

**MINUTES OF THE  
2,170<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
DECEMBER 14, 2020**

**COVID-19 Response: For this meeting, a limited number of Board and staff members were physically in the conference room, socially distanced. All other attendees (whether legal counsel , guest speakers or constituents) attended via telephone.**

Directors having been duly notified; Madam Chair Dunning called the regular meeting to order at 3:06 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	Present	Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
Valerie Moore, Director	Present	Pamela Fanelli	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Michael T. Sandoval, Director	Present	Jason Casuga	Chief Operations Officer
Barbara Baca, Director	Present	David Gensler	Water Ops Division Manager
Stephanie Russo Baca, Director	Present	DeAnna Philips	GIS Tech/Board Liaison

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

Ernie Marquez, Automated Election Services	Becky Burnham, MRGCD
Sherry Barrett, NM Paddler's Coalition	Casey Ish, MRGCD
Steve Harris, NM Paddler's Coalition	Christine Nardi, MRGCD
Jennifer Faler, BOR	Estella Gamboa, MRGCD
Viola Sanchez, BIA	John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist
Peter Rice, Albuquerque Toastmasters Club	Judy McSweeney, MRGCD
Sue Small, Los Lunas Resident	Lorenzo Benavidez, MRGCD
Jeff Sanchez, Bosque del Apache NWR,	Mike Lopez, MRGCD
Deborah Williams, Bosque Del Apache NWR	Rebecca Thompson, MRGCD
Anders Lundahl, Interstate Stream Commission	

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

Director Russo Baca led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

Madam Chair Dunning declared a quorum and noted that the meeting was publicly noticed. She noted that MRGCD is following the New Mexico Governor's health and safety guidelines. The meeting was held telephonically (telephone and on Zoom), with three Board Members and some staff present at the MRGCD main office and three Board Members on telephone/Zoom, and other speakers and the public on the phone. Members of the public that called in were asked to identify themselves, identify their phone numbers, as well as note if they intended to address the Board under "Items from the Floor."

It was noted that Director Sandoval would be calling in late due to an overlapping meeting with the Governor of San Felipe Pueblo.

Since today's meeting is being held telephonically, all votes taken by the Board for today's meeting will occur via rollcall vote.

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

The following proposed changes were made to the Agenda:

- The Finance Committee met twice, once on November 30<sup>th</sup> (tied to Item 8.a.) and once on December 7<sup>th</sup> (tied to Item 9.f.). Add to Item 9.f., the Approval of the Finance Committee Report for December 7, 2020.
- Move Item 9.h. to the Consent Agenda, as Item 3.g., as it needs no discussion.
- Move Item 11.f. (Report on Urban Issues Committee Meeting, December 10, 2020), to 11.a. in order to have all Urban Committee issues discussed one right after the other. This will, of course, shift all remaining items under Item 11 down by one letter.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA WITH THE ABOVE-NOTED CHANGES**. Director Russo Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Director Sandoval	Absent
Madam Chair	Yes		

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – CONSENT AGENDA**

- Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification - December 14, 2020
- Consideration/Approval of November 2020 Invoice for Wiggins Williams & Wiggins
- Consideration/Approval of November Invoice for Law & Resource Planning Associates, PC
- Consideration/Approval of Minutes for Regular Board Meeting - November 9, 2020
- Discussion/Approval of 2021 MRGCD Holiday Schedule
- Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for October 2020 (For Informational Purposes Only)
- Consideration/Approval of Resolution M-12-14-20-168 for the Disposal of MRGCD Worn-Out and Obsolete Surplus Equipment

Mike Hamman noted that the Holiday schedule that was released in the Board packets was replaced by a handout during the meeting. No other discussion ensued regarding the Consent Agenda.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA**. Director Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Director Sandoval	Absent
Madam Chair	Yes		

*NOTE: DIRECTOR SANDOVAL JOINS THE MEETING TELEPHONICALLY.*

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – HONORING JEANETTE BUSTAMANTE FOR 43 YEARS OF SERVICE AND JOSEPH BREM FOR 19 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MRGCD - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO, and Madam Chair Dunning**

Mike Hamman gave a brief history on the two retirees who both will be retiring on December 31, 2020. He noted that Ms. Bustamante sent her apologies but could not attend due to family matters.

Madam Chair Dunning also expressed her appreciation; and feels when the COVID crisis is over with and we can gather in larger groups, we may invite all those people who missed out on that opportunity to share with their fellow workers and the Board and thank them appropriately for their service.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF 2021 MRGCD ELECTION FORMAL DOCUMENTS - Ernie Marquez, Election Director, and Election Committee. And REPORT OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE - Directors Kelly, Baca, and Russo Baca**

- a. 2021 MRGCD Election Calendar
- b. 2021 MRGCD Election Rule 20
- c. Recommended Polling Locations for the 2021 MRGCD Board of Directors
- d. Resolution - Notice of Election and Proclamation

Ernie Marquez recommended approval of the four items above, which were handed out in the Board packet for today's meeting.

Report of the Election Committee: Director Kelly spoke for the committee. Nothing is being changed with regard to polling locations, other than there are no polling locations for Valencia County this year. There were a couple of clean-up items in the Rule 20, one of which is sending notice of our data to the Pueblo IT members, as well as the Governor, including election results. They did discuss absentee ballots being sent out. A notification will go out to all elected voters by household notifying them that they can request an absentee ballot on the MRGCD website, by calling Ernie Marquez' office, or by sending a mail message to either the MRGCD Election Officer or Ernie Marquez, the Election Director.

The Committee envisions a postcard size mailing which would go out in the April timeframe. Mr. Marquez' contract had several things that were deferred until April, mostly with regard to COVID responses for poll workers and voters. The absentee ballot would fit right in as an additional service that he gives MRGCD a quote on.

The Election Committee is recommending approval of the package, including the resolution and recommending that we do a postcard notification by household to the qualified electors in the three counties impacted by the election.

Madam Chair Dunning asked about possibly putting up a Q&A for the candidates on the MRGCD website. Discussion ensued, and it was decided that MRGCD would only be the forum for running the election and that nothing that could be construed as biasing would be put on the website.

Vice Chair Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2021 MRGCD ELECTION FORMAL DOCUMENTS (Items 5.a., 5.b., 5.c., and 5.d., above) and APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE.** Director Russo Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Director Sandoval	Yes
Madam Chair	Yes		

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

Mike Hamman noted that there is a handout in the Board packet from the New Mexico Paddlers Coalition for the Board's consideration (which coincides with Ms. Barrett's public comment today).

**New Mexico Paddlers Coalition: River Access, Ethics and Conservation**

December 9, 2020

Board of Directors  
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

Dear Madam Chair Dunning, CE/CEO Hamman, and MRGCD Board Members,

Thank you for the explicit recognition in your mission statement that the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District provides public recreational opportunities to enjoy the Rio Grande and MRGCD-owned property and facilities within the middle Rio Grande. Thank you also for allocating time on your busy meeting agenda to hear from the New Mexico Paddlers Coalition. As Board Member Kelly suggested to us after we reached out to him, we are here to introduce ourselves and discuss how we might work together to improve responsible recreational uses of the Rio Grande.

We are encouraged by your recent unanimously approved resolution including that MRGCD will establish "educational partnerships with interested non-governmental advocacy groups." The New Mexico Paddlers Coalition, as explained in the attachment, is such a group.

We hope to engage with the District to explore a partnership that could utilize the District's authorities and expertise and our advocacy to leverage new opportunities for public funding for education of recreational users and improved physical access to the river. Our goal in reaching out to you is to work in collaboration with the MRGCD to educate the public and new users of the MRGCD lands to be responsible stewards of our shared river, public access locations, and MRGCD facilities and property. We also seek improved access to the river at locations now or formerly in common use by paddlers and other recreationalists.

Please be assured that we respect the rights, lands and sensitivities of the six middle Rio Grande Pueblos and do not seek river uses that would be in conflict.

Please contact us at:

Sherry Barrett, 520.403.4094, [sherrybarrett@me.com](mailto:sherrybarrett@me.com)  
Steve Harris, 575.751.1269, [steve.harris39@gmail.com](mailto:steve.harris39@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Sherry Barrett  
Chair

Attachment

**New Mexico Paddlers Coalition: River Access, Ethics and Conservation**

The New Mexico State Parks Division recognizes 40 segments of the state's rivers as suitable, and attractive, for recreational canoeing, rafting and kayaking, including substantial portions of the Animas, Canadian, Chama, Gila, Pecos, San Juan and Rio Grande. River recreation is presently undergoing a boom in popularity among the state's residents and visitors, and it is increasingly recognized as a substantial contributor to the state's \$12 billion outdoor recreation economy.

The New Mexico Paddlers Coalition (NMPC) organized formally early in 2020 to respond to immediate challenges facing paddlers who seek access to the state's remarkable rivers and streams.

NMPC provides leadership and advocacy for public stream access and river stewardship, safety, and conservation. It is addressing:

- NM Department of Game and Fish's "non-navigability determinations," which have raised issues regarding paddling streams which cross private lands.
- Paddler use of public road and highway rights-of-way to access rivers at bridge crossings.
- Safety issues arising from life-threatening, impassable man-made river barriers.
- The suitability of boat launching and landing sites for popular river runs. Generally, such access points are in primitive and unwelcoming condition.
- Ethical behavior among the wide variety of river users, which is in need of serious improvement. Trashing and neglect for the river environment is distressingly common.

The NMPC leadership team is well qualified to represent the interests of paddlers in forging equitable solutions to river issues in collaboration with public and private stakeholders.

- Chairwoman Sherry Barrett, a kayak instructor and rafter, is a biologist recently retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Steve Harris, New Mexico River Outfitters Association, is a veteran river guide and a conservation and safety activist.
- Hattie Johnson is the Southern Rockies Stewardship Director of the national river conservation group, American Whitewater.
- Norm Gaume is an American Canoe Association state board member, former whitewater canoe instructor, and Adobe Whitewater Club of NM board member.
- Donna Koechner, American Canoe Association state board member and former Education Coordinator for Adobe Whitewater Club, advocates for river safety, conservation and stewardship.
- Scott Carpenter, who has paddled most rivers in New Mexico, is the current President of the Adobe Whitewater Club of NM, formed in the 1940s, and American Canoe Association state board member.
- Laurie McCann, kayaker, is a retired facilitator of collaborative decision making and environmental dispute resolution projects, and founder of Friends of the River, a 47-year-old river conservation group in California and the Southwest.

## **Sherry Barrett**

Ms. Barrett is the Chair of the New Mexico Paddlers Coalition. She outlined the five main areas with which they would like to work with MRGCD:

- Designing and installing educational signage, focused on responsible use of the river.
- Engaging in other public education programs regarding recreational ethics, safety, and conservation.
- Mitigating and eliminating hazards to recreational floating, such as at the Corrales Siphon armor. The rocks are currently a hazard to safe boating, and there is no place for portage.
- Improving river access by leveraging land and water conservation funds and other funding sources. In particular, we are interested in working with you to improve access at Highway 550. This site historically provided key public access to the river.
- Seeking outside funding for river and a bosque ranger who can help educate the public.

Chair Dunning suggested either returning at a future meeting to give a presentation to the Board or, if MRGCD knows that it would like to collaborate with New Mexico Paddlers Coalition, they can work directly with MRGCD staff.

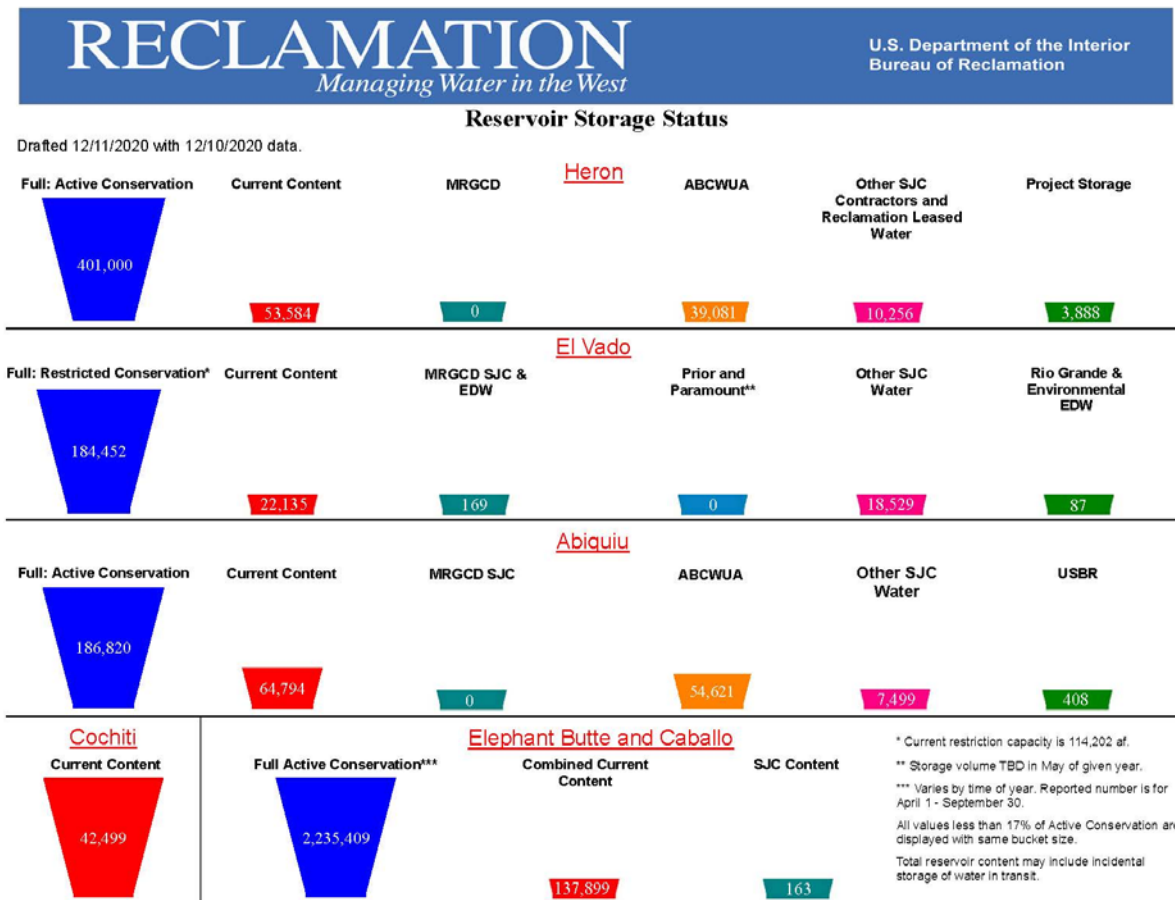
Mike Hamman added that the signage issue is being addressed. MRGCD is also cognizant of the fact that, after a runoff or two, the structure will modify itself and be possibly negotiable by boaters.

Director Baca is on the executive board of MRCOG and will reach out to Ms. Barrett and/or Mr. Harris to discuss details to present to MRCOG. Director Kelly offered that he would be willing to accompany Director Baca out to Hwy 550 Rio Grande bridge area, as well as added that Director Sandoval should be involved since it is in his District, as well as Jason Casuga to get his input. Jason Casuga agreed that it would be good to do a site visit, as there has been ongoing discussion with the Town of Bernalillo, NM DOT, and the pueblos on the north and south sides of Hwy 550 bridge, in that there is a desire for recreational access.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – REPORT(S) FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR**

**a. Bureau of Reclamation - Jennifer Faler, Area Manager**

Jennifer Faler did not have anything to report but wanted to wish the Board a happy holidays and wanted to thank the Board for making farming viable in the middle valley. She is thinking that for next year she would like to scale a leasing program to try to replenish the toolbox in case it plays out to be another rough year.



**MRGCD BOARD MEETING (12-14-20)**

1. Heron Summary
  - Content = 53,584 ac-ft (12/10)
  - Azotea tunnel: 0 cfs
  - Total SJC inflow year-to-date: 48,198 a.f.
  - Currently releasing 20 cfs
  - Current MRGCD storage: 0 ac-ft
  
2. El Vado Summary
  - A. Total storage (all contractors and natural) in El Vado as of 12/10:  
22,135 ac-ft.
  - B. Native in El Vado  
3,437 ac-ft.
  - C. MRGCD's SJ-C storage in El Vado  
169 ac-ft.
  - D. P & P: 0 ac-ft
  - E. EDWA: 0 ac-ft
  - F. All other SJ-C contractors: 18,529 ac-ft

Current release is 100 cfs    RG Inflow is 40-50 cfs
  
3. Storage in Abiquiu
  - Content = 64,794 ac-ft (12/10)
  - MRGCD's SJ-C storage= 0 ac-ft

Total water released for minnow to date in 2020: 29,779 ac-ft

Snowpack Data:

As of 12/11/20 (% of median)

Rio Chama Basin.....	66%
Upper Rio Grande Basin.....	50%
Rio Grande Headwaters.....	104%
Jemez Basin.....	39%
San Juan River Basin.....	81%

**b. Bureau of Indian Affairs - Viola Sanchez, Designated Engineer**

Viola Sanchez reported that there is not much to report this time of year. Because the pueblos are closed due to Coronavirus, she has not been able to go in the field and look over some of the off-season.

Currently, Ms. Sanchez is working on operations. Reclamation has started to talk to her about different scenarios for operations and irrigation deliveries next year. The other thing is the O&M contract, which is not much different than the last time except that it spells out in more detail who has responsibility for what things.

Discussion ensued on whether or not a committee should be in place to look at the new contract; however, it was decided that Mr. Hamman has everything in place with existing committees.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER - Pamela Fanelli**

**a. Report of the Exit Interview for Fiscal Year 2020 Audit with the Independent Auditor Ricci and Company, December 7, 2020 - Pam Fanelli, CFO, and the Finance Committee, Director Kelly (Chair), Director Moore, and Director Baca - And Approval of the Finance Committee Report, December 7, 2020**

Pamela Fanelli reported that the District Finance Committee, the CEO, and the CFO attended the fiscal year 2020 exit conference, along with MRGCD's auditors, Ricci and Company, on December 7th. The audit went well. The District received has an unmodified opinion, meaning that our financial statements are fairly presented, accurately representing the financial position of the District. The District posted a prior period adjustment, which will be explained in more detail once the report has been released from the State Auditor's Office. Of note is that MRGCD added a liability that we had been disclosing the past few years onto the actual books as a liability.

Director Kelly spoke for the Finance Committee for its report. He reported that no one is allowed to discuss the audit until it is approved by the State. He assured everyone that staff had done everything they could to ensure accurate reporting of MRGCD's finances, caught up on a couple of things (like the Isleta Diversion Dam Settlement, which was not listed as a liability), even though we have obligations under the settlement agreement. The Committee is quite happy with the audit. It is in Santa Fe, and when the State Auditor releases it, the Board will see a copy of the entire audit and will be briefed on everything in more detail.

Ms. Fanelli also explained that this is the sixth year of our contract with this auditing firm, Ricci and Company. According to the State Audit rule, MRGCD can go out for RFP for three years and then it can have the option of using the same auditor for another three years. At that point, MRGCD would have to change auditors. However, the State Auditor's Office has allowed an exception this year due to COVID. MRGCD can ask to continue with the same auditors for an additional year, which would be year number seven, which is the current desire of the Committee, however, it is yet to be determined.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, DECEMBER 7, 2020**. Vice Chair Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Director Sandoval	Yes
Madam Chair	Yes		

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 – REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER - Mike A. Hamman, PE**

**a. 2020 Legislative Session Update and Related - John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist**

John Thompson reported that he was able to listen to the webcasts; however, there is still no clear direction from the Legislature or Governor on session process. No action was taken by the Legislative Council Service as to how the session is going to be conducted, whether the convention center is a viable option or whether it's going to be all virtual. He believes that all signs are pointing to a purely virtual session, perhaps with some public input sprinkled in here and there. How the capital outlay is going to look is still uncertain as well.



There are still some folks advocating for two different sessions (one to get the budget passed and then a separate one for other work within the legislature); however, that has notably lost traction. It seems to have lost a lot of favor with Speaker Egolf, who is advocating that we will start a session in January, which will run for 60 days, and we will end it after that. There has been talk that we may have some special sessions throughout the year, specifically in the fall for a special session for redistricting.

**b. Discussion Regarding MRGCD 2021 Legislature Capital Outlay Request - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO - And Approval of Report on the Legislative Committee Meeting, December 7, 2020 - Chair Dunning and Directors Kelly and Baca**

Madam Chair Dunning spoke for the Legislative Committee and reported that they had a meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>, wherein they decided that this is not the year to ask for anything new in terms of capital outlay requests, because there might not be any money. They looked at what had been requested last year (some of those are in process or some were denied, either by veto by the Governor or there were questions regarding the filling of the forms). The committee decided to just request the ones that did not go through, that the Board had approved last year. Mr. Hamman prepared a list that was just emailed out regarding the status of the requests.

Mike Hamman gave a quick status on the requests:

Project	Status	Priority
Atrisco Acequia Heritage Project	Vetoed. Four-party agreement in place, \$25,000 each	#1 priority for MRGCD
Improvements for Loretta Drive Project	Vetoed. Initially funded at \$100,000.	#2 priority for MRGCD
General Gate Installation Process	Two allocations, one for \$50,000 funded through Department of Transportation, and \$55,000 vetoed.	#3 priority for MRGCD to pursue the vetoed funds of \$55,000
Socorro County Riverine Parks	Proceeding. Working through agreements with State Trust Board.	
Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area (pedestrian bridge)	MRGCD working with Department of Transportation.	
Two Small Acequia Projects	MRGCD acting as fiscal agent and other duties as assigned.	

Director Baca requested that once Directors receive the email from Mr. Hamman that they familiarize themselves with the list of priorities as they are very important in Directors' one-on-one discussions with legislators, senators, and representatives.

Director Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE LIST OF PRIORITIES AND THE REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, DECEMBER 7, 2020.** Director Russo Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Madam Chair	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes		

## c. Report and Update on the 2020 WRDA Bill - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO

Mike Hamman reported that in the packet, under 9.c., there was an announcement provided by the New Mexico delegation, speaking to an action taken by the House in pushing forward the passage of the 2020 WRDA Bill that has a lot of aspects in it that are beneficial to New Mexico as a whole and, specifically, to the MRGCD and the Middle Rio Grande Valley.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 9, 2020

### **New Mexico Delegation Applauds House Passage of Water Infrastructure Bill with Vital Provisions for NM and Tribes**

*Lawmakers secured approval of critical New Mexico projects and programs to restore ecosystems, protect communities from flooding, increase water supply flexibility, and increase funds for projects on Tribal lands*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and U.S. Representatives Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), Deb Haaland (D-N.M.) and Xochitl Torres Small (D-N.M.) applauded the House passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), a bill that authorizes Army Corps of Engineers water projects nationwide. The bill must now pass the Senate before going to the president's desk to be signed into law.

"In New Mexico, we know how vital water is to preserving our economy, our environment, and our way of life. The Water Resources Development Act ensures we are making smart investments in water infrastructure and meeting the needs of our changing climate," said Udall, the lead Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. "This bill will help address New Mexico's water challenges in a holistic way—increased flexibility for storage, improved flooding protection, expanded environmental restoration, and greater Tribal partnerships. This bill also includes provisions to ensure the federal government is honoring our obligations to Native communities by consulting with Tribes and ensuring meaningful engagement with local communities on water projects. The Senate should quickly pass this important legislation to help our state prepare for the water challenges that the future holds."

"In the face of climate threats, pollution, and extended drought, there is nothing more important for New Mexico's future than securing our supplies of clean drinking water," said Heinrich. "I'm pleased to support all of these major, forward-looking investments in water projects that will benefit New Mexicans—from tribal nations and rural communities to residents of the Albuquerque metro area. I will continue to fight to secure all of the funding and resources we need to protect and conserve our most precious resource."

"Strengthening and maintaining our water infrastructure is crucial for the future of New Mexico's communities, local economies, and recreation. In this compromise deal, I was proud to deliver for New Mexicans by securing a much-needed expansion of the Abiquiu Reservoir and ensuring collaboration between the federal government and Tribal governments on water resource projects," said Lujan. "I will continue working with New Mexico's delegation to ensure our state receives its fair share of federal investment for infrastructure improvements."

"In New Mexico, water is a precious resource, but without essential infrastructure, long-term drought has the ability to harm our communities indefinitely," said Haaland, Vice Chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources. "This year's Water Resources Development Act has important resources that support sustainability, long-term infrastructure, and ecosystem restoration. I'm proud of the provisions that empower Tribes and Nations to implement water projects within their own communities. With this bill, New Mexico can meet the challenges of climate change head on and improve water access throughout our state."

"Our way of life depends on access to clean, safe water—from farms, businesses, and households to ecosystems across New Mexico. In the face of a continued water crisis, I've fought to ensure rural and tribal communities maintain access to this shared resource. I'm proud to have successfully secured provisions that deliver the investments our aquifers, rivers, and reservoirs need as we continue to face changing conditions and better ensure we are truly partnering with native sovereign governments in our water usage. It's critical my colleagues in the Senate pass this bipartisan bill and the President signs it into law to preserve our precious resources and protect the communities and industries that depend on them," said Torres Small.

**New Mexico priorities in the Water Resources Development Act include:**

- **San Juan-Chama Project, Abiquiu Dam, New Mexico:** Would remove the 200,000-acre-foot storage limitation at Abiquiu Reservoir and allow for additional storage of either San Juan-Chama project or Rio Grande basin water if the entity requesting the storage acquires the necessary property interests to accommodate the storage. This provides immediate relief for other pending water construction projects and will provide greater flexibility for New Mexico as it plans for the future during a time of changing water supply.
- **Middle Rio Grande Flood Protection:** Reauthorizes the \$310,684,000 Middle Rio Grande Flood Protection (Bernalillo to Belen) project to keep surrounding communities safe from major flooding events.
- **Rio Grande, Environmental Management Program:** Extends the authorization of the \$25,151,000 Rio Grande, Environmental Management Program Reauthorization to 2029, which allows for cooperative regional restoration projects for bosque and other important habitat. This project prevents helps protect key habitat and wildlife to reduce the need for endangered species listings and helps recharge groundwater.
- **Tribal Partnership Program:** Increases the per-project authorization level for the Corps' Tribal Partnership Program by an additional \$6 million, for a total of \$18.5 million, a program which has helped fund several flood control and environmental restoration projects in partnership with Tribal Governments in New Mexico.
- **Project Consultation:** Requires the Corps to update its policies on environmental justice considerations and directs the Corps to promote meaningful involvement with minority communities, economically disadvantaged communities, and Indian Tribes in carrying out water resources development projects. The Corps must involve Indian Tribes on any Tribal lands near or adjacent to any water resources development project for the purposes of identifying lands of ancestral, cultural, or religious importance.

Congress typically passes WRDA every two years to authorize water resource projects across the nation for flood protection, navigation, ecosystem restoration, and more. The bill covers projects by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Bureau of Reclamation water projects and tribal water settlements are typically handled in separate legislation.

###

**Contacts:** Ned Adriance (Udall) 202.228.6870 / Whitney Potter (Heinrich) 202.228.4578 / Adán Serna (Lujan) 202.225.6190 / Felicia Salazar (Haaland) 202.981.1594 / Paloma Perez (Torres Small) 202.225.7800

One item is the \$260M levee project, 42 miles of levee from the Mountain View area to Belen. We have been experiencing difficulty through that section of the levee for a number of years and more recently in 2019, where both the District and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission spent in excess of \$1.5M (and counting) in repairing the damages and concerns associated with the high flow environment. The Senate still needs to take up the Bill. There is talk about putting that together as part of the overall funding bill to keep the government moving forward. On December 18<sup>th</sup>, Congress will vote to either have a continuing resolution or an omnibus bill to move forward with funding.

There is also another component of the bill that affects the District in a positive way. It's the Rio Grande Environmental Management Program that is targeted at the entire Rio Grande, but because there were shovel-ready projects associated with the ESA activities of the Corps of Engineers, seven environmental sites in the Albuquerque reach of the middle Rio Grande have been targeted as fundable or viable under that program. MRGCD would be the first to receive funding through that authorization.

Madam Chair Dunning asked Mr. Hamman to write thank you letters on behalf of the Board to our senators and representatives for working so hard on this Bill. Mike Hamman agreed.

**d. Water Supply Conditions Report - David Gensler, Water Operations Division Manager**

David Gensler started with explaining the NRCS numbers. They start measuring snowpack depth, the amount of water contained in the snowpack, on October 1st of every year. They then produce a daily report and monthly forecast reports. The values that we read in these meetings notes, when we say 99 percent of the median, is for the day that data was produced, from October 1 to December 14. They expect a certain amount of snow to have accumulated, and then, they do the statistics on that. Mr. Gensler has always reported the numbers as average, but over the last several years, the NRCS has been moving more towards median instead of an average. This year, they are no longer reporting averages on the snow-water equivalents. Mr. Gensler will give the median numbers today.

Starting out with Cumbres Trestle, there is 7.8" of snow-water equivalent today. That is 99% of the median (if this were an average, it would probably more like about 80%-85% of average. If we go a little bit further north, up to Wolf Creek Pass, it is not so bad at 12.4" of snow-water equivalent and 115% of the median (pretty close to 100% of normal for this time of year or average). If we go south, from Cumbres down to Hopewell, which is another high elevation site, there is 4.8" of snow-water equivalent (87% of median).

Mr. Gensler does not put much thought into December numbers, as much can and does change in terms of snowpack in December.

Mr. Gensler then reported that there is no carryover storage this year. We depleted everything we had to get through 2020 and keep the farmers at least minimally functional for the year, but we have nothing in the bank now for 2021. There is nothing in the reservoirs. Everything depends on what the snowpack provides next spring.

Finally, he reported on the Rio Grande Compact. We are deep into Article 7 Restrictions, about 260,000-acre feet below that magic 400,000-acre foot project storage requirement at Elephant Butte and Caballo. We are also well behind on deliveries for the year. In spite of the best efforts of the District and all of the water management entities (Reclamation and ISC) everybody has been looking at the shortage this fall. We have all been trying to get the system to work as efficiently as possible, but we really have not gained much ground yet on the Compact delivery status. It's starting to gain just a little bit now, but it's happening pretty slowly. It appears as though we will face probably an 85,000 to 95,000-acre foot deficit at year's end.

How this plays out for storing or not storing at El Vado next spring is still up in the air. It probably won't be fully sorted out until maybe February or March. There is much discussion that will occur between Reclamation, the District, Interstate Stream Commission, and probably some other entities. It is a very interesting and controversial subject right now. At the moment, water supply does not look very promising for next year. We could very well be facing a meager snowpack, no water in storage, and a very limited ability to store water.

Mr. Gensler holds out hope for San Juan-Chama water and a full allocation from Heron. No guarantee there, but the numbers up in the San Juan mountains today seem like they're high enough where we could possibly get a full allocation of our 20,900-acre feet next spring.

He does not want to sound too pessimistic, but 2021 sure seems like it is going to be a tough year though, barring miracles, which do happen. He does not see how we can possibly expect to have enough water for a full season in 2021.

Director Kelly asked Mr. Gensler regarding his thoughts on the delay of the start of the irrigation season. Mr. Gensler is strongly urging MRGCD to delay the start of the irrigation season as long as we reasonably can this spring. It all comes down to the storage situation, and the release of debit water from El Vado last summer, which was a really big deal. We have to make some kind of an effort to pay that back. He believes that our early shutdown in October helped some, probably on the order of 6,000-acre feet, that we were able to get down to the Butte (would not have gotten there otherwise). However, we still have a long way to go to pay that bill back. The March/early April timeframe is a pretty good period of time to be delivering water and in helping make up that deficit. He really thinks we need to be planning to delay the start of the irrigation season.

Director Moore requested to get this message to the farmers. Mr. Gensler thinks that it might be better to wait until January, after we have had discussion about delaying the season, which will also give a little bit more time for the snowpack to develop, to make these announcements on the MRGCD website or to get this out to farmers. Mike Hamman echoed Mr. Gensler's recommendation.

Mr. Hamman added that the District is going to get more information out this year regarding the water situation. Specifically, after our January Board Meeting, there will be a memo coming out of this office to all of our water users to address the Board action and the strategy of the District to address the water supply situation. This will also inform our farming community of some options that they may want to consider in working with us on some other projects and programs. He is going to personally (and with staff) set up many meetings in the Valley at various locations, safely distanced, to give folks ample opportunity to ask us questions and provide their input and their comments. MRGCD will assist in this tough year as much as we possibly can.

**e. Set Date for Special Meeting to Determine Water Bank Lease Rates - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

Mr. Hamman reported that even though all we are doing is setting the lease rates, there is an assumption that there will be a water bank. Since we do not know if there will be a water bank next year, Mr. Hamman recommended postponing setting the date until the January Board Meeting, to which the Board agreed.

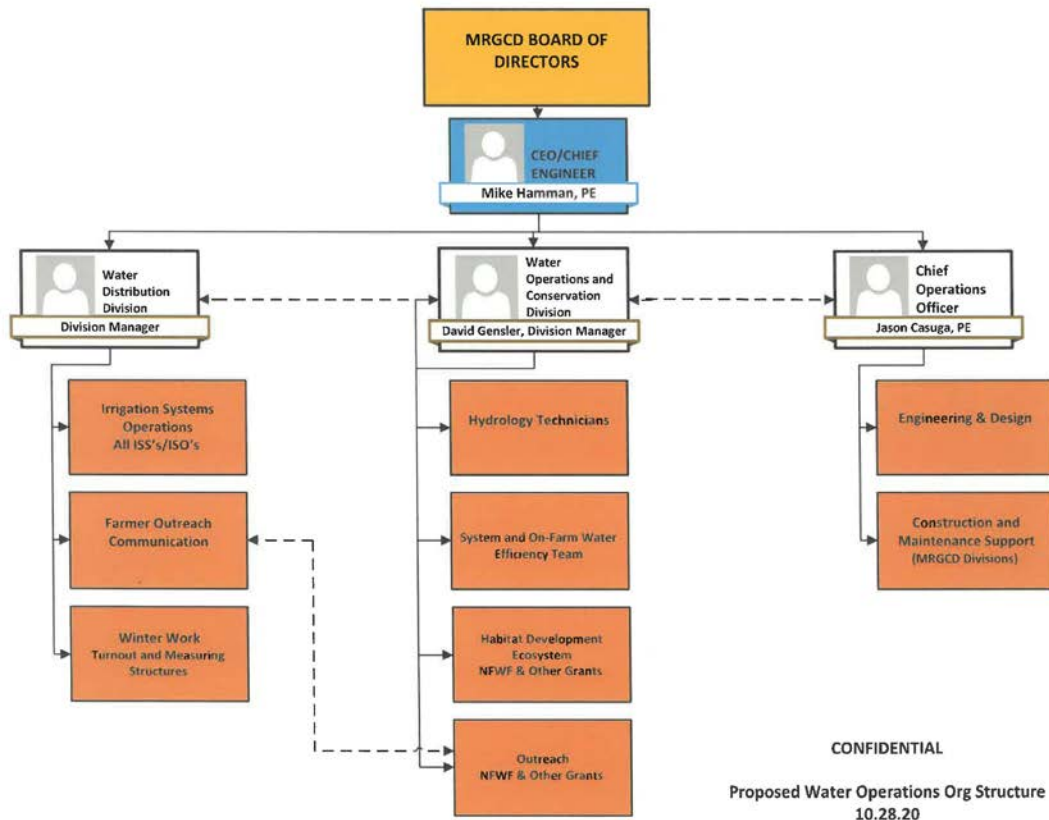
**f. Discussion and Approval of the Proposed MRGCD Reorganization - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO, and Christine Nardi, HR Director  
Approval of Report of the Personnel Committee Meeting, December 7, 2020 - Chair Dunning, Directors Kelly and Russo Baca  
Approval of the Finance Committee Report, November 30, 2020**

After the Board received a strong message from the farming community that the current system was just not working in terms of distribution of water in the field and communication with irrigators, they looked to Mike Hamman to make some real changes within the District. Mr. Hamman has been working on a major reorganization plan for MRGCD (with weigh-in from the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee).

Many things were identified as contributors to the issues; however, the main thrust is that it is a demand on time and funding. Many key elements that need addressing must be performed on a daily basis, which would require additional staff. Mr. Hamman proposed the reorganizational chart that was included in the Board packet for today's meeting (shown below). It is designed to assist in water management, transparency, and information availability to the larger community, as well as MRGCD staff doing a better job of managing the water that comes into each of our

areas. Mr. Hamman believes MRGCD must adjust the organizational structure and get intense focus on all areas in order for us to be effective in light of the coming drought year.

The District will be reorganized, adding three positions (new Water Distribution Division Manager, agronomist, and a water efficiency specialist/technician), as well as renaming and adding a new division while staying within current staffing levels as much as possible. The fiscal impacts for this year would be adding the salaries of the three new positions to the budget that would have a minimal effect given the full impact of added salaries won't materialize until next fiscal year.



Insofar as timeline, Mr. Hamman reported that they will begin with changing existing positions and socializing the reorganization within MRGCD. Within the next two or three weeks, he will advertise the Water Distribution Division Manager and then move forward with the other two positions in the fourth quarter that will be tied in part to grant funding.

Director Kelly reported for the Finance Committee from the meeting held on November 30, 2020. He reported that we set up our budget this year to match incoming revenues, and we had a list of equipment that we were going to look at mid-year based on the first half collections. We were going to make a decision at that point based on actual collections as to what heavy equipment would be added to the budget. For this year, it will be simply that we move some of that intended purchase into what's needed to cover salaries. Pam (Fanelli) and Becky (Burnham) are taking a good look at salary savings to date. The bulk, therefore, will not come out of equipment but from salary savings.

Madam Chair Dunning reported for the Personnel Committee. She reported that the Committee has been discussing this for a while with Mr. Hamman. Mr. Hamman explained the entire reorganization to the Committee, and they agree and think it is a good idea. Director Russo Baca clarified that David Gensler will remain the Water Operations and Conservation Division Manager, but will no longer manage the ISOs as that falls to the new Water Distribution Division Manager.

Madam Chair Dunning added that this was all brought about partly by the drought situation but also with the new programs that are being offered. MRGCD is changing; and let's not take this old structure that worked for us 20 years ago, but let's come up with a new organizational structure to fit today's world.

Christine Nardi reported that she has drafted the job description for the Water Distribution Division Manager position, and Mr. Hamman is currently reviewing it. She is confident MRGCD will make a smooth transition and that everyone will be able to coordinate. She will be working with the new Division Manager to come up with consistent performance standards so we can ensure that we are holding people accountable in their current roles.

Director Kelly made **PREAMBLE to the motion, Whereas the Board and Senior Staff have listened to concerns from our irrigators and other constituents about equitable delivery of water. We are also aware that we have collectively saddled our current Water Operations Division Manager with at least three full-time jobs. We are also aware that we can provide better service with on-the-ground delivery of water, scheduling of water, and troubleshooting when things go wrong, as well as providing better assistance to our system-wide efficiency and on-farm efficiencies.**

To that end, Director Kelly, noting that he has been on the Finance Committee and Personnel Committee, as this has been discussed, made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE CHANGES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART MR. HAMMAN HAS TALKED ABOUT WITH THE ADDITION OF THREE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES THAT HE HAS TALKED ABOUT, THAT BEING THE WATER DISTRIBUTION DIVISION MANAGER, AN AGRONOMIST, AND A TECHNICIAN, THE LAST TWO BEING UNDER THE WATER OPERATIONS AND CONSERVATION DIVISION, FURTHER DIRECTING MR. HAMMAN TO ACT VERY PROMPTLY AND DELIBERATELY ON FILLING THE DIVISION MANAGER POSITION QUICKLY SO THAT WE CAN MOVE INTO OUR UPCOMING DROUGHT YEAR THAT IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE WORSE THAN 1956.** Director Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Madam Chair	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes		

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, DECEMBER 7, 2020, AND THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, NOVEMBER 30, 2020.** Director Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Madam Chair	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes		

**g. Discussion and Approval of the Letter Agreement to Assume Operations and Maintenance for the Drain Unit 7 Extension and the Low Flow Conveyance Channel - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

Mike Hamman sent a draft letter in the Board packets regarding assuming operations and maintenance of the Drain Unit 7 Extension and the Low Flow Conveyance Channel, which MRGCD has been debating for the last four or five months. The District really has evolved its thinking about the importance of helping manage all of the system and to ultimately retain responsibility for those facilities in order for MRGCD to essentially take its destiny into its own hands going forward.

These features are not included within the Phase 1 Title Transfer document that will soon be ready to go forward for the 90-day period that it is required to sit in Congress. If there are no objections, the Secretary will implement that title transfer without these features included as we were informed that these features are considered reserve works, and reserve works need to be formally transferred for O&M first before they can be considered until the title transfer process. This letter addresses that MRGCD would assume the operation and maintenance after Reclamation brings the facilities up to standards of good maintenance prior to turning the facilities over to MRGCD for operation and maintenance. We would inherit something that is in pretty good shape at that time. There will be some additional O&M costs associated with that, but we will have to work that into our normal O&M budget to make it happen.

Director Kelly noted that first directive says that MRGCD will maintain the spoil bank levee to ensure its structural integrity, which he believes is a conflicting statement. He can see MRGCD committing to maintaining the existing condition, but there would be an assumption that we are turning this into an engineered levee, which is not correct. Director Kelly suggested that Mr. Hamman take a good look at the wording there to be sure that we are going to maintain what is there and set no expectations of a higher standard. Mr. Hamman agreed with Director Kelly and also noted that the District's attorney, Lorna Wiggins, had the same thoughts when she reviewed the letter.

Mr. Hamman will continue working the wording of the Letter Agreement and will bring back to the January meeting for approval of the Board.

**h. Consideration/Approval of Resolution M-12-14-20-168 for the Disposal of MRGCD Worn-Out and Obsolete Surplus Equipment - Mike Hamman, CE/CEO**

Since there was no discussion necessary for this item as it was moved up and approved in Item 3, the Consent Agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD ATTORNEY(S) - Chief Water Counsel and/or General Counsel**

Lorna Wiggins reported that her office continues to work with outside insurance defense counsel on the defense of claims under the Tort Claims Act and for inverse condemnation. One of those cases is going to mediation tomorrow before Denise Torres, a lawyer from Las Cruces. Mrs. Wiggins will provide the Board with a report and updates as appropriate. Chair Dunning asked about the mediation process. Mrs. Wiggins stated that if mediation does not work in this case, it would then go to trial, which is currently set in Valencia County, for April 19-30 (counsel has suggested this trial could be as long as 24 trial days).

This case and another MRGCD case with the same issues are numbers one and two on that on that docket and are currently pending before Judge James Sanchez. If one settles, the other one simply moves up the list. The other case is also scheduled currently for the spring (if not mediated before).

Mrs. Wiggins and her office are doing their best to ensure that the District's interests are well defended.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 – REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**a. Report on the Meeting with NM Representative Javier Martinez and Peter Trevisani, NM United, October 22, 2020 - Vice Chair Baca**

Vice Chair Baca ran into Rep. Javier Martinez, who sponsored legislation in 2020 for New Mexico United as they were working to create a home location for the team. In their discussion, it was the team's hope that it would be located within the boundaries of MRGCD. Vice Chair Baca would like to have Mr. Trevisani present his vision and thoughts at a future MRGCD Board meeting.

Approval of this report occurred in a combined motion under Item 11.b. below.

**b. Report on Urban Issues Committee Meeting, December 10, 2020 - Vice Chair Baca, Directors Baca and Russo Baca**

Vice Chair Baca reported that his discussion with Rep. Javier Martinez was discussed at the Urban Committee meeting. The committee agrees it would be a good idea to have Mr. Trevisani present at a future Board meeting.

Director Russo Baca added to the report that there will be a meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> with the Village of Los Lunas with Councilman Geno Romero and Mayor Griego to talk about some of the projects that they want to work on in the urban area of Valencia County (they received \$275,000 from the legislature). They would like to see how they can possibly coordinate with MRGCD.

Director Baca added that she thinks that the Urban Committee has talked about broadening the breadth of what the Conservancy District does and who we represent in the entire District, whether it is urbanizing new communities, as well as representing our farmers.

Chair Dunning added that NM United Soccer Stadium is a big project for Albuquerque/Bernalillo County. They still must decide where it will be built. She would prefer that if Mr. Trevisani is going to present to the Board, that it be done after the report is released, which is approximately the end of January.

Director Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT MEETING WITH NM REPRESENTATIVE JAVIER MARTINEZ AND PETER TREVISANI, NM UNITED, OCTOBER 22, 2020, AND TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE URBAN ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING, DECEMBER 10, 2020.** Director Moore seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Madam Chair	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes



Director Sandoval                      Yes

**c.      Report on the MRCOG Executive Meeting, November 12, 2020 - Director Baca**

Director Baca reported that November 12th was the executive board meeting of the COG on a Zoom call. The majority of that was simply discussing and evaluating the Executive Director, Dewey Cave, and giving him a raise. It was a brief but important meeting. Director Baca agreed with Madam Chair Dunning's comment about the nature of Zoom has taken away the ability for interaction between the organizations.

Director Baca also just had the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting (for December), where we talked about the legislative priorities for COG. Under the water policy, they have a policy to support statewide water conservation strategy. Director Baca will bring up with other members of COG some of the work that Mr. Gensler's group is doing. She will be reaching out to Mr. Gensler to talk about what will be the appropriate message that we want to get forward to all of these member communities up and down the Valley.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE MRCOG EXECUTIVE MEETING, NOVEMBER 12, 2020.** Director Sandoval seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Madam Chair	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes		

**d.      Report on the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Rio Grande Compact Commission (Colorado / Texas / New Mexico) Meeting, November 12, 2020 - Madam Chair Dunning, Directors Moore and Russo Baca**

Madam Chair Dunning reported that most of the reports given at the meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> were old reports. Mr. Hamman thanked the Commissioners for allowing MRGCD to use debit water for its farmers in 2020. Madam Chair Dunning added that the downfall for Zoom meetings is that what makes this possible is the relationships that people form, and they form those relationships in actual meetings and not in Zoom meetings. At this time, there had been some good rapport built up between Commissioners and MRGCD.

Director Moore felt the meeting was very interesting. She appreciated getting the other states' perspective on issues, i.e., the Texas Commissioner's concern about the P&P for the pueblos and the Commissioners' concern about BOR costs to run gauges. She liked that Texas voiced appreciation about New Mexico's effort at sediment removal.

Director Russo Baca added that she appreciated Mr. Hamman's words in expressing the extreme gratitude that MRGCD had towards the entire Compact Commission.

Vice Chair Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE 81<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL RIO GRANDE COMPACT COMMISSION (COLORADO / TEXAS / NEW MEXICO) MEETING, NOVEMBER 12, 2020.** Director Kelly seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Madam Chair	Yes

Director Moore	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes		

**e. Report on the Irrigation/Water Bank and Illegal Irrigators Committee Meeting, November 13, 2020 - Directors Moore and Russo Baca**

Director Russo Baca reported that there was a meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>. They discussed a variety of topics, including irrigation delivery, as well as some of the issues that the Board has heard from irrigators (especially in the September meeting). The issues are water bank, illegal irrigation, scheduling (from irrigators to ISOs and vice versa), in field corrections (such as spillovers or handing it down the line to the next irrigator without actually having it scheduled), and flooding events caused by unscheduled operations. They discussed more transparency with division managers, ISOs, and irrigators; the new personnel structure; possible additional changes to the irrigation scheduling policy and implementing new programs to prevent illegal irrigation. The December meeting will take place on December 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss potential changes and the water bank policy.

Director Moore added that there are 4,300 irrigators that have less than one acre. MRGCD will charge them \$43.82 (per acre charge). We will receive the quarterly update from the Office of the State Engineers about severing/moving water rights.

Director Sandoval stated that he did not attend this meeting.

Director Sandoval made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE IRRIGATION/WATER BANK AND ILLEGAL IRRIGATORS COMMITTEE MEETING, NOVEMBER 13, 2020**. Director Kelly seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Madam Chair	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes		

**f. Report on the Conservation Advisory Meeting, November 19, 2020 - Director Moore**

Director Moore reported that the Conservation Advisory had their meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>. They sent out 410 surveys on size of farms (and similar questions). They only received 6% back, even with offering of a gift certificate with their returned survey. They discussed the full season and partial layout in some of the surveys. They also discussed possibly adding this to social media and may have Yasmeen Najmi look into it.

They will be looking at Rocky Mountain Youth Conservation Corps doing maintenance on the Santiago Acequia and how they would fund it. Director Moore mentioned they might speak to La Jolla Acequia, but it may be too far away. She also questioned using some of the community ditches within our area.

They also gave an outfall habitat update, which they are currently mapping. The Audubon is involved, as well as Bureau of Reclamation. They are moving forward with some of the sites and trying to do some bird surveys.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY MEETING, NOVEMBER 19, 2020.** Vice Chair Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Madam Chair	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes		

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. NMSA 1978 Open Meetings Act, (Section 10-15-1(H)7)  
 1. Threatened or Pending Litigation

Madam Chair Dunning requested a motion to move into Executive Session.

Director Moore made the **MOTION TO GO TO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Director Kelly seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Madam Chair	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes		

Madam Chair Dunning adjourned the meeting at 5:29pm.

Madam Chair Dunning reconvened the meeting at 7:19pm.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION.** Director Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED.**

Director Kelly	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Baca	Yes	Madam Chair	Yes
Director Moore	Yes	Vice-Chair Baca	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes		

During Executive Session, updates were given on threatened or pending litigation, as identified on the agenda. No decisions were made, nor any votes taken during Executive Session.

With no further comments, questions or concerns, Madam Chair Dunning adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of December 14, 2020.

**ATTESTED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM  
 Secretary/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Karen Dunning, Chair  
 MRGCD Board of Directors