

**Meeting of the
Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District
Thursday June 30, 2022
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Directors Present
Kelly Sheridan
Ben Rodgers
Walter Proctor
Anthony Theos
David Smith
Shawn Welder
Bailey Franklin

Staff Present

Scott Grosscup, District's Attorney

Others Present

N/A

Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2021

Director Proctor moved to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2021, meeting as presented, Director Franklin seconded, all in favor.

Public Comment

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

Approval of Accounts Payable

Director Franklin presented the year-to date budget expenses and balances. Director Smith moved to pay Balcomb & Green \$3,965 to cover legal fees, advanced insurance costs, and other expenses, director Proctor seconded, all in favor.

Status of Water Rights Cases

Scott reported that he had received final decrees in the District's pending water court cases consistent with the terms of prior stipulations and Board direction as follows: Case No. 19CW317

moved 10,000 acre feet of the Sawmill Mountain water right to Lake Avery; Case No. 20CW3031 withdrew the application to change Ripple Creek Reservoir and Lost Park Feeder Canal resulting in cancellation of these water rights; 20CW3034 finding of reasonable diligence for the District's Sawmill Mountain water right. Discussion followed on how the water rights could be used and steps to enlarge Lake Avery.

Lake Avery Enlargement

Director Franklin reviewed the current status of discussions with Colorado Parks and Wildlife ("CPW") regarding enlargement of Lake Avery. He stated the current director has indicated reluctance to expand Lake Avery and has questioned the viability of such project. Discussion followed about what needs to be done to enlarge the reservoir and to address concerns from CPW. The board reviewed the memorandum from Applegate Group from December 2021, which set forth a suggested path toward reservoir expansion. The suggested first step is to develop a Dam Breach and Flood Hydrology Analysis. This analysis would determine how an enlarged reservoir would be classified and present additional information on the feasibility of the project. The board discussed messaging its efforts to study the reservoir feasibility to CPW, the need to emphasize the additional benefits of an enlarged reservoir with additional uses and work with other elected officials to promote the project based on the results of this first step.

Director Nielson moved to authorize Applegate Group to proceed with Task 1: Dam Breach and Flood Hydrology analysis as proposed in its memorandum from December 8, 2021, Director Franklin second. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Scott discussed the possibility of also storing the Sawmill Mountain Reservoir water right in Lake Avery without a dam expansion under an accounting process. This could increase how the reservoir is used and would require a separate agreement with CPW. This is an option if the enlargement is not feasible and CPW would want to operate the reservoir to create more releases for stream flows or augmentation purposes. Discussion followed.

New Business

Director Proctor discussed the activities of the White River Integrated Water Initiative and its request for funding to support several projects as part of its Phase III objectives on water measurement. This funding would be used to assist in generating additional grant money. One project is to develop a water measuring display at Circle Park in Meeker. The display would incorporate up to 11 water measuring devices that would provide the public with an opportunity to learn about how water is measured on a gravity flow system. The cost for the display would be between \$50,000 and \$100,000. The second part of this Phase III is to work with Colorado Northwestern Community College to provide education on water measuring.

Director Proctor noted his involvement in the project and requested that the Board submit a letter of commitment to the White River Conservation District to provide funding subject to that District

obtaining additional grant funds for the project. Discussion followed about the merits of the project.

Director Franklin moved to commit up to \$10,000 for the water measurement display in Circle Park subject to the Conservation District obtaining sufficient funding for the project, Director Smith seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Director Proctor then discussed further studies by the White River Initiative to look at the hydrology of Piceance Creek and Upland Range Health, with additional discussion that followed. Director Franklin will temporarily serve for Director Proctor on the White River Initiative meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Read and approved this 8th day of December 2022.

Signed: 

Attest: 

