**Meeting of the**

**Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District**

**Tuesday, September 30, 2014**

**1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Rio Blanco County**

**Commissioners’ Meeting Room**

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

Roll Call

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| --- | --- |
| Directors Present:  Edward Coryell, President  David Smith, Vice-President  Ben Rogers  Kelly Sheridan  Walter Proctor | Others Present  Scott Grosscup, General Counsel  Rio Blanco Conservancy District Representatives, Dan Eddy, Peggy Rector, Brad McCloud and Alan Vandenbrink |

Appointment of Secretary:

Scott Grosscup was appointed secretary of the meeting.

Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District

Mr. Dan Eddy, District Manager for the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District (“RBWCD”) discussed that District’s present White River Storage Feasibility Project study that is looking at possible reservoir locations, similar to the study completed by the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District. He proposed that now could be a good time for the to work with the RBWCD to consider a reservoir project within the White River basin that could provide benefit to all water users and constituents within the basin. He indicated that there may be opportunities, through an intergovernmental agreement, acquisition or dedication, where the YJWCD’s water rights could be used to assist a larger project.

Mr. Brad McCloud, Project Manager for EIS Solutions, and consultant for the RBWCD, suggested that through a management agreement, the YJWCD’s water rights could provide a benefit to a joint project. He said that the Phase 1 part of the study looked at a number of reservoir locations within the RBWCD’s boundaries for possible location of a 90,000 acre foot reservoir. Such a reservoir, he indicated, would provide a number of economic benefits to the region from increased tourism and recreation, as well as provide water for municipal purposes, meet potential minimum stream flows required under an anticipated programmatic biological opinion (“PBO”) for the White River, as well as meet possible compact calls. Ms. Peggy Rector also discussed the benefit to the community for having an additional storage structure.

RBWCD then discussed the process they have been following as part of their study. This has included a number of public meetings, as well meetings with the BLM, Basin Round Table, Colorado River Water Conservation District, and other governmental entities.

Discussion then followed between the YJWCD and RBWCD boards about the next steps to explore working together. Both agreed that additional storage would benefit the entire basin in the event of a compact calls or minimum flows imposed by a PBO. While storage at the higher elevations may be more desirable based on location, it can also be more difficult to ultimately permit and construct. The RBWCD is working on Phase 2 of the study.

Approval of minutes:

Director Sheridan moved to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2014 meeting, Director Proctor second, all in favor.

Highland Ditch:

Director Proctor reported that the White River Highland Ditch Company had made payment in the amount $1,500 for use of the District’s water right for 2014.

Scott reported that he had sent the White River Highland Ditch Company a letter inviting participation at the meeting and requesting to finalize the lease agreement for use of the District’s water right. Director Smith indicated that the Company had received the lease agreement but may have some questions or concerns about terms in the agreement.

Director Proctor moved to authorize the president to sign the lease agreement with the White River Highland Ditch Company, provided that the agreement is returned in the form provided. Director Sheridan second, all in favor.

Director Appointments

Scott stated that three of the directors’ terms will be expiring this year. He stated that the Board is in need of getting new directors to fill some of the existing vacant seats. Discussion followed about what to do to get more directors. Scott said that one option that may create additional participation would be to change the way directors are appointed from individual districts to an at-large representation. This could have the problem of having all directors from one particular area. However, the balance right now is that representation is primarily from the White River basin.

Director Proctor moved that the District petition the District Court to amend the decree organizing the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District to allow representation from the greater District with preference given to applicants who own property within one of the Divisions, Director Rogers second, all in favor.

Diligence Decrees

Scott stated that the Water Court had entered the proposed Decrees entered in Cases No. 09CW48 and 09CW50 as proposed by the District. He also indicated that going forward there would be several tasks to be completed prior to the next diligence filing.

Budget

Scott indicated that a draft budget is required to be available by October 15, 2014. He is working on a draft that will be made available by that time.

Director Rogers moved to appoint Director Proctor as budget Director, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Treasurers Report

Director Brennan being absent, Director Proctor discussed bills that been received.

Director Sheridan moved to pay Balcomb and Green for the invoiced amount of $4,376.38, director Rogers second, all in favor.

Director Proctor moved to pay White and Jankowski the amount of $3,625.20, which was billed in 2014, director Sheridan second, all in favor.

Director Proctor then discussed the status of the 2014 budget and indicated that there is some money that remains in the engineering line item that could be used to jump-start revisions to the prior feasibility study to analyze project feasibility based on the terms of the several settlements.

Director Proctor also indicated that the bill for the annual audit had been paid in the amount of $440. No one objected to that payment.

New Business:

The directors discussed establishing a consistent meeting day for future meetings. All agreed to the 3rd Thursday of the second month in each quarter: February, May, August, and November.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Read and approved this \_\_th day of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2014

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

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