

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO WATER
ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE**

MINUTES

March 16, 2017

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise (Enterprise) was held on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 9:33 a.m., at the District office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado.

President Long announced a quorum was present.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Bill Long	Ann Nichols	Gary Bostrom
Vera Ortegon	Kevin Karney	Gibson Hazard
Carl McClure	Tom Goodwin	David Simpson
Howard "Bub" Miller	Jay Moore	Pat Edelmann
Curtis Mitchell	Dallas May	Mark Pifher
Alan Hamel-Advisory Board Member		

DIRECTOR(S) ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

None

ENTERPRISE OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Executive Director James Broderick; General Counsel Lee Miller; Administrative Manager Toni Gonzales; Principal Engineer Kevin Meador; Water Resources Engineer Garrett Markus; Issues Management Program Coordinator Chris Woodka; Finance Coordinator/IT Leann Noga; and Federal Lobbyists Ray Kogovsek and Christine Arbogast.

VISITORS PRESENT:

Doug Fitzgerald, U.S. Congressman Scott Tipton's office; Terry Dawson and Shane Hayden, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Jerry Peña, GEI Consultants; Brett Gracely, Colorado Springs Utilities; and Bill Banks, U.S. Geological Survey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Long said the minutes of the February 16, 2017 Board meeting were posted to the Board website for review, and if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Mrs. Ortegon moved, seconded by Mr. Howard "Bub" Miller moved, to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Treasurer Nichols reported the financial statements for February 2017 were not posted for the Board to review, so they will be on the April agenda for acceptance. Treasurer Nichols moved, seconded by Mr. Goodwin, for payment of the March 2017 bills. Motion unanimously carried.

CONSENT ITEMS:

None

PRESENTATIONS:

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Christine Arbogast reported the budget and appropriations process is now well underway in Washington, D.C.

The House and Senate are working on completion of FY '17 appropriations bill. They hope to assemble an omnibus package rather than a Continuing Resolution holding spending at FY '16 levels.

This is good for the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC, because the FY '17 administration budget request for the AVC was \$3 million. In addition, the Senate pluses up the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) budget \$157 million and the House \$20 million. Our delegation is leaning in on this with appropriators, urging them to accept the Senate number.

In addition, the President this morning released the Administration's "skinny" budget, a blue print of priorities to this new Administration. There are significant cuts in many departments, and 12 percent in the Department of the Interior. However, the statement about Reclamation is to invest more than \$1 billion in western water infrastructure." While that does not reflect much of an increase because Reclamation's budget has been flat lined for more than a decade. But it is certainly better than other agencies have fared.

But this is the opening bid in the budget process, the first step. But for Reclamation, at least supporters on the Hill do not have to fight to get money back into Reclamations budget.

Congressman Scott Tipton recently testified on the importance of the AVC in the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee in support of the AVC, arguing that the project is worthy of federal support.

There is not much else moving on the Hill, but there have been numerous hearings on infrastructure, and western water is getting good focus in those hearings. Andy Colosimo of Colorado Springs Utilities testified in the House last week, and Chris Treese of the Colorado River Water Conservation District will testify in the Senate next week.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

No legislation has been introduced on the rescission of the Waters of the United States rule, but it remains in the courts. And, EPA has asked that it be remanded back to the agency for a rewrite and that process has begun, reported board member Mark Pifher.

ACTION ITEMS:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

The Board was provided written material on the following topics, which were posted to the Board website:

- AVC and Excess Capacity Master Contract Update

OTHER BUSINESS MATTERS:

President Long asked if there were any other matters to come before the meeting, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Gonzales
Administrative Manager

Secretary

