

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Annual Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors
Monday, June 27, 2022**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) conducted its annual meeting on Monday, June 27, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the District office, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B, Gunnison, CO, 81230 and via Zoom video/teleconferencing.

Board members present: Sara Bergstrom (via Zoom), Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania, Bill Nesbitt, John Perusek, Don Sabrowski (via Zoom), and Andy Spann.

Board members absent: Michelle Pierce

Others present:

Ashley Burgemeister, Gunnison County Court Judge

Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager

Cheryl Cwelich, UGRWCD Watershed Program Coordinator

Tyler King, United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Jesse Kruthaupt, Trout Unlimited

John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel

Luke Mecklenburg, Colorado Attorney General's Office

Katherine Nettles, Crested Butte News

Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Water Resource Specialist

Jill Steele, UGRWCD Accountant

Sue Uerling, UGRWCD Admin. Asst./Communications Support Specialist

Katie Walton-Day, USGS

1. Call to Order

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

2. Agenda Approval

Vice President McPhail announced one addition to the agenda: 1. A presentation by Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Board of Commissioner

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

3. Administration of Oath of Office

Ashley Burgemeister, Gunnison County Court Judge, administered the oath of office for Board members Sara Bergstrom, Stacy McPhail, John Perusek and Andy Spann, all of whom submitted applications to renew their Board terms.

4. Consent Agenda Items

With respect to the May 24, 2022 minutes, Director Julie Nania asked that they be corrected under the paragraph about Mt. Emmons Mining Company to say “Although the Keystone Mine has completed improvements and fulfilled some of its required reclamation work, they still retain an issue with cadmium at the site.” Director Bill Nesbitt asked that in paragraph 7, under the Treasurer’s report, the names and spellings of Jim Lebenthal with Cerity Partners and Jamie Dimon with JP Morgan Chase be corrected (as shown here). Director Rebie Hazard also requested a correction to the May 24, 2022 minutes to note that she was not present at the meeting via Zoom, as the minutes state. In addition, Director Hazard asked that the Budget be pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Director Rebie Hazard moved and Director Bill Nesbitt seconded approval of the consent agenda items with corrections to the minutes as noted and the budget pulled from the consent agenda for further questions. The motion carried.

Director Hazard asked if the Employee Insurance line item included the cost of Cheryl’s insurance. General Manager Sonja Chavez confirmed that it did. Director Hazard also asked, with respect to the line item for “Internship,” why it was over budget. General Manager Chavez said it was because three interns were not originally contemplated when the 2022 budget was being developed and intern John Murphy worked more hours than were initially allotted in the budget. Alex and Aaron Baca have also been fulfilling internship duties after John Murphy graduated from Western and ended his internship.

Director John Perusek moved and Director Bill Nesbitt seconded approval of the budget report as presented in the Board packet.

5. Election of Officers

The current officers of the UGRWCD are: President Michelle Pierce; Vice President Stacy McPhail; Secretary John Perusek; and Treasurer Bill Nesbitt. Vice President McPhail asked for nominations from the floor. None were offered. All current officers agreed to continue to serve in their present roles for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Director Pierce provided her agreement to continue to serve as President to General Manager Chavez via telephone prior to the meeting.

Director Julia Nania moved and Director Rosemary Carroll seconded approval of the current slate of officers for 2022-2023 with gratitude. The motion carried.

6. Consideration of Resolution Appointing Financial Officers

Resolution 2022-02 was included in the Board Packet. Vice President Stacy McPhail asked if there were any questions. Treasurer Bill Nesbitt requested that paragraph 7 of the resolution designating NuVista Federal Credit Union of Gunnison, Colorado as a depository of the District, be removed from the document as this is not an allowed depository option for the District.

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Andy Spann seconded the adoption of Resolution 2022-02 appointing the financial officers for the District with the removal of paragraph 7 from the resolution. The motion carried.

7. Re-authorization of Standing Committees

A copy of the current committees and members of each committee was distributed in the Board Packet. Vice President McPhail asked if there were any changes or additions to committees and/or committee members. Director Bill Nesbitt asked to step down as chair of the Education and Outreach Committee. Director Sara Bergstrom agreed to take over the role of chair of the Education and Outreach Committee. Both were thanked for their commitment. General Manager Chavez said she would like to convene the Finance Committee as a sounding board for preliminary budget discussions as she noted that during the regular meetings, there is not always time to dig more deeply into some of the line items. The Board expressed their agreement with this idea.

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Sara Bergstrom seconded approval of the re-authorization of Board committees and committee members for 2022-2023 with the changes noted above. The motion carried.

8. Legal and Legislative Matters

General Counsel John McClow updated the Board of the Bureau of Reclamation's recent announcement that the states that are parties to the Colorado River Compact need to provide a plan in the next 60 days for how they will reduce their consumptive use by two to four million acre-feet of water within 18 months. If the states do not come up with a plan, then the Bureau of Reclamation has the authority to step in and unilaterally make cuts to protect the system. John provided a graph titled "Basin Depletion Trends 2019-2021" which shows the disparity of use between the two divisions and that from 2019 to 2020 the Upper Division states reduced their consumptive use by one million acre-feet while the Lower Division states increased their consumptive use. John said due to this disparity, it is therefore

Colorado's understanding that the Lower Division will need to meet the majority of the shortfall. John said that since the last demand study was conducted in 2016, which was riddled with errors and exaggerations, the Upper Division states have come up with a unified plan on the methodology of calculating consumptive use. In that time, the Upper Colorado River Commission has also funded and implemented new testing and equipment to monitor the consumptive use on the ground, so the Upper Division will have accurate information. John will get an update tomorrow at 7 a.m. from the Commissioner on the interstate negotiations that have taken place over the last two weeks and if there is anything earth shattering that has come out of those negotiations, John will report this to the Board.

The Bureau of Reclamation is conducting webinars explaining the shortfalls and the process going forward to deal with them which are open to the public on July 12th and July 14th at 10 a.m. John said he would provide the links to the webinars to anyone interested. Director McPhail asked if there was any word from the Lower Basin states on their ability to address this? John said that Las Vegas thinks it has all the answers, Arizona thinks they are a victim and not getting their fair share and California thinks that since they have senior rights, they are just at the table as a courtesy. John explained that the Central Arizona Project has the most junior rights among the lower basin states and therefore suffers the greatest reduction. About half of their allocation goes to the Native American tribes there who have federal reserved water rights. So, Arizona is concerned about their ag producers being completely cut off. John explained that in the Lower Division, no one gets any water without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior and should they not come up with a plan to reduce their consumptive use, she has the authority to shut off the water. Director Nesbitt asked if Mexico has been part of the negotiations and John said that they have been.

9. Presentation by Brad Piehl, Forest Hydrologist, J. W. Associates, Inc.

Brad Piehl provided a Power Point presentation based on the results of the Upper Gunnison Watershed Wildfire Assessment, for which J. W. Associates were contracted for by the District. Brad explained that there were four main agenda objectives to determine for their assessment as follows: Watershed Wildfire Hazard Analysis and Ranking; Climate Change Vulnerability; Zones of Concern; and Opportunities and Constraints. From those agenda objectives, Brad said they specifically were concerned with the following four components with respect to Watershed Hazard Components for the Upper Gunnison River Basin: Wildfire Hazard; Debris Flow Hazard; Roads Hazard and Soil Erodibility Components. Brad proceeded to show maps of various data they collected and the vulnerability of each area. He showed a slide of examples of actions that could be taken at Willow Creek to improve the conditions there. Brad then took questions about the analysis and outcomes.

Director Don Sabrowski asked if there had been any discussion about how to address beetle kill, continuing drought conditions and how to mitigate these issues in the restricted areas noted on the maps. Brad said that they are just trying to get going on all of the data that has been collected and that these issues can be addressed on a much smaller scale. He said that roads, for example, are readily available

for treatment, but that wilderness areas are a whole other issue. He said that J. W. Associates can certainly identify areas of concerns that seem obvious and easiest to address.

Director Stacy McPhail expressed her concern that at some point in time, all of the Taylor River Basin could be “red” in some metric in the future. Director Julie Nania said that it would be nice to be able to compare the Upper Gunnison River Basin’s results against similar studies in other basins, especially for grant purposes. She felt the descriptions next to each key factor shown on the maps was a very helpful piece and should be included in all of their analysis. Brad said he would be cautious about trying to compare analysis on a statewide basis as he felt it would be comparing apples to oranges, but did say that he thinks our basin would “rank right up there” for wildfire hazards as compared to other areas in the state. Director Rosemary Carroll asked if they look at the scope of an area to manage or how much of the landscape you need to manage, or do you look at techniques on how to move an area from high vulnerability to moderate across different metrics because they are cross-correlated? Brad said that after they worked both pre-fire and post-fire analysis, his recommendation is to try to tackle the areas that offer the least amount of constraints and he feels putting various tools together could have a pretty dramatic impact on reducing wildfire probability and hazardous outcomes. Director Stacy McPhail noted that the purpose of this analysis was part of the Watershed Management Planning process to help the committee get closer to meeting their goals for watershed and wildfire protections and ultimately, help the Board direct policy changes locally to address the highest areas of concern. Brad feels that the next step is to do a small watershed scale analysis to come up with projects that would help with perhaps a couple of thousand acres at a time.

10. Break

11. USGS Harmful Algal Blooms Presentation

Tyler King of the USGS provided a Power Point presentation on “Algal Blooms, Water Quality and Remote Sensing at Blue Mesa Reservoir.” Thanks in part to funding from the District and an existing partnership between USGS and the National Park Service, Tyler said they have (1) developed remote sensing methods to improve detection and monitoring of algal blooms and (2) combined this data with discrete water quality sampling to improve understanding of processes that lead to algal blooms. Tyler said that through the remote sensing, maps of chlorophyll and analysis of trends over space and time they can hopefully determine where and when algal blooms will occur and then through summarizing the physical properties and watching for trends, they can determine why algal blooms occur and what to do about them. Tyler noted that since there are a high level of blooms in Iola Basin, they will increase testing from every other week to weekly during August and September and that samples will be taken from shallow, medium and deep waters in the basin. Tyler said additional water quality and temperature sensors will be installed at a number of locations throughout the reservoir to try to determine how algal blooms migrate within the reservoir. The study also provides for additional monitoring of potential nutrient point sources for blooms. Tyler concluded by thanking the District for its support of \$30,000

and said that they are seeking \$41,000 in funding from the Colorado River District's Community Funding Partnership program with additional cash match from the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users (\$2,000), Gunnison County (\$2,000) and Project 7 Water Authority (\$5,000).

Director Nesbitt asked if there is an established migratory pattern for the blooms and does this mean there is a danger downstream from blooms. Tyler answered that the blooms move dramatically in the snapshots that are done every five days and that they are also trying to determine if the blooms move up and down in the water. He noted that toxins produced from the algae can survive in any environment and could be distributed in agricultural irrigation systems, which is definitely a concern. Katie Walton-Day, said that to date their data collection has shown that although the blooms themselves have been migrating, so far the toxins from the blooms have remained only in the Iola Basin. General Manager Chavez did note that algal blooms can cause problems for hydroelectric plants as well.

Director Carroll asked if they have a hypothesis as to why these blooms are happening more frequently and if they have found a correlation between temperatures and nutrient sources. Katie answered that after the big snow year in 2019 when the reservoir was at full pool, although there were some blooms later in the summer, no toxins were found. She said that the increase in drought conditions is definitely a factor as the resulting decreases in the natural amount of inflows, coupled with the emergency releases, has dropped the reservoir to levels not previously experienced outside of when the reservoir was originally filled. She said that this has increased the warm shallow areas and vegetation, which are both factors in the increase of blooms and that she did not feel these could be separated out from one another.

Director Fonken asked if the algae is harmful to fish, like it is for dogs. Katie answered that she is not a fisheries biologist and cannot say for sure but speculated that in the thermocline at the middle water level where the low oxygen levels are occurring because of the blooms that perhaps the fish are already segregated above and below that level. Katie suggested asking that question of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Joellen suggested they look to CPW for funding. General Manager Chavez noted that CPW is already offering in-kind services to help with the data collection. Katie thanked the District for their funding support saying she was not sure other local and regional entities helping with funding would have gotten on Board if it had not been for the District stepping-up first.

12. Presentation by Gunnison County Commissioner, Jonathan Houck on the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative and Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection (GORP) Act

Commissioner Jonathan Houck gave a presentation about the development and history of the GORP (Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection) Act and the Gunnison Public Lands Proposal as provided to Senator Michal Bennet. Commissioner Houck said the process began about 12 years ago and initially got a mixed reaction from county constituents about developing a public land proposal. While there were overlapping values with public lands, there were also overlapping conflicts. At that time, the process was put on hold. Then in 2015, the process was rekindled by then Gunnison County

Commissioner Paula Swenson, as well as former Commissioner Phil Chamberland and Jonathan and it was determined that the county would be the best source to lead constituents through the process of determining priorities for all the different entities represented. Jonathan noted that the representation was thorough with all groups in the county having involvement. Early on, the group determined that there would be three rules that would prevail throughout the development of a proposal: (1) the proposal would protect ranching interests and water resources; (2) no existing uses of public lands would be eliminated; and (3) the proposal would not be strictly a wilderness proposal. Jonathan said that after a year and a half of weekly stakeholder meetings, a draft proposal was developed in 2019. The initial draft resulted in mainly two reactions: (1) there was a fair amount of support that came from developing this as a grassroots effort; and (2) conversely, there was the reaction that there is already enough public land/land use in the county. After more input and some additional tweaking, the draft plan was released for public comment in May 2022 and that is where the process is at this time.

In the memorandum about the proposal distributed by General Manager Chavez, there were links to learn more about the act and initiative, as well as a map of proposed Protection Areas.

Jonathan noted that there is interest from the county in also including some land areas in adjacent counties, including land in Saguache and Chaffee Counties. It was noted that there has been some opposition to this inclusion from Saguache County in particular and Jonathan said he would be speaking to the Saguache County Board the next day. Over the years they have asked to be included and then removed and there seems to be some uncertainty. He wanted to point out that the development group feels protections for wildlife and agriculture go hand in hand and that the proposal is in no way prioritizing recreational interests. He said that it is primarily the increase in recreation that is putting pressure on public lands and the proposal is a means of keeping recreation and development in a lower spot of priority on public lands. Jonathan said the proposal is not about winners and losers, but rather about finding a good balance where some conflicts can be rounded out.

There was some discussion about how this would affect land management and Jonathan said there will be Prescription Management Areas designated in the proposal and that the existing land managers will be advised of the proposal stipulations and manage accordingly. Director Carroll asked how often the management areas will be re-evaluated. Jonathan said the proposal does not change any of the requirements or duration of timing of existing land management and he noted that the GORP Act is amendable.

Director Nesbitt asked where the county sees the proposal going in the future? Jonathan said that the proposal will go to Senator Bennet and then possibly become part of a bigger legislative proposal. In any case it must go through both the senate and the house and that by no means, is this the final package, said Jonathan. Director Fonken noted that as a member of the STOR committee, although it has been a long, arduous process, she feels a consensus has been built and that it has been a pleasure being involved in the development of this proposal versus other projects she's been involved with. She encouraged

everyone to learn more about the proposal through the links presented and then write a letter to address any individual concerns they might have.

Jonathon agreed saying that what he was seeking tonight was the UGRWCD Board to sign a letter of support for the STOR committee to move forward with the process and then he, too, is encouraging each group to submit letters independently to identify specific goals and concerns of their own. He pointed out that the District has a permanent seat on the STOR committee and that Director Fonken will be able to represent and monitor the interests of the District throughout the process.

Director Hazard asked if this would affect your rights if you have a mining permit. Jonathan answered that any existing use permit you have, such as mining, grazing, outfitting, would not be affected by the act. You would retain your existing rights. Director Hazard said that Saguache County is not 100 percent behind this proposal and as such, she does not feel she can move forward giving her support or approval of the letter.

Director Nania said that she likes the idea of supporting this letter tonight and then coming back with a letter on behalf of the District outlining any concerns and recommendations we may have with respect to the watershed. Director Hazard said she was caught off guard by this action item and requested that for important matters such as this that could even require legislative action, she would like to have seen the Board be given a presentation before having to make any such decisions about moving forward. General Counsel John McClow noted that at the last Board meeting, when Director Hazard was absent, a Board policy was passed that does prohibit any Board member from endorsing a position on behalf of the District without the District's prior approval. He noted that this will not happen again. Director Fonken said that the members of the STOR committee all agreed that they could not proceed with a letter of support without each individual member getting the approval of the organization they represent but they hoped to get this done before the 10th hour, which is fast approaching with the deadline of July 8th.

Director Nania moved and Director Carroll seconded the authorization of Director Joellen Fonken to sign on to the letter of support for the GORP Act as developed by the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR). Director Hazard abstained from this vote. The motion carried.

Director Nesbitt asked Director Fonken if she could keep the Board advised of the GORP Act progression through the STOR Committee and Joellen affirmed she would do so.

It was recommended that there be a monthly update given at each Board meeting on STOR Committee proceedings and that this be added to the agenda. General Manager Chavez agreed to add this item.

13. Basin Water Supply Update

A Basin Water Supply update was included in the Board Packet. Water Resource Specialist Beverly Richards said that while recent rain events resulted in increased flows in the short term, they quickly went back down as moisture was absorbed into the soil. She asked if there were questions, and none were raised.

14. General Manager, Staff and Committee Updates

Treasurer's Report: Board Treasurer Bill Nesbitt said the District is “doing okay” with its investments. Bill said a CD at Community Banks of Colorado reached maturity and he brought a check in today for the proceeds. He said the District was pushing the FDIC insurance limits at Community Banks anyway and that he is hoping to merge these proceeds with other sweep account funds to see if there might be a two-year government note to invest in that will yield in the neighborhood of four percent. Treasurer Nesbitt noted that there will be another CD reaching maturity at Gunnison Savings and Loan in August and that, although he would like to see District funds spread amongst the local banks, it will come down to whether or not there are other treasury investments available that are going to yield a much higher rate than the one percent that most banks are paying now on shorter term CDs. Director Fonken asked if the District was still using LPL Financial and Treasurer Nesbitt said yes.

General Manager Chavez reported that although the audit had been completed by Paul Miller, she was not able to have her interview with Paul, nor was Paul able to meet with Treasurer Nesbitt for a final review due to a scheduling conflict. Sonja said she hoped to wrap up these pieces soon and will provide a copy of the audit results to the Board when available.

General Manager's Update: General Manager Sonja Chavez referred to her update included in the packet.

She asked if anyone had questions about her update on the Rule Making #35 Hearing of the Water Quality Control Commission and none were raised.

Outside Grant Applications: Sonja noted that the District will be serving as the fiscal agent for UCAR for additional cloud seeding along the East River.

Director Nesbitt asked General Manager Chavez where the District stands with respect to funding available through the Forest Service for wildfire management. Sonja noted that the funding is being prioritized according to population risk for now but that we will be approaching them for grants for Taylor Park, for example, when the cycle reaches that phase. She said the funding will come through a variety of sources. Director Nesbitt noted that the data provided earlier that evening by Brad Piehl should help our cause.

CO River District Update: General Manager Chavez reported that CRWCD Executive Director Andy Mueller presented on the mounting water crisis in the West and its effects on agricultural producers and forest watersheds on Colorado's Western Slope at a Senate hearing on June 7th. In his presentation, he also focused on the impacts of climate change on water supplies in the Colorado River Basin and the federal action needed for impacted communities. Over the last 20 years, the flows of the Colorado River have been 20 percent below average due to a drought more severe than any in the last 1,200 years. Mueller also encouraged members of the Senate to support Colorado water in the 2023.

Sonja noted that she has some concerns about the National Weather Service radar site proposed to be installed near Gunnison, as they are talking about using a less expensive system that provides current readings but does not predict what weather is coming into the area. She will be working on trying to get them to elevate that issue.

WMP Update – General Manager Chavez reported that she has a field day scheduled for tomorrow, June 28th, conducting system optimization and infrastructure assessments and that Katie Jagt and Michael Blazewicz will be coming out late in July for another field day.

Sonja noted that with respect to a project with Cold Harbour Institute there were some legal issues that were not clearly spelled out in their proposal, so the District elected to only fund the planning phase.

Grant Program Update – Sonja said that John McClow and Bev Richards have been cranking out a lot of contracts and they expect to get the remaining contracts out soon. Sonja noted that they did have to cancel one of the grants awarded in 2021 due to the fact that the landowner died and the property is for sale. She said the new owner would be invited to apply again for funding once all ownership issues have been settled.

Wet Meadows Program Update: Cheryl Cwelich reported that they are kicking off construction on 17 sites around the basin. Director Stacy McPhail congratulated Cheryl on her success of funding projects.

Taylor Local User's Group Update: The June 7th Meeting Minutes were included in the Board Packet. TLUG Chair Don Sabrowski reported that TLUG was told by the Bureau of Reclamation that there was a 10,000 acre-feet reduction in runoff projections from May 1 to June 1 and that they attribute this primarily due to heavy winds and dry soil. Although there was a good amount of snow in the northern part of the Taylor basin, much of it was melting into the soil profile instead of resulting in runoff. Don said that more than likely, TLUG will see some further reductions in the

forecast. He's hopeful that recent rains will slow down the reductions we've been seeing in the forecasts for inflow. Don reported that they had an inch and a half of rain at Wilder.

In order to maintain a year-end fill of 70,000 acre-feet of water, as directed by the Stipulation for an Average Water Year, Erik Knight of the Bureau of Reclamation suggested changing the releases for the remainder of this water year as follows:

June 16-July 16: 275 cfs (down from 350 cfs)
July 16-August 1: 250 cfs (down from 300 cfs)
August 16-Sept 5: 250 cfs (down from 300 cfs)
September 6: 225 cfs
September 7-26: 200 cfs (down from 225 cfs)
Sept 27: 175 cfs
Sept 28: 150 cfs
Sept 29: 125 cfs
Sept 30-Oct 15 – 100 cfs (down from 175, 150, 125, 100 and 91 cfs in early October)
Oct 16-Nov 1: 85 cfs (down from 91 cfs)

These releases were unanimously agreed to by the TLUG representatives. The next TLUG meeting will be held Friday, July 8th at 9:00 AM.

General Manager Chavez said she hopes for a good monsoon season, but that we are right in the middle of the direction the season could go (wet or dry).

Director Rosemary Carroll asked about the status of the Spring Creek Reservoir fill. Don reported that Water Commissioner Tom Rozman said that Spring Creek Reservoir has been filling because CPW was not able to finish the pipe replacement project before winter last year and the current outlet can only release a max of about 45 cfs. They are going to have to drain the reservoir again to expose the outlet pipe to finish the project so this might bump up flows a bit through the summer. Director Fonken reported that all of the land around the reservoir is now open and that Spring Creek Reservoir appears to be about half-way full.

General Manager Chavez said that for this last and future TLUG meetings, she will be providing very abbreviated minutes for the TLUG representatives and what is being said will not be reported verbatim. Director Sabrowski commended Sonja for her patience and handling of the TLUG representatives.

Scientific Endeavors: Director Rosemary Carroll said it is interesting to consider where all the snow has gone that was measured by the ASO flights. Rosemary reported that a student of Ken Williams (Lawrence Berkley National Laboratories) will be conducting a nitrogen study at both the water treatment facilities for the towns of Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte, as well as at the Slate River for

informational purposes. She said this is not being done to “point fingers” at anyone but to assess why there is a rise in nitrogen levels when in other places around the state, nitrogen levels have decreased. (Director Carroll later pointed out that nitrogen levels are still low in the area but have been on the rise.) Rosemary offers that perhaps the student could give an update to the District at the conclusion and Director McPhail said she would like to hear that. Rosemary said she is working on a water isotopes project in Coal Creek.

Gunnison River Festival Update: Several members of the Board commended Director Joellen Fonken on a great 20th Anniversary Festival, especially since the outbreak of Covid prevented much of the staff from assisting as planned. Joellen said they had a great, wonderful weekend for the festival weather wise with hot temperatures. She said it was really rewarding to see spectators out again. Joellen said there was a spike in flows and the cfs went way up at the Whitewater Park on Saturday that prevented a few of the activities from taking place. For instance, they had to take the dogs out of the water. Joellen said the waivers for the events showed that there were a lot of participants involved who were not from the area. She estimated that the 163 participants that were recorded on waivers may be the highest participation they have ever had. She said the event passed the state water ranger’s safety requirements with flying colors. Her only disappointments were that there were not as many kids involved as in the past and the Wailers did not show up at the I Bar until after midnight as the awards for the Taylor Downriver Race were scheduled to happen just before their concert. Thankfully, this was not technically part of the Gunnison River Festival. A video of the GRF produced by Alex Baca was shown. Joellen brought visors and offered them to Board members.

15. Miscellaneous Matters

General Manager Sonja Chavez asked Board members to contact the District if they wish to attend the Colorado Water Congress Conference in Steamboat Springs August 23-25.

Director Julie Nania offered that there is an opportunity for a “casual partnership” to provide a water talk at the Public Policy Forum and she will follow-up with an email about this to the Education and Outreach Committee.

16. Citizens Comments

No comments.

17. Future Meetings

A list of upcoming meetings was included in the Board Packet.

The Board consensus was to move the meeting date of the August meeting to Monday, August 29th at 5:30 PM to avoid conflicting with travel to the Colorado Water Congress Summer Conference.

18. Summary of Meeting Action Items

John McCLOW and Sonja Chavez will provide more details and updates about plans to reduce consumptive use of the Colorado River.

Rosemary Carroll will check with the student conducting the nitrogen study on the Slate River/Crested Butte to find a time when she would be able to provide a report to the District.

Board and staff members will contact Sue Uerling if they would like to register for the Colorado Water Congress Summer Conference.

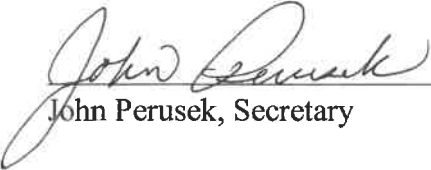
Julie Nania will send out an email to the Education and Outreach Committee about possibly participating in the Public Policy Forum.

John McCLOW will provide Board members with links to join the webinars on July 12th and 14th hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation about the process to be followed in renegotiating the 2007 Guidelines


19. Adjournment

Board Vice President Stacy McPhail adjourned the Annual Meeting on June 27, 2022, at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


John Perusek, Secretary

APPROVED:


Stacy McPhail, Vice President