



**Douglas County Board of
County Commissioners**

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

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

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

Present

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

Staff

Tim Murrell, Water Resource Planner
Judy Hammer, Planner

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Board called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The July 22, 2009, minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Section 18A Subcommittee Update

Charlotte Mirabella noted the report she and other members of the subcommittee compiled on the proposed changes to Section 18A. Commissioner Board thanked them for their efforts and noted that he will review the report with the other Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The suggested revisions will be formally reviewed by the BCC in mid-October during a regularly scheduled staff meeting. Commissioner Board noted he will provide the Authority with a copy of the minutes from the BCC meeting. In addition, the BCC has committed to focus on Douglas County water issues through November 26, 2009. He noted proposed Section 18A revisions will likely generate a lot of public comment. Commissioner Board briefly reviewed the revision process of section in the Zoning Resolution and noted it includes the referral process to various agencies.

The Authority discussed the subcommittee's definition of a sustainable water supply and noted it may generate public controversy. Commissioner Board noted the definition may foster vigorous discussion amongst the BCC.

Citizen Comment:

Citizen comments were not made.

Legal Review Report of the Draft By-Laws Discussion/Approval

Commissioner Board noted Kristen Decker from the Douglas County Attorney's Office reviewed the draft bylaws. In her memorandum she suggested that the Authority consider removing all duplicative language that is slightly different than what is written into the Creation Agreement. Geoff Withers noted the duplicative language was added in the bylaws in order to eliminate the need to refer to the Creation Agreement. He noted Article III, Section 4 describes the Authority's district boundaries. Whereas, a written description was not in the Creation Agreement; there was only a map depicting the boundaries.

The Authority discussed continuing issues pertaining to the bylaws and they included: the importance of ensuring that the bylaws are not contrary to the Creation Agreement; using Robert's Rules of Order as a guideline, only; and whether or not to have alternate positions on the Authority. Geoff suggested that the Bylaw Subcommittee review the comments from Kristen Decker. While they are reviewing the comments, Geoff suggested that the committee draft a separate arrangement for small water providers into the bylaws.

The Authority discussed the election process for positions on the Authority. It was noted that replacements for mid-term vacancies are appointed by the Authority until there is an election period. However, there is a qualification for those positions in that they must be a member of a small water provider district board.

The Authority voted in favor of having the Subcommittee re-review the bylaws in consideration of the suggested changes from the Attorney's Office.

Citizen comment:

Citizen comments were not made.

Citizen's Guide to Colorado Water Law Video (Justice Hobbs)

Tim Murrell showed the video entitled "Citizen's Guide to Colorado Water Law", prepared by the Colorado Foundation for Water Education and presented by Justice Greg Hobbs.

After the video, the Authority briefly discussed the water rights that apply to the Denver Basin Aquifer System.

Citizen comment:

Citizen comments were not made.

Colorado Division of Water Resources (Kevin Rein SEO)

This item was removed from the agenda. Kevin Rein is tentatively scheduled to attend the Authority meeting in October.

Citizen comment:

Citizen comments were not made.

2010 Budget Proposal

Commissioner Board reviewed the Authority's proposed 2010 budget and noted the County will fund the Authority through 2011. He noted that he will review the proposed budget more thoroughly with Geoff Withers. Tim Murrell noted there are agencies that the Authority can submit applications to for grants to help off-set costs of administering the Authority. The Authority requested adding expenditures for grants into the proposed budget.

Commissioner Board noted the County gets a lot of requests for water level measurement services and suggested that the Authority either provide this service or contract it out to another agency or company. He encouraged the Authority to consider the pros and cons of both of these alternatives. He noted that HOA's, with some degree of training, will still be able to maintain their well tests. Charles Bucknam noted that the US Geological Survey (USGS) monitors water levels in wells and they guarantee the quality of their data. The Grandview Estates District has a contract with the USGS to monitor the wells within the District's boundaries. Commissioner Board suggested it may be possible to get a contract with USGS so that they could provide well monitoring and water level measurement services for the Authority. He asked Charles for his USGS contact information and a copy of the USGS report.

Citizen comment:

Citizen comments were not made.

Other Items

The Authority discussed the information that was in Geoff Withers' presentation to the Rural Framework Committee.

The Authority discussed possible information to incorporate into an outreach program about the DCWRA to the public and Charlotte suggested using the information from Geoff's presentation.

Commissioner Board noted that DC8 finished filming B-rolls about the Authority. The following item will be added to September's DCWRA meeting agenda: The DC8 Rural Water Authority video project and the next steps.

Tim asked the Authority if they would be willing to have their names and email addresses posted on DCWRA website. He noted he receives calls from citizens asking about the members of the Authority. The Authority agreed to have their names posted on the website and requested that an email address be set up to utilize the County server. That way their personal or business email addresses are not posted. Tim noted he would convey this request to Wendy Holmes, Director Public Relations.

Tim noted the Colorado State Engineer has a new tool on their website that allows users to access information about wells. He stated that he would forward the link to the Authority.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.