**Meeting of the**

**Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District**

**Tuesday May 28, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. to Noon**

**Meeker Library**

**490 Main Street, Meeker, CO 81641**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 p.m. and Director Sheridan welcomed new Board Members, Shana Lewis and Brent Harvey.

Roll Call Staff Present

Directors Present Scott Grosscup

Kelly Sheridan

David Smith Others Present

Shawn Welder Erin Light, Division Engineer, Water Division 6

Bailey Franklin Debbie Raley, Water Commissioner

Paul Neilson Ben Felt, Wiley SummerCPW

Shana Lewis Rebecca Breismoore,

Tyler Desiderio, Applegate Group

 Craig Ulman, Applegate Group

Appointment of Officers for 2024

Director Neilson moved to re-appoint Director Sheridan President, Director Rogers vice-President, Bailey Franklin Treasurer and Budget Officer, and Scott Grosscup Secretary for 2024, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes from December 28, 2023

Director Franklin moved to approve the minutes from the December 28, 203 meeting with correction of spelling of Director Neilson’s name on page 3, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Public Comment

There were no members from the public wishing to discuss items not on the agenda.

Lake Avery Enlargement

Craig Ulman and Tyler Desiderio from Applegate Group summarized their findings of their Hydrology Study and Hydrologic Hazard Analysis of Lake Avery and described their meeting to discuss the results with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff. The Study resulted in several options for the board to consider with respect to an enlarged reservoir that could occur with modifications to the spillway or a physical enlargement of the reservoir. Craig discussed the history of his firm’s work with the District of looking at future needs and demands for water within the basin, including use by augmentation. Applegate has determined a future need and demand between 4,000 and 14,000 acre feet based on future anticipated development.

Discussion followed concerning a designation of over-appropriation within the basin, funding costs for such an enlargement and need to hire an engineering firm to complete the next steps of an engineering feasibility analysis for the reservoir to store additional water.

Director Franklin stated CPW will be drawing down the reservoir beginning in the fall of 2024 with anticipated maintenance of the reservoir in 2025. He indicated CPW was supportive of the project. Craig discussed certain requirements with CPW and/or the Bureau of Reclamation in reservoir design and construction.

Craig then outlined next steps for the District would be to finalize their Study with the Colorado Water Conservation Board to set the flood standards for the reservoir and to get an engineering firm to conduct the next level dam analysis.

Director Smith moved that Applegate proceed to finalize the hydrology study with the CWCB and develop a scope of work to submit to various engineering firms and solicit bids based on options 3 and 4 of the Study for an engineering analysis based on the scope of work. Director Frankline second, all in favor.

Discussion followed about possible hydropower options for an enlarged reservoir. However, due to the size of watershed and possible additional regulation, it does not appear that hydropower would be a viable option at the reservoir.

Colorado River Water Conservation District – Rebecca Briesmoore

Rebecca Briesmoore introduced herself as a liaison between the Colorado River Water Conservation District and the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District. She said her focus is on “big river” issues. She discussed some available grant programs and other assistance. Discussion followed about possible partnerships between the two entities and issues with reservoir ownership. There will be a tour of Lake Avery with staff from the CRWCD on July 30, 2024, with more details to follow.

Website Launch

Scott reported the District’s website is up and running and encouraged members to review. The website includes past meeting materials and will be updated over time with additional information on a potential Lake Avery expansion.

Highland Ditch Lease Update – Request approval of new lease

The current lease with the White River Highland Ditch Company expires in 2024 and Scott presented the new lease. It is consistent with the past lease but increases the annual fee to $2,000.

Director Nielson moved to accept the new lease agreement and include a term whereby the ditch company would agree to indemnify the District of its use of the 4th enlargement water right. Director Franklin second, all in favor.

Treasurer’s Report and Approval of Accounts Payable

Director Franklin presented the accounts payable and budget sheet.

Director Smith moved to pay Balcomb & Green for its invoices. Director Franklin second, all in favor.

Director Neilson moved to pay the invoice for director liability insurance, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Discussion followed concerning whether to invest funds in a CD.

Director Neilson moved to allow the Treasurer to invest funds in a CD at his discretion, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Ratification of Approval of Exemption from Audit

The District submitted its request for exemption from audit through its auditors in February. There being no meeting since that time, Director Smith moved to ratify the submission of the exemption from audit to the State Auditor, Director Franklin second, all in favor.

New Business

Scott reported the District received a notice from the Division of Local Government that the District will collect approximately $74 more in property tax revenues than allowed by state statute. He has contacted DOLA to determine what are next steps. Likely outcome will be a limitation on growth in the 2025 budget.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Read and approved this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

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

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