

# **Record of Proceedings**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the La Plata Archuleta Water District**

### **Held February 9, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the La Plata Archuleta Water District and Fox Fire Subdistrict, La Plata County, Colorado, (“District”) was held on February 9, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at 255 Ute Street, Ignacio Colorado 81137.

#### **Attendance:**

##### **Directors in Attendance Were:**

Dick Lunceford  
Dan Lynn  
Ron Dent  
Kent Curtis  
Mark Williams

##### **In Attendance, Also, Were:**

Ed Tolen, La Plata Archuleta Water District Manager  
Yvonne Brunson, La Plata Archuleta Water District Customer Service Representative  
Steve Harris, Harris Water Engineering  
Dave Henry, Harris Water Engineering  
Karmen King, Grayling  
Barb Prose, FredrickZink and Associates  
Cheryl Lynn, Secretary to the Board

##### **In Attendance, Also, via Telephone, Were:**

Micki Mills, Cockrel Ela Glesne Greher & Ruhland

#### **Call to Order**

Chairman Lunceford called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest will be a topic of discussion at every Board meeting to address potential conflicts of interests that may arise as new agenda items are introduced. District Directors who have disclosed potential conflicts of interest can vote as issues arise. Directors present reported no conflicts of interest.

#### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion duly made by Director Dent, seconded by Director Lynn, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the January 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting were approved as presented.

## **Financial Report**

### **Approval and Payment of Invoices**

Directors reviewed the February 8, 2023, Accounts Payable Report and February 2023 Accountant's Compilation Report. Directors clarified expenditures as necessary. Upon motion duly made by Director Williams, seconded by Director Dent, and unanimously carried the Board approved payment of invoices as shown on the attached Accounts Payable statement dated February 8, 2023.

### **Finance Committee Report.**

There was nothing to report.

### **Public Relations/Communications Committee Report**

Mr. Tolen noted that, now that La Plata County property owners have received property tax bills, he has received several calls asking about the nature of the District's property taxes.

Director Lynn introduced a conversation he had with a La Plata West Water Authority (LPWWA) Board member about a shared water treatment plant close to Lake Nighthorse. Lake Durango Water Authority also could benefit from a new water treatment plant. The possibility of a shared water treatment plant depends on many factors including how quickly LPWWA anticipates building out water lines. Mr. Harris reminded all of the economies of scale for one large plant instead of three small ones.

## **Legal Report**

### **Consider a Petition for Inclusion into the District of the Thwing/Pedersen Property at 1314 Sundance Hills Road**

Chairman Lunceford opened the Public Hearing to consider the Petition for Inclusion filed by Michael W. Thwing and Ninna Pedersen of property into the District located at 1314 Sundance Hills Road, Durango, Colorado. There being no public present the hearing was closed. Upon motion duly made by Director Lynn, seconded by Director Curtis, and unanimously carried the Board approved the inclusion of such property into the District and adopted the Order for Inclusion of Real Property.

### **Consider a Petition for Inclusion into the Sundance/Faraday Subdistrict of the Thwing/Pederson Property at 1314 Sundance Hills Road, Durango, Colorado.**

Upon motion duly made by Director Lynn, seconded by Director Dent, and unanimously carried the Board adopted the Resolution Approving Inclusion of Real Property for the property located at 1314 Sundance Hills Road into the Sundance/Farraday Subdistrict No. 1.

## **Engineer Report**

### **Irrigation Ditch Meetings**

Directors and Mr. Tolen attended particular irrigation ditch meetings as assigned.

### **Water Hero**

Mr. Harris reported that Carrie Lile was nominated by the Roundtable and at a meeting in Denver received a Water Hero award for her work on the Colorado Water Plan.

### **Lake Nighthorse**

Director Williams noted that he is appreciative that recreation at Lake Nighthorse is paying for itself without being subsidized.

### **Fox Fire Pipeline**

Mr. Henry advised the Board that he continues to exchange draft edits with the drafter. He further noted that our drafter is starting a business which will take time away from his work with the District, although he has promised to continue his drafting work for the District. In the meantime, Mr. Henry is in search of a backup drafter. Work remains to be completed in financing and appropriately sized water pump areas. Mr. Henry asked the Board if they would ever consider placing a fiberoptic line in the trench with the water pipe. This will be discussed soon at a Board meeting.

### **Phase 2D Pipeline**

Mr. Henry continues design updates of the Phase 2D pipeline.

### **Phase 2C**

Mr. Henry advised the Board that he had a productive discussion with Semlers and Bairds following their participation in January's Board meeting. They walked the length of the proposed water line. He listened to their concerns, some of which predate proposed District easements. With the information received Mr. Henry can again commence work on the Phase 2C pipeline design. There remains an easement issue to be resolved. Director Lynn requested that the entire Board be able to approve a final set of plans prior to construction work commencing on Phase 2C.

### **Environmental Report**

Ms. King reported that a Waters of the United States report was published in late January, 2023. This report diminishes environmental reporting necessary for irrigation ditches and adjacent wetlands but necessitates more stringent permit requirements. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is now the prime agency involved which has led to cultural resource standards being increased, archeological and cultural resources reported separately, and proof, via drawings, that District construction work is aligned with existing utilities.

## **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

### **Bulk Water Fill Stations**

Mr. Tolen reviewed bulk water customer operations with the Board. Patterns of use are developing, i.e. the fill stations are busier in the summer than winter, and the District accommodates additional customers when, for instance, the Durango City bulk water system is inoperable. The District continues to flush water through its pipes to maintain water safety and quality, though fewer gallons are flushed because additional customers are using water.

### **Phase 2C Easements**

Mr. Tolen advised the Board that challenges are presented with CDOT's stricter requirements for high level GPS surveys. While the idea is conceptually good, execution is a challenge. It remains difficult to access the information through minimal CDOT staff. Essentially the program is an unfunded mandate.

### **Executive Session**

No executive session was conducted.

## **Any Other Matter Which May Come Before the Board**

### **District Building and Skid Steer**

Chairman Lunceford asked about progress on the planned new District Building to house pipeline supplies and a skid steer. Preliminary work continues in bits and pieces but there is nothing new or specific to report. Mr. Tolen will continue work on this project.

### **Property Owner Financing for Pipeline Infrastructure**

Chairman Lunceford also asked about progress on a bank program to lend funds to property owners so they are able to hook up to the District water pipeline. Repayment of the debt would be incorporated into the customer's monthly water bill and paid over time. Mr. Curtis will develop a plan for this program for discussion by the Board.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m. The next regular meeting of LAPLAWD is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at 255 Ute Street, Ignacio, Colorado, unless it is necessary to meet in another matter to satisfy governmental requirements.

## **Prepared By**

Cheryl Lynn  
Secretary for the Meeting

## **Approved**

Richard T. Lunceford

Daniel R. Lynn, III

Mark Williams

Ron Dent

Kent Curtis