



**Douglas County Board of  
County Commissioners**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Rural Water Authority  
of Douglas County**

**Wednesday, July 22, 2009**

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The Rural Water Authority met in the Philip S. Miller Building, 100 Third Street, Castle Rock, Colorado.

**Present**

Steven A. Boand, Commissioner  
Anita Littlewolf  
Jack McCormick  
Charlotte Mirabella  
Michael Owisany  
Priscilla Queen  
Joseph Rottman  
Geoff Withers

**Staff**

Judy Hammer, Planning Technician

**Call to Order/Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Boand called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The June 24, 2009, minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

**Section 18A Subcommittee Update**

Charlotte Mirabella updated the Authority on the status of the proposed revisions to Section 18A and noted the sustainable definition is almost finished. Commissioner Boand reviewed the proposed timeline to review and possibly adopt an revised version of Section 18A.

**Citizen Comment:**

Citizen comments were not made.

**By-Laws Discussion**

Geoff Withers reviewed the current updates to the bylaws. The Authority discussed the election process in which a member from a small water provider district board may be nominated to serve on the Authority. Geoff reviewed the qualifications to be on the Authority as they pertain to water districts. It was noted that small water provider districts can nominate one representative from their district.

Mike Owisany noted that the Grandview Estates Rural Water Conservation (GERWC) Board would still like to have alternate positions added into the bylaws. They feel it would be important due to how the GERWC board members are appointed.

The Authority reviewed additional changes to the bylaws with Geoff including: inserting flexibility to allow the Authority the ability to determine the order of business for each meeting; and adding additional text under Article V, Section 8 that outlines the need to have a second meeting to review votes that require a super majority. Commissioner Board asked the Authority if they would like him to formally ask the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for funds to allow the County Attorney and the consultant who drafted the Creation Agreement to review the draft bylaws. He suggested that the Authority set a goal to adopt the bylaws by September.

The Authority voted to approve both County Attorney and consultant review of the draft bylaws, noting that the review will be subject to the BCC approval of funds.

**Citizen comment:**

Citizen comments were not made.

**Equivalent Residential Unit Discussion**

Commissioner Board noted the necessity of developing a definition of small water providers and suggested several ways to outline Equivalent Residential Units (ERU). Measurement methods could include: the number or size of taps; water service provided to rural residential customers only (consider various scenarios that may be within the residential development including golf courses or a small commercial center); or through the methods outlined in Tim Murrell's calculations per his July 13, 2009, memo entitled "RWADC Definition of Small Water Provider." He asked the Authority to consider the County's requirement of 1 acre/foot per single family unit for areas that are zoned Rural. Commissioner Board noted that most water providers use a tap equivalent service chart as a method to convert different uses within single family rural development. He noted an ERU definition should be one of the first policies adopted by the Authority.

The Authority discussed possible methods to measure ERU and noted that the definition needs to be flexible enough to allow the Authority to expand or change it when necessary. They also discussed allowed uses and amounts and highlighted the importance of ensuring that it applies to small population numbers.

Commissioner Board noted he will convey the above noted discussion to Tim Murrell and direct him to draft a policy for the Authority to review.

Commissioner Board noted that staff assembled a list of small water providers and compared them to lists generated from Title 32, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Each list of

small water providers was different. Commissioner Board noted he will bring those lists to the next Authority meeting.

**Citizen comment:**

Citizen comments were not made.

**Discuss Services of the Authority**

Commissioner Board proposed that the Authority submit a request for funds from the BCC. The funds will pay for membership dues, legal counsel, sonic water level meters, education, operations and conducting studies.

**Citizen comment:**

Citizen comments were not made.

**Discuss the Authority's Public Outreach Program**

The Authority briefly reviewed various media forms to use to inform the public about the Rural Water Authority of Douglas County, and noted that it will be important to let the public know about their website.

**Citizen comment:**

Citizen comments were not made.

**Calendar Update**

Commissioner Board reviewed updates made to the calendar for August and September and noted the proposed budget adoption timeframe.

**Other Items**

Commissioner Board suggested that the Authority join the Douglas County Water Resource Authority (DCWRA) and highlighted some of the potential benefits that the Authority will realize once they become a member. He noted the BCC encourages all entities to cooperatively work together. The Authority discussed the pros and cons of becoming a member of the DCWRA. Jack McCormick noted that participation in County agencies' water conservation efforts presents a united front while they are looking for potential water rights on the Western Slope.

Commissioner Board noted that the BCC adopted an initiative that encourages small water providers to adopt a water conservation plan by 2010. If the water provider is unable to draft a plan, then the County has offered to help. He asked the Authority if they would like to assist in drafting conservation plans for some of the water providers and noted that most of the larger municipalities have adopted a conservation plan already.

Commissioner Board noted that conserving resources is one of the goals of the BCC. To that end, they have enacted a policy to lower water consumption on all County facilities property. He noted that most of the Kentucky bluegrass has been removed.

The Authority discussed finding a balance between economic viability and sustainability. Joe Rottman advocated that large developers should be required to provide their own surface water supply if they want to develop in the County. He voiced concern about current residents/businesses conserving water and then development using the groundwater that they conserved.

Commissioner Board noted that the BCC has dedicated the month of August to work on water issues; their goal will be to formulate pragmatic solutions.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.