

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 9, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 9, 2019 at the District's offices, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B, Gunnison, Colorado.

Board members present: Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, Bill Nesbitt, John Perusek, Michelle Pierce, George Sibley, and Andy Spann.

Board members not present: Julie Nania, Stacy McPhail, and Julie Vlier.

Also present:

Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
Jill Steele, Office Manager

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Michelle Pierce called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

The board received a list of non-operating expenses for approval, a final, draft 2020 budget, and information relating to the upcoming 2020 Colorado Water Congress convention.

**Andy Spann moved and George Sibley seconded approval of the agenda as circulated. The motion carried.**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Rosemary Carroll moved and Joellen Fonken seconded approval of the consent agenda items. The motion carried.**

Bill Nesbitt arrived.

**4. ADOPTION OF 2020 BUDGET AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Bill Nesbitt moved and Rosemary Carroll seconded to approve Resolution 2019-04 to Adopt the 2020 Budget. The motion carried.**

**Andy Spann moved and Bill Nesbitt seconded adoption of Resolution 2019-05 to Appropriate Sums of Money. The motion carried.**

**Bill Nesbitt moved and John Perusek seconded approval of resolution 2019-06 to Set Mill the Levy at 1.951 mills. The motion carried.**

## **5. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

Manager's Report: Sonja Chavez asked for a show of hands of board members who wanted to attend the CWC Convention January 29-31, 2020, in Westminster. Bill Nesbitt and John Perusek indicated they would like to attend. Andy Spann and Michelle Pierce asked to be put down as "maybes."

Jill Steele said that the District's current credit card system is not working well for the District. The cards are issued through the state in order to include the District's tax exempt number. However, it is still difficult and at times impossible to use the tax exempt number at hotels. The online system for the cards is cumbersome and not terribly user friendly. She recommended using a credit card program provided by the Bank of the West.

Bill Nesbitt said that when staff reserves hotel rooms for board members, those charges are made to the manager's credit card, and board members mainly then have miscellaneous expenses to pay for. Those are promptly reimbursed by the District upon submission of a standard expense form.

Sonja recommended returning to the system wherein board members use their personal credit cards for miscellaneous travel expenses and then seek reimbursement from the District. The consensus of the board was to return to this format.

Sonja said that Sue Navy told her that the UGRWCD will receive the Organization of the Year award from Sage Grouse Strategic Committee. She invited the board to the event on Wednesday December 18, 2019 at the Blackstock building. Lunch will be at noon, with the award presentation at 1:30 p.m. George said that he will try to attend. Rosemary and Michelle indicated they might also attend.

Sonja said that she sees great potential for collaboration within the USGS's Next Generation Water Observing System. The system is intended to provide high-fidelity, real-time data on water quantity and quality necessary to support modern water prediction and decision support systems for water emergencies and daily water operations. The Delaware River basin is the pilot basin. She asked board members to send her their ideas of how this could be used to the District's benefit.

Sonja said that a mini-grant in the amount of \$218 was awarded to the ColdHarbour Institute for their Agricultural Solar Skills Workshop.

Sonja said that in response to Gunnison middle school's application for funding assistance, she will write a letter to the students telling them what information is needed in order to obtain the funding.

Michelle Pierce said that the board needs to consider Resolution 2019-07, adding Sonja Chavez as a check signer.

Bill Nesbitt said that having five designated signers can make it cumbersome to move funds. The District designates five signers and requires two signatures. Bill would like the investments such as CDs, to only list two signers.

**Bill Nesbitt moved, and Rosemary Carroll seconded, adoption of Resolution 2019-07. The motion carried.**

**6. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

**7. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Watershed Management Planning Committee will meet Monday, December 16, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Sonja will send out a doodle poll in order to schedule an Education Committee Meeting.

**8. SUMMARY OF MEETING ACTION ITEMS**

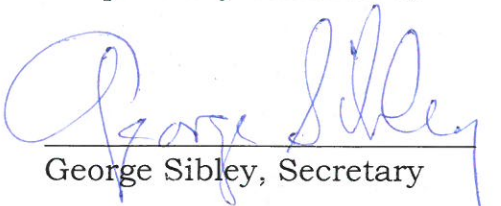
There were no meeting action items to summarize.

Bill Nesbitt asked if there were an update on the stock watering controversy. Sonja said she followed up on this matter last Friday with the Colorado River District. They indicated that they had been working with the CWCB and believed they were very close to having agreement on potential draft language that would alleviate concerns. Sonja will stay in touch with the River District on the matter.


**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Michelle Pierce adjourned the December 9, 2019 meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
George Sibley, Secretary

APPROVED:

  
Michelle Pierce, President