

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL WATER BANK MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
JANUARY 13, 2020**

Directors having been duly notified; Madam Chair Dunning called the special meeting of the MRGCD water bank to order at 2:05 pm at the MRGCD General Office. The following Directors and Staff were present:

<b>DIRECTORS</b>				<b>STAFF</b>	
Karen Dunning, Madam Chair	Present	Mike Hamman		Chief Engineer/CEO	
Joaquin Baca, Vice-Chair	Present	Dr. Chuck DuMars		Chief Water Counsel	
John Kelly, Director	Absent	Lorna Wiggins		General Counsel	
Valerie Moore, Director	Present	John Thompson		MRGCD Lobbyist	
Michael T. Sandoval, Director	Present	DeAnna Phillips		GIS Tech/Board Liaison	
Barbara Baca, Director	Present	David Gensler		Water Operations Manager	
Stephanie Russo Baca, Director	Present	Becky Burnham		Budget Analyst	
		DeAnna Phillips		GIS Technician	
		Christina Nardi		Human Resources Director	
		Jason Casuga		Engineer Manager	
		Doug Stretch		GIS Manager	
		Casey Ish		Water Resource Specialist	
		Sarah Avallone		Water Bank Program Mgr.	
		Lorenzo Benavidez		Socorro Division Manager	
		Sloan Washburn		Belen Division Manager	

The following names of individuals were interested viewers and/or participants:

Gary Stansifer, OSE  
Anders Lundahl, NMISC  
John Fleck, UNM

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

John Fleck, from University of New Mexico, led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

Madam Chair Dunning declared a quorum and welcomed guests, as well as noted that the meeting was publicly noticed. Director Kelly is out of town but is trying to obtain cell service to call in.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

No adjustments to the agenda were made.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA**. Vice Chair Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – WATER AVAILABILITY REPORT - David Gensler, Water Operations Manager**

Although he didn't want any accolades, Mr. Gensler has been with the District for 25 years; (much applause from the attendees followed this announcement) and he then said that every year the water situation has been different. The winter has started off well. SNOTELs we are most interested in range from 91% to about 124% of average today. The Cumbres Trestle is about 107% of normal today with 14 inches of water in the pack, which is a little better than half of what we get in an average year. So, we are off to a pretty good start. If, and it's always a big if, the weather continues to stay on track, we seem to be set up for a "normal runoff". But there is no such thing as normal in the Middle Rio Grande. It's kind of a vague term for us, especially after coming off a three-year cycle of very wet, extremely dry, then extremely wet. Something sort of in the middle will be unusual, but probably kind of welcome for us this spring.

In spite of our best efforts, it appears we're going to fall short against our 2019 delivery obligation of the Rio Grande Compact. The New Mexico Interstate Stream commission has not released their calculations yet, but all the whispers are that we are coming up something well over 30,000 acre-feet in the red.

On the other hand, the Rio Grande Project Storage is approaching 600,000 feet. It is approximately 590,000 today. If we stay on track, there will probably be over 650,000 acre-feet down there before the District will start taking water. Good chance, good probability, we will be able to store normally in the spring up at El Vado.

The downside of that Rio Grande Compact debt is that the first water to go into storage, up to the limit of our debt, gets effectively locked up to cover that bill. Following that, Reclamation will undoubtedly tag a certain portion of the El Vado storage for their P&P reserve. Right off the bat, something on the order of 50,000 to 55,000 acre-feet is essentially unavailable to us. Our storage restriction at El Vado right now limits us to about 115,000 acre-feet of total storage. So, best case scenario we are looking at storing probably 60,000 acre-feet this spring, something in that vicinity, which is not terrible. On top of that, we will have an additional 10,000 to 15,000 acre-feet of 2019 San Juan water. Even though it is kept off the table for use the following year, we are likely to get a full delivery of 2020 San Juan Chama water as well (another 20,000 acre-feet of water in round numbers). So, we are okay, given today's circumstances, going into the 2020 irrigation season.

The subject of today's meeting is water bank, and our storage is applicable to that. Given that our total storage will likely be less than the water bank storage triggers for curtailment, we should expect water bank operations this year to generally be controlled by flow triggers. There is no certainty of enough water for all users at all times. Water bank users, considered junior to those with water rights or pertinent to the land being irrigated, should be prepared for periods of curtailment during the 2020 season.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – MRGCD IRRIGATION / WATER BANK COMMITTEE REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS ON WATER BANK LEASE RATES & FEES - Directors Moore, Sandoval, and Russo Baca**

The Irrigation/Water Bank Committee met just before this Special Water Bank meeting, and Director Moore reported that the following are the recommendations from the Committee:

- Continue the administration fee of \$100 per lease, which is good for five years (as long as there are no changes in the contract).
- Increase in the water service charge to \$43.82/per acre, per year (0.82/per acre increase for cost of living adjustment).
- Continue the lease rate of \$50/per acre, per year.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (Comments are held to six (6) minutes)**

There were no Items from the Floor at today's meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – SET WATER BANK LEASE RATES & FEES**

A Motion was made to accept the Irrigation/Water Bank Committee recommendations for the following (noted above in Item 4):

- Administration fee of \$100 per lease, which is good for five years (as long as there are no changes in the contract).
- Water service charge to \$43.82/per acre, per year.
- Lease rate of \$50/per acre, per year.

Vice Chair Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE WATER BANK LEASE RATES AND FEES**. Director Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION M-01-13-20-164 - ADOPTION OF WATER BANK RATES & FEES FOR 2020 IRRIGATION SEASON**

The Motion was made for Approval of Resolution M-01-13-20-164, Adoption of Water Bank Rates and Fees for the 2020 Irrigation Season, per the recommendations of the Irrigation/Water Bank Committee (details listed above in Item 4).

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

ADOPTION OF WATER BANK RATES & FEES FOR 2020 IRRIGATION SEASON

M-01-13-20-164

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (Board) of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (District), has reviewed a recommendation from the Board's Water Bank Committee for the fees for the 2020 irrigation season; and

WHEREAS, at a Special Meeting of the Board held January 13, 2020, called for the purpose of establishing Water Bank Rates and Fees, the Board approved the following for the 2020 irrigation season:

**Administration Fee**  
\$100.00/per lease  
(for 5 years subject to "NO" changes to Water Bank Contract)

**Water Service Charge (per acre)**  
\$43.82 per acre / per year

**Lease Rate (per acre)**  
\$50.00 per acre / per year

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, hereby approves the fees and lease rates for the Water Bank hereinabove described.

RESOLVED: in session this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Dunning, Chair of the Board

Director Moore made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION M-01-13-20-164 - ADOPTION OF WATER BANK RATES AND FEES FOR THE 2020 IRRIGATION SEASON.** Vice Chair Baca seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

With no further comments, questions or concerns, Director Sandoval made the **MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.** Director Moore seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Special Meeting for MRGCD Water Bank of the Board of Directors of January 13, 2020.

**ATTESTED:**

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Mike Hamman, CE/CEO

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Karen Dunning, Madam Chair  
MRGCD Board of Directors