

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 via video/teleconferencing at 5:30 p.m.

Board members present: Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania, Bill Nesbitt, John Perusek and Don Sabrowski

Board members absent: Michelle Pierce and Andy Spann

Also present:

Isabella Biondini, Gunnison Country Times
Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager
Jesse Kruthaupt, Trout Unlimited
John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel
Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Water Resource Specialist
Jill Steele, UGRWCD Accountant
Sue Uerling, UGRWCD Administrative Assistant/Communications Support Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Vice President Stacy McPhail called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director John Perusek seconded approval of the agenda as circulated. The motion carried.

3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Director Sara Bergstrom moved and Director Bill Nesbitt seconded approval of the consent agenda items. The motion carried.

4. ADOPTION OF 2022 BUDGET AND RESOLUTIONS

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of Resolution 2021-05

to Adopt the 2022 Budget. The motion carried.

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Rebie Hazard seconded approval of Resolution 2021-06 to Appropriate Sums of Money for the 2022 Budget. The motion carried.

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director John Perusek seconded approval of Resolution 2021-07 to set the Mill Levy at 1.951 mills. The motion carried.

5. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Manager's Report:

- General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that she and General Counsel spoke at the Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association annual meeting on December 8. Sonja gave a general overview on the water year and John spoke about the Colorado River Compact.
- Sonja reported that General Counsel John McClow received an email from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) about the Memorandum of Agreement for the development of the hydroelectric generation facility proposed by Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) at the Taylor Park Dam. The BOR is now asking to be a party/signor on the Memorandum. John said he does not believe any of the other parties will have an issue with this so the Memorandum will be updated accordingly for signature.
- Sonja announced that the Colorado Water Congress will hold their convention January 26-28 in Aurora. Directors Nesbitt, McPhail, Nania and Carroll expressed interest. Sonja asked all directors to please contact staff by the end of the next week to confirm their attendance so staff can register participants and make hotel accommodations.
- Sonja showed a poster the District received from Henry Woods about the Red Sky Drum Group performing their sacred snow dance in Lake City on Saturday, December 18 in the town park. The Lake Fork Conservancy is sponsoring the event. Sonja made a \$100 donation for the event on behalf of the District through the Manger's Discretionary Fund and said that she will be going. The drum group is part of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Discussion on changing UGRWCD Board Meeting schedule

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that she would like input about changing the current Board meeting schedule to having some of the meetings every other month with place holders for meetings if needed on the months off. Sonja noted that the current monthly schedule does not allow for adequate time for committees to meet and reports to be generated for the Board meeting since as soon as the current Board meeting is over and minutes are written, it is time to get the agenda and board packet out for the next meeting. The Board packets must be sent out at least a week in advance. A graphic of proposed meeting dates for 2022 was projected during the meeting. Director Bill Nesbitt said he felt this matter should be discussed first at an Executive Committee meeting scheduled in January. Vice

President Stacy McPhail recommended that Board members provide their input to Sonja and that action on the dates be delayed until after everyone had time to weigh in.

A copy of the “Watershed Program Coordinator” job description was provided in the Board packet in advance of the meeting. Director Bill Nesbitt asked if the District should have advertised for the position. Sonja said that she conferred with Legal Counsel John McClow who said that advertising was not required. Sonja stated that an offer has been made to Cheryl Cwelich and Directors Rosemary Carroll and Stacy McPhail said Cheryl was a former UGRWCD intern and an excellent choice. Director McPhail noted that the Board had given Sonja their support at the November Board meeting to move forward with filling the position and that it is at Sonja’s discretion as to whom she selects to fill the position. General Counsel John McClow noted that the District did interview two candidates before the position was offered to Cheryl.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS

Vice President Stacy McPhail referred to the Future Meetings listing provided in the packet and noted that the 2022 Draft Board Meeting Schedule is subject to change based on input from Board members. She offered that Board members should reach out directly to Sonja or President Michelle Pierce with any input.

8. SUMMARY OF MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Board members were reminded to let staff know as soon as possible if they want to attend the Colorado Water Congress convention January 26-28, 2022.

General Manager Sonja Chavez will take input from the Board about changing the Board Meeting Schedule for 2022.

Director Rebie Hazard asked if anyone from the District had been in contact with any of the Saguache County commissioners about the Homestake Mine reclamation proposal discussed at the November Board meeting. Sonja replied that no one had been in touch yet. Director Hazard said she had questioned Saguache County Commissioner Tim Lovato about the issue and he indicated that the commissioners had been advised by Homestake of their plans and that the County was on board with what Homestake had presented. Rebie noted that Tim Lovato is a former water commissioner and he has been following this issue for a long time. Director McPhail said she felt it would still be a good idea

for the District to reach out to Mr. Lovato and the County to be sure they were fully aware of what Homestake's proposal entails and possible outcomes.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Board Vice President Stacy McPhail adjourned the December 8, 2021 meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Perusek, Secretary

APPROVED:



Stacy McPhail, Vice President