**Meeting of the**

**Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District**

**Thursday, October 29, 2015**

**1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Rio Blanco County**

**Commissioners’ Meeting Room**

**200 Main Street, Meeker, CO 81641**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

Roll Call

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| Directors Present:  Kelly Sheridan  Ben Rogers  Mike Brennan  Walter Proctor  David Smith, Jr.  Kai Turner  Bailey Franklin  Shawn Welder | Staff Present:  Scott Grosscup, District Attorney  Others Present:  Edward Coryell |

Director Sheridan recognized and thanked Edward Coryell and Mike Brennan for their years of service to the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District. Director Coryell resigned in 2014, and Director Brennan indicated an intent to resign when his term expires at the end of October.

Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2015

Director Smith moved to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2015 meeting, Director Proctor second, all in favor.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Director Proctor moved to pay White and Jankowski, LLLP for its invoice, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Director Proctor moved to pay Balcomb & Green, P.C. for its invoice, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Director Proctor moved to pay Applegate Group for its invoice, Director Rogers second, all in favor.

Director Proctor then stated that with the remaining work to be done on Phase 1 of the reservoir feasibility study and additional legal fees, the District would be very close spending all monies as appropriated in the 2015 Budget.

2016 Budget Presentation

Scott presented the 2016 Budget that was mailed to the Directors on October 15, 2015, copies of which were also provided to Rio Blanco County and Moffat County. He also stated that notice of the budget hearing to occur on December 3, 2015 had been published as required.

Scott stated that the budget follows the similar format from past years. He indicated that overall, revenues and expenditures remain relatively constant. While previous budgets were focused on allowing the District to “catch up”, this one is considers moving forward with respect to developing the District’s water rights though an increase in engineering fees and proceeding in a Phase 2 of the reservoir feasibility project, and putting aside moneys in the reserve account for future projects.

Director Proctor stated that this budget considers maintaining the same mill levy for the Moffat County properties, but that he would like future budgets to set aside those funds for projects specific to Moffat County constituents. The Board then discussed the amounts of the reserve, form that further study would follow, and potential funding sources for reservoir construction.

Director Proctor discussed the need for ongoing study for the potential reservoir locations and importance for this continued study as it relates to the District’s remaining conditional water rights. He expressed a need for good project definition before proceeding to request additional funds from any public agency or other outside sources.

Director Welder asked about potential partnerships with the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District. Scott indicated that that option remains on the table, however, there are not any formal agreements between the two entities at this time. Whether the District decides to pursue such a partnership, and the nature and scope of that partnership should be better defined as the District proceeds with the engineering analysis.

There was general consensus to proceed with the budget as proposed. Scott will review the budget document and present a final budget for consideration at the December 3, 2015 hearing.

Yellow Jacket Study Update

Scott reported that Applegate Group is continuing with the reservoir feasibility analysis and that Applegate has a meeting scheduled with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to discuss the potential for an increase in the dam height at Lake Avery. He indicated that Applegate has revised its initial analysis based on improved mapping. It appears that an additional 2,280 acre feet of storage can be accomplished without inundating property to the north.

Discussion followed about the potential use of that reservoir and the anticipated outcome of the November meeting. Scott indicated that the meeting would likely lead to recommendations on the next phase of the study and issues that would need to be reviewed/addressed. Applegate is scheduled to present a completed report at the Board’s next scheduled meeting on December 3, 2015.

Appointment of Treasurer

With Director Brenan’s resignation, the role of treasure needs to be filled. Director Proctor volunteered, and with no other volunteers or nominations, Director Proctor was appointed treasurer by unanimous consent.

New Business:

Scott presented a new ordinance that is being proposed by the Town of Meeker to amend its existing watershed protection ordinance. He indicated that it expands the town’s jurisdiction to require that certain activities obtain a permit if those activities occur within the watershed protection area. Discussion followed regarding potential concerns by property owners within the boundaries of the watershed protection area. The board decided not to take a position on the ordinance.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Read and approved this 3rd day of December, 2015

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_