

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
RURAL WATER AUTHORITY OF DOUGLAS COUNTY
HELD
September 26, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rural Water Authority of Douglas County (RWADC) was held at 7:00 p.m. on September 26, 2012 at the Phillip S. Miller Building, 100 Third St. Castle Rock, CO, Conference Room A & B..

Attendance

In attendance were Directors:

Ron Beane
Commissioner Steven A. Boand
Charles Bucknam
Kristen Dearborn
Barry Gager
Christine Hashimoto
Jack McCormick
Geoff Withers

Director Charlotte Mirabella was absent whose absence was excused.

Also in attendance were:

Conner Shepherd, Circuit Rider of Colorado, LLC
Rhett Everett, Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey
Mark Shively
Bob Dunn
Tim Volz
Tricia Barnhardt

Call to Order

Director Withers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and declared a quorum.

**Disclosure of
Conflicts of
Interest**

Director Withers asked if any Board member had a conflict interest with any item on the Agenda. There were none.

**Approval of
Agenda**

A Location & Extent for Penley Reservoir was added to the Referrals. The Agenda was approved as amended by acclamation.

**Public
Comment**

Water Issues in Douglas County – Greenland Water

Ms. Barnhardt attended because of concerns regarding Greenland water and the Anschutz test wells. She said she has tried to get the data from their test wells but she was told it was not available. Commissioner Board said some information will come available but he is afraid full disclosure will require some sort of legal action. He said the interested parties believe the geophysical data is proprietary. Discussion followed. Commissioner Board said someone could apply for the information through the Colorado Open Records Act.

**Approval of
August 22, 2012
Regular Meeting
Minutes**

Discussion followed. Upon a motion by Director Hashimoto with a second by Director Dearborn, the minutes of August 22, 2012 were approved, as amended.

Presentation

RWADC Well Monitoring Program Status Report

Mr. Rhett Everett, Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey, presented an oral report on the well monitoring program. He said that the USGS extended its grant so data collection will go through April, possibly June. There is even hope the testing may go through the fiscal year 2013.

Thirty-five wells were selected in the following aquifers: 10 in the Upper Dawson, 10 in the Lower Dawson, 11 in the Denver, 2 in the Arapahoe, and 2 in the Laramie Fox Hills aquifers. Two Arapahoe wells are in the red target area. Water measurements are taken bi-monthly. Fifteen wells are equipped with transducers. Once folks found out about the program, there were numerous requests to volunteer wells for testing. 297 water levels have been measured.

Transducers record water levels hourly. Over 9,870 water levels have been measured from the Lower Dawson. We are conducting GPS surveys to accurately measure well head elevations. These should be completed by December 2012. All water levels are now published on the web with daily, maximum, minimum, and median levels.

Initial findings: They compared initial readings (the first manual measure) with original measures provided by well drillers. There were 8 instances where water levels have risen from initial readings. But, as expected, overall water levels fluctuate rising in the winter,

falling in the summer. Similar seasonal fluctuations occur in the same aquifer – demonstrating that wells demonstrate similar changes throughout the year. The aquifer appears to be fluctuating consistently throughout the aquifer.

Changes in water levels in each well were measured. Seasonal fluctuations changed as little as 0.89 feet to as much as 79.15 of change. Director Withers asked if there was any discernible fluctuation with wells situated near municipalities or large water providers. Mr. Everett also illustrated the comparison of year-to-year levels which do show a decline. This is not necessarily a trend – but it is a year-to-year comparison.

Transducers demonstrate a more regular water level. They are not as sensitive to temporary pumping activities.

At this point, there doesn't seem to be a correlation in location and water well levels.

Mr. Everett welcomed a question and answer period. Director Hashimoto asked if there were any meters attached to wells. He said he hasn't asked any well owner because of the fear the program would be perceived as a prologue to enforced metering. Mr. Everett said there are interesting inconsistent facts coming out of the East Chatfield area. There seem to be well depths from 300 to 600 feet reported in the same aquifer. It may be that wells are failing because of mechanical issues – rusting, etc. and are failing not because of the access to water. Commissioner Board observed there appears to be an annual decline of 4-5 feet/year. This seems to be consistent with earlier opinions. Discussion followed about the availability of funding to study the area around Greenland was discussed.

Director Withers thanked Mr. Everett for his presentation. He said there are two items that are in the near future: a report to CWCB and a grant application for an extension of the grant.

Officer Reports

Chairman & Vice-Chair, and Secretary

Director Withers said he had no report beyond information that will be discussed later under separate agenda items.

Director Mirabella, Vice-Chair, was absent.

Director Hashimoto suggested updating the contact lists.

Treasurer - Financial Statements & Claims

Mr. Shepherd provided the Board with the list of Claims and presented the Financial Statements for the period ending September 26, 2012. **Upon a motion by Director McCormick with a second by Beane, the Board ratified the Claims in the total amount of \$1,148.92.** Mr. Shepherd reported that the fund balance of the Authority as of September 26, 2012 was \$129,408.29. **Upon a motion by Director Bucknam with a second by Director McCormick, the Financial Statements were accepted.**

Project Updates

IGA (Rural Water Supply Act) Committee Update

Director Withers reported that the letter authorized at the last meeting by the Board notifying the entities involved in the IGA Committee that the RWADC was withdrawing from the IGA was sent. Mr. Bornstein of the CWCB called and asked why the RWADC chose to withdraw from the IGA Committee. Discussion followed.

USGS Well Monitoring Program

Mr. Everett's report was provided earlier in the meeting.

Outreach Committee

2013 Spring Workshop- Water Conservation

Director Hashimoto said she has found a speaker. She wrote to the American Rainwater Catchment Association. The former director said he would love to attend and speak at the Spring Workshop. He suggested a second speaker. A rainwater harvesting expert will attend as well. They can come on June 8, 2013. Commissioner Board said we need to look at filtration characteristics on roofs, legalities of catchment, etc. We need to quantify these potential values of catchment systems. The cost of the speakers might be shared by the Conservation District through a grant from Douglas County.

Communications Plan – Newsletter & Constant Contact

Director Withers said he has distributed a copy of an initial newsletter through Constant Contact that manages e-mail circulation bases. This is an example of the kind of product that can come out of the Constant Contact program. Commissioner Board said he is

impressed by the organization. Director Withers said he thinks the program can pay for itself. **Upon a motion by Director Bucknam with a second by Commissioner Board the Board agreed that the organization should subscribe to Constant Contact.**

Old Business

none

New Business:

Water Hauling for Well Users in Need

Director Hashimoto said she spoke with Doug DeBord (County Mgr) regarding water hauling. Currently, the cost to individual well water owners appears to be between \$100-\$150/1,000 gallons for hauled water. Director McCormick asked why they aren't drilling new wells. Director Withers pointed out the situation may be temporary between a well failure and the drilling of a new well. Discussion followed. Director Withers brainstormed that the RWADC might create a master contract with a water provider where each well water user needing water would get and pay for the water. Board members agreed this is a sensitive subject. Commissioner Board suggested getting data from the water haulers. Director Withers suggested making this a business item for the next meeting.

State & County Permit Applications; County Referrals

Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission Application

None. Director Withers said he attended a 4-hour training session at the Oil & Gas Commission.

Douglas County Referrals [Commissioner Board departed at this time].

Amendment to Section 18A, Water Overlay District, of the Douglas County Zoning Resolution – Final Comments Sent

Director Withers said comments for previous 18A amendments were sent as a result of the discussions at the Board's special meeting, to the effect that the entire Section 18(A) should be replaced by a cogent, succinct statement of policy, followed by regulations that reflect fair implementation of procedures that reflect that policy. Director McCormick opined that the RWADC shouldn't respond to the referral request. Director Bucknam observed that this referral is asking for the RWA to comment on policy. **Upon a motion by Director Hashimoto with a second by Director Bucknam, the Board determined that it should discuss the possibility of**

responding to the referral. Director Gager asked what problem the proposed revision to 18A is addressing. Director Withers suggested language that said it appears that this paragraph gives the BOCC discretion to treat applicant differently. Director Withers said he would draft a letter and circulate it to the Board for comments.

Location & Extent for Penley Reservoir

Director Gager said he had been concerned about the use of the L&E procedure versus the normal planning process. Discussion followed regarding the legal necessity for L&E applications and the applicant's requirement to follow the approval or disapproval received.

Director McCormick suggested that the RWA comments should focus on its role as representatives of rural water users. Director Beane said the applicant hasn't demonstrated how the project benefits rural water users. There should be greater clarification of conditions. Director Gager will develop a draft statement for the Board to review.

SB2012-035 Highlands Ranch Minor Development – Discussion followed. Some deficiencies in the water supply documentation were identified.

DR2012-008 Zoning Resolution Amendments – The Board determined no water issues are likely. Director Bucknam agreed to review and confirm this assessment and respond accordingly.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Director McCormick with a second by Director Bucknam, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Rural Water Authority of Douglas County shall be held October 24, 2012 at the Miller Building, Conference Rooms A & B.