump Plant which is scheduled for January 20. Robert will be coordinating with Gary Croke on the power plants Periodic Review scheduled for September 2020.

Division of Water Resources Report

CDWR was not in attendance.

T/H Committee Report

Godwin reported that the THC Committee had a meeting December 18, 2019. **1)** The Committee paid DWCD and MVIC bills.

Next T/H Meeting – The Committee will meet at the DWCD, Cortez Office January 22, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cortez Office.

MVIC Report

Brandon reported that **1)** MVIC has been cleaning the U lateral and working on the Lone Pine West Gate. **2)** There is a projected stock run for scheduled for March 30, 2020. **3)** Brandon asked if the DWCD Board would like to schedule a Board to Board meeting for February. **4)** MVIC's Annual Meeting will be held on January 18, 2020. MVIC will ask their shareholders whether they want to purchase Totten Reservoir or work with McElmo Reservoir and Ditch Company to utilize the water stored in Totten.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS – Bruce turned the meeting over to Adam. Adam stated that in the past this has been done in two different ways. 1-Board acclimation of to retain Board officers. 2-By nomination and ballot election. Any Board member is welcome to make a motion to retain officers at any time. If not, Adam stated that he would proceed with a ballot election.

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-TREASURER

MOTION: TO RETAIN EXISTING OFFICERS, BRUCE SMART AS PRESIDENT, SIMON MARTINEZ AS VICE PRESIDENT AND DONALD SCHWINDT AS SECRETARY-TREASURER.

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

APPOINT DWCD REPRESENTATIVE TO SOUTHWEST BASIN ROUNDTABLE

Glen Fish is the current representative and is still interested in being the representative.

MOTION: FOR GLEN FISH TO REMAIN THE DWCD REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SOUTHWEST BASIN ROUNDTABLE.

**MOTION: DON SCHWINDT
SECOND: GODWIN OLIVER
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

APPOINT DWCD REPRESENTATIVE TO MONITORING AND RECOMMENDATION TEAM

Bruce Smart is the current representative and is still interested in being the representative.

MOTION: FOR BRUCE SMART TO REMAIN THE DWCD REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MONITORING AND RECOMMENDATION TEAM.

**MOTION: SIMON MARTINEZ
SECOND: GOWIN OLIVER
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

APPOINT DWCD REPRESENTATIVE TO MVIC BOARD (CLASS B)

Godwin Oliver is the current representative and is still interested in being the representative. Godwin asked that Bruce cover for him during his busy times during the summer, Bruce agreed.

MOTION: FOR GODWIN OLIVER TO REMAIN THE DWCD REPRESENTATIVE TO MVIC BOARD (CLASS B).

**MOTION: DON SCHWINDT
SECOND: SIMON MARTINEZ
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT/DECISION ITEMS

External Affairs Report

Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI) – On December 9, Southwest Colorado was selected as the focal area to receive RMRI support. The Southwest proposal was selected unanimously by the RMRI Selection Committee. The proposed Southwest Colorado budget is \$5.2 million per year for 10 years. About \$4 million of this annual budget will be focused on mechanical treatments and prescribed fire on the Dolores Ranger District. The remaining \$1.2 million will be focused on wildfire mitigation treatments on private land and infrastructure protection, including water and power. A summary of recent and upcoming events since the Southwest RMRI Initiative was approved appear below:

- The Lone Pine Environmental Assessment (EA) covering 62,000 acres in the watershed into the Lower Dolores River was finalized based on the successful resolution of protests. This is very important in that it allows forest treatments that will be conducted by wood products businesses to commence. \$65 million has been invested in new wood businesses, and the supply that will support these businesses is now available.
- The Salter EA covering 60,000 acres in the Upper Dolores Watershed into McPhee is ready for scoping. Settling the Lone Pine protests bodes well for smoother adoption of the Salter EA. The DWRF Collaborative is organizing discussions to get all interests aligned to complete the EA and be able to extend treatments into the Upper Dolores Watershed.
- With these EAs in place, the wood businesses will have the supply they need to get their businesses up to capacity.
- Ellen Roberts is leading an effort to assess the need for training employees and set up education and training programs to prepare people for these job opportunities.
- A Steering Committee to manage RMRI activities has been established involving Forest Supervisor, Kara Chadwick; Ellen Roberts; Aaron Kimple of MSI and Mike Preston (who will focus on water, wood products industry and local economic development). Mike will be conferring with Sheldonna Ives to identify good sources of advice regarding input from livestock permittees. Coordinator Danny Margoles will organize an advisory group representing the three collaboratives and a broad range of stakeholders to advise the Steering Committee.
- Monitoring protocols are being put in place to monitor responses to forest treatments. Monitoring for water yields will be included. Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) will coordinate local field monitoring with advice and oversight from the Rocky Mountain Research Station and CSU to give credibility to local efforts in the scientific mainstream.
- On January 8, Tim Mauck, Assistant Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources organized a meeting of a wide array of State Agencies which was widely attended. The Southwest Colorado forest health project was presented and Agency leaders were asked what they have to offer our efforts. The response was very positive. Tim will write an agreement beginning to tie these offers of assistance into a strategy.
- The Southwest Basin Roundtable is meeting on January 15 in the DWCD Conference Room, with Russell George, Director to the Interbasin Compact Commission (IBCC) as the invited guest. There will be a Drought Contingency Plan Subcommittee Meeting from 12:30-2:15 with the Roundtable meeting starting at 3:00 (2:30 Social Time). Agendas for these meetings are attached.

Aspinall Re-Operation EIS, the Dolores River and Efforts to De-List Endangered Fish in the Colorado – Ken is on the Executive Committee of the Tom Pitts, Water Congress Native Fish Recovery Program effort. In the search for alternatives to support de-listing of these fish, instream flows are being considered. In simple terms, we need to shield the Dolores River from consideration for any additional instream flows.

When the Aspinall EIS was being conducted from 2008 forward, Steve Harris attended the EIS work sessions and meetings representing SWCD, and DWCD as at-risk, because the Dolores River joins the Colorado where the recovery program is focused. The Dolores is mentioned in the Aspinall EIS Re-operation Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO). Ed Warner and Mike worked closely on trying to make sure references to the Dolores in the PBO would not impinge on the Dolores Project. While this effort was successful, and we have had no problems, the de-listing discussion has the potential to bring focus back on the Dolores.

A phone meeting is scheduled with Tom Pitts involving Ken, Mike and Steve Harris to review the commitments made concerning the Dolores River in the Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) for the Aspinall re-operation and the 5-year report submitted by Reclamation to Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of the Dolores Project. This information is intended to shield the Dolores Project from additional instream flows.

Discussion – Ken stated that the DWRF group is hoping to use scientists on monitoring protocols to monitor responses to forest treatments. Ken stated that he has been reading up on modeling on trees vs. water yield. Don stated that Utah Geological Survey puts out a newsletter three times a year. Recently, there was a story on Ogden Valley groundwater regarding science of the water balance equation on each tributary and how they were tied into the reservoir, seeped out and went back in. Don stated that they had fascinating information on watershed science. Don stated that that water balance equation is what we should be reaching for and one of the first things we should do is get a grant to obtain a template to monitor for water yield. Sheldonna asked when the DWRF meetings are, Ken stated they are the first Wednesday of each month. Ken stated that the DWRF Committee will likely set up a Science Committee as they try to determine what type of information they need. Ken stated that at some point they will likely have a public meeting to explain future RMRI activities & goals.

Ken stated that there are two meetings next week, they are the DCP/DM subcommittee meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15 after that meeting is the normal SWBRT meeting. The first DCP/DM workshop would be a good opportunity to get additional information on that process & efforts by the CWCB.

Ken stated that DWCD belongs to the CWC Upper Colorado Recovery program and noted that we contribute \$1,000 per year to this. The USF&W Recovery Program is concerned that at the mouth of the Dolores River there may be endangered species. DWCD is trying to organize our materials to demonstrate that there are sufficient ISF's on the Dolores River already and no additional protections will be needed.

Water Congress – January 29 - January 31 Godwin, Bruce and Wes are signed up to attend. Don is signed up under SWCD. If anyone else is interested in going please notify the office.

Board Approval of 2020 Employee Increase Matrix – Ken stated that there are two existing proposals for the Employee Increase Matrix they are 2.5% and 1.25%. Bruce stated that at the last meeting there was a discussion regarding DWCD employee wages and there was a tie vote for a 1.25% increase and Simon made a motion that ended in a tie for a 2% increase. Raises have been on hold until a decision is made by the board on a set percentage.

Discussion: Simon asked if 2.5% was approved in the 2020 Budget. Ken stated that this is the maximum amount that can be spent within the approved budget. Simon asked if there was another area that could accommodate 2.5% by cutting out some other item. Ken stated that there are areas of the budget that can be managed throughout the year. Bruce stated that the Board needs to decide what rate is satisfactory for the 2020 budget year. Ken noted that DWCD is currently working on salary survey and noted that the labor market is on an upswing. Simon stated that going to the grocery store affects the farmer and the employee equally. Simon stated that he sees all the aspects of this decision item. Simon stated that UF&RE has an obligation of approximately \$500K and the Bureau of Reclamation also puts in funding to make sure the project is working properly. Simon stated that he feels the budget was put in for 2.5% raise and would like to make a motion for the 2020 budget year. Simon stated that last year's raise was .5% and there was not a real change in an employee's check and he sees the numbers to provide that amount of money to pay wages.

MOTION: TO ESTABLISH A 2% MATIRX INCREASE FOR 2020 BUDGET YEAR.

MOTION: SIMON MARTINEZ
SECOND: NONE

MOTION: TO ESTABLISH A 1.25% INCREASE FOR THE 2020 BUDGET YEAR.

MOTION: GODWIN OLIVER
SECOND: DON SCHWINDT

MOTION PASSED 3-2. DON SCHWINDT, GODWIN OLIVER AND SHELDONNA Z. IVES VOTING YES. SIMON MARTINEZ AND BRUCE SMART VOTING NO.

Proxy for MVIC Shareholder Meeting, Saturday January 18 – DWCD has 170 Class A shares that are eligible to vote on MVIC issues presented at the Annual Meeting. DWCD proxy may be voted by the Board President and/or current MVIC shareholders. Bruce, Don & Glen have held DWCD's proxy in the past. No agenda is available yet.

MOTION: TO ALLOW BRUCE SMART, GODWIN OLIVER, DON SCHWINDT AND GLEN FISH TO CARRY THE PROXY TO THE MVIC MEETING.

**MOTION: DON SCHWINDT
SECOND: GODWIN OLIVER
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Select Date for Brainstorm – Ken stated that generally, the Brainstorm session runs 9:00 AM to approximately 3:00 PM so multiple current issues are queued up for more in depth Board discussion. Topics may include long term DWCD financial issues (reserves) with focus on FSA viability. The Colorado River Basin DCP & DM exploration remain active and could impact DWCD. Infrastructure and capital costs remain constants. Forest health improvements above McPhee likewise are an active DWCD supported process for long term protection of the Dolores Project. Other items that may need more focus should be suggested by the Board. Any specific Board actions are generally scheduled for a subsequent regular Board meeting. The Brainstorm session was scheduled for February 27, 2020 at 9:00 am. Don suggested reviewing contracts and how they mesh with Colorado River topics.

Sheldonna asked if the SCADA operator grade bands discussion would be held at the Salary Survey meeting or would this be discussed at the Brainstorm. Ken stated that it could be held at the Brainstorm if they want, there is Salary Survey meeting set for Monday, January 20. Godwin would like to have a meeting in an evening sometime to present what the findings are from the January 20th meeting. An Overview Meeting for the full Board is set for February 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Colorado River Basin Issues – Drought Contingency Plan & Demand Management Issues; The SWBRT DCP/DM Subcommittee is meeting Wednesday January 15, 2020 at 12:30 PM to 2:15 PM at the DWCD office. Russell George, Governor's appointee to lead the IBCC is scheduled to participate. Current topics include the Demand Management Study, Cloud Seeding, Phreatophyte Removal, Forest Health and Industrial Demand Management. In 2020 the IBCC is expected to tackle issues around equitability between the different Colorado Basins using Colorado River water, a currently undefined and controversial subject. This meeting provides a local venue to catch up on outside Colorado River perspectives.

Ken handed out reading materials at the December meeting and discussions have been slower due to the holidays but will be gearing up with the DCP/DM subcommittee meeting on January 15. Ken observed that there is definitely politicking going on having to do with a scare tactic regarding cutting use, Ken stated that a lot of this is directed at the Lower Basin but it is not totally clear. Adam stated that it is always difficult to tell where everyone stands, he attended the annual CRWUA meeting and thinks DM is taking a backseat to the Interim Guidelines. He is not sure anyone in the Upper Basin wants to focus their attention on DM. There will be a lot going on with the Interim Guidelines negotiation. Ken stated that the Secretary of Interior said that prior to the negotiations, there will be a review of the 2007 Interim Guidelines Operations during 2020 by Reclamation that will happen prior to starting the renegotiations. The review of the 2007 Guidelines begins now but the 2026 guidelines process will not start for a year.

Ed Millard stated that Andy Mueller said they have to reduce consumptive use in the cities. Ed noted that he thought Tina Shields was a good advocate for the Lower Basin. Ed stated that he is working on Interim Guidelines and not focused on DM although he hopes it doesn't happen.

Don stated that the FFA handouts that Ken gave everyone in December were fascinating and appreciated Bart Fisher's message regarding "buy and dry". The instream dynamics and the underlying theme was ag and staying together for ag, both the Upper Basin and Lower Basin agree that ag needs to stick together. Don stated that it is important to focus on being a cohesive team regarding where the water is going. Don stated that he has been working hard on reaching out to rural water users. Don was asked, by Doug Kemper, to participate on a panel to discuss using technology to reach out to rural farmers. Don stated that his response to Doug so far has been if you really want to reach out, there has to be a dialogue and build one-on-one understanding with each other. Doug is going to call Don to discuss.

Sheldonna asked Don what he thought the viability was of agriculture and does he think that it will remain viable. Don stated that he does feel that it is viable and he is optimistic.

LEGAL REPORT

Adam stated that he does not have a report.

NEXT DWCD BOARD MEETING – Thursday, February 13, 2020 - 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 8:54 P.M.