

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

AUGUST 20, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Directors having been duly notified; Madam Chair Dunning called the special meeting to order at 10:25 am at the MRGCD General Office. The following Directors and Staff were present:

DIRECTORS		STAFF	
Karen Dunning, Madam Chair	Present	Mike Hamman	Chief Engineer/CEO
Stephanie Russo Baca, Vice Chair	Present	Dr. Chuck DuMars	Chief Water Counsel
Barbara Baca, Director	Present	Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
John Kelly, Director	Present	Jason Casuga	Chief Operating Officer
Joaquin Baca, Director	Present	Pamela Fanelli	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Glen Duggins, Director	Present	Anne Marken	Acting Water Operations Mgr.
Michael T. Sandoval, Director	Present	Mike Lopez	Water Distribution Div. Mgr.
		DeAnna Philips	GIS Tech / Board Liaison

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

Page L. Pegram, NM ISC	Nelson Romero, Los Lunas
Kallie Dixon	Sammy Feldblum, UCLA
Max Henkels, NMDA	Toby Romero
Pam McKenzie	Gilbert Romero
Theresa Davis, Albuquerque Journal	Clarence Lucero
Viola Sanchez, BIA	Robert Sanchez, Sanchez Farms
Stefi Weisburd	Jeri Miller
Linda Rosales	Florian Padilla, Padilla Farms
Tricia Snyder, Wild Earth Guardians	Casey Garcia, Garcia Farms, Tome
Janet Jarratt	Ricardo Dow y Anaya
Mario Rosales	Ely & Rita Gutierrez
Elaine Hebard	Curtis Greenwood
Derek Jarner	Trevor Birt
Anthony Lucero	Travis Harris
Santiago Maestas	Carol Benavidez, Tome
Thomas A. Solomon	Chris Torres, Belen
Gary McNiel	Chris Sichler
Nolan Meadows	Steven Sichler
Bob Schloer	Adrian Oglesby
Phil Alexander	Blane Sanchez, 2 nd Lt. Governor of Isleta
Monette Hardern-Lopez, Lopez Farms	Beverly Dominguez Romero
Pablo Romero	James McCook
Joe Sanchez	Cyndi Mae Wade
Bruce Yates, Los Lunas	Matthew Rawlings
Kathryn Romero, Los Lunas	Doug Stretch, MRGCD
Horatio Romero, Los Lunas	Adrienne Martinez, MRGCD
Andrea C. Padilla, Tome	Danial Clouser, MRGCD
Paul & Stephanie McCleary	Marie VanDerGeest, MRGCD
Hubert A. Abeita	Francesca Shirley, MRGCD
Mike & Erica Desmet	Matt Martinez, MRGCD
Kirsten Couevas, Tome	Rick Altenberg, MRGCD
Gilbert Romero	Gabriella Coughlin, MRGCD
Paul M. Torres, Tome	Estella Gamboa, MRGCD
Mitchell Vergeer, Los Lunas	Casey Ish, MRGCD

Mark Garcia
Thomas Padilla, MRGCD
Bill Devin
Marcel Abeyta
Derrick Jonner
Corky Herkenhoff
Matthew Chavez
Andrea Padilla

John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist
Mike Silva, Tome
Leroy Baca
Jeremy Golliheair, Jarales
Deb Williams, Bosque Del Apache
Hannah Riseley-White, NM ISC
Matthew Aragon
Jeremy DeArmond, MRGCD

AGENDA ITEM NO.1 - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Madam Chair led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Madam Chair requested that a presentation given by Mike Hamman and Dr. Charles DuMars be added to the agenda prior to the Items from the Floor.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA with the above changes**. Director Duggins seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

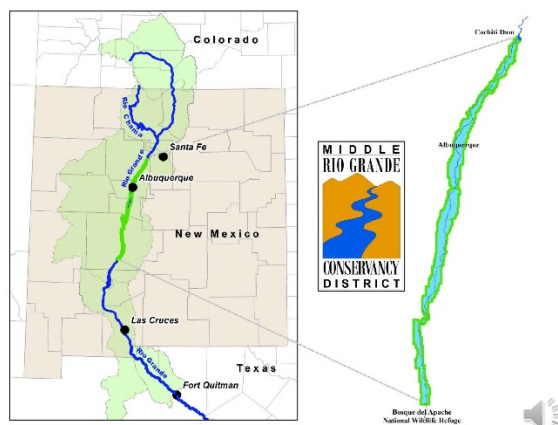
All Board members introduced themselves to the public.

Mr. Hamman and Dr. DuMars shared their slideshow presentation on the Rio Grande Compact. Mr. Hamman described how it works, the history behind it, and also the operational constraints and legal implications it causes. Mr. Hamman also stated that during the hot and dry summer, they requested the use of debit water that's stored at El Vado to release to the farmers and all compact commissioners agreed. Dr. DuMars started off speaking about interstate compacts and explained what they are. He also talked about the legal case between Texas and New Mexico and explained what their reasoning was for the case and all the details of the case. Mr. Hamman then reiterated that New Mexico is not currently in violation of the compact. He then talked about things they can do to make things better with the water in the future.

August 20, 2021 Board of Directors Special Meeting

Rio Grande Compact History, Operations and Legal Implications

Mike A. Hamman, PE
Chief Engineer and CEO
Dr. Charles DuMars
Chief Water Counsel



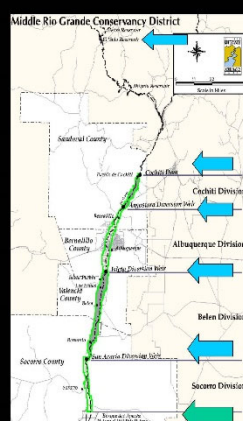
Water History - Middle Rio Grande

- Irrigation dating before 1500s including Mexico – Treaty of 1904
- 1880s – extensive agricultural land development in Colorado
- Hydrologic investigation of the upper Rio Grande
- The Rio Grande Joint Investigation 1936-37 finalizing the Rio Grande Compact of 1938 that was ratified by the three states and the US



Why Was the MRGCD Formed

- Heavy agricultural development in late 1880's in the San Luis Valley
- Poor watershed conditions contributing heavy sediment loads into the valley
- Flooding and poor drainage
- Depression Era economy
- Consolidation of 77 separate acequias and ditch companies
- To assure late season irrigation water availability



EL VADO DAM
On the Rio Chama - For water storage

COCHITI DAM

ANGOSTURA Diversion Weir

ISLETA Diversion Weir

SAN ACACIA Diversion Weir

Bosque del Apache Refuge

MRGCD Facilities

El Vado Dam 1935



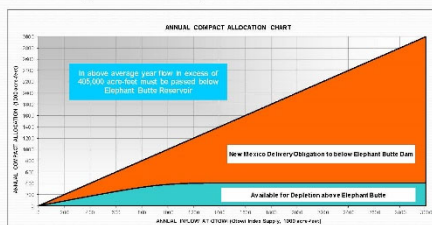
San Acacia 1933



Rio Grande Compact Constraints on MRG

- New Mexico's depletions are capped at 405,000 a-f and is required to deliver 57% or higher based on the annual Rio Grande flows at Otowi gage.
- El Vado Dam is a post-Compact reservoir and its operations are constrained by Articles VI, VII and VIII.
- Under Article VII, no Rio Grande water can be stored if Elephant Butte/Caballo supply falls below 400,000 a-f
- Articles VI and VIII deal with the requirements of debit storage in CO and NM – Credits are also provided for
- San Juan-Chama Project water is unconstrained

Chart Showing NM Delivery under the Rio Grande Compact



Hydrologic Realities:

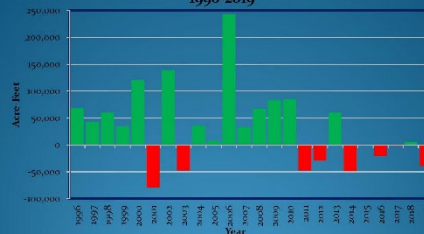
2018 to 2021 Hydrology

- In 2018 the total flow at the Otowi gage was 312,000 a-f, 39% of the annual average with a delivery of 184,000 to Elephant Butte with a small credit of 5,400 a-f. The District used all storage available from El Vado and San-Juan Chama.
- In 2019 the total at Otowi was 1.36M a-f that required 954,000 a-f delivery to EB. A hot dry summer led to District releasing 80,000 a-f to EB to make full delivery but came up 38,000 a-f short (debit) resulting in no carryover at year-end.
- 2020 – worst runoff since 1977 and could only store 38,000 debit water plus 34,000 a-f additional. Would have been completely out by July 18 except for MRG Pueblos P&P.
- 2021 – 58% Runoff Forecast and 65% San Juan-Chama Supply

2020 Water Operations – Run-of-the River

- June Forecasted Runoff at 33% at Otowi gage – 235k af
- Baseflows on the Chama and Rio Grande dropped rapidly in May and have remained historically low.
- On July 6, MRGCD requested that the NM Rio Grande Compact Commission exercise an option in Article VI of the Compact to allow a state with debit storage to use that storage by unanimous consent of the three states.
- That was granted on July 17 with conditions that NM use this water as judiciously as possible.
- 32,000 a-f has been released to provide essential irrigation and endangered species protection through September 7th.
- New Mexico now owes near 96,300 a-f in 2021
- July 31, 2021 Debit estimate by NMISC is 133,000 a-f so far

NM RG Compact Annual Over/Under Delivery
1996-2019

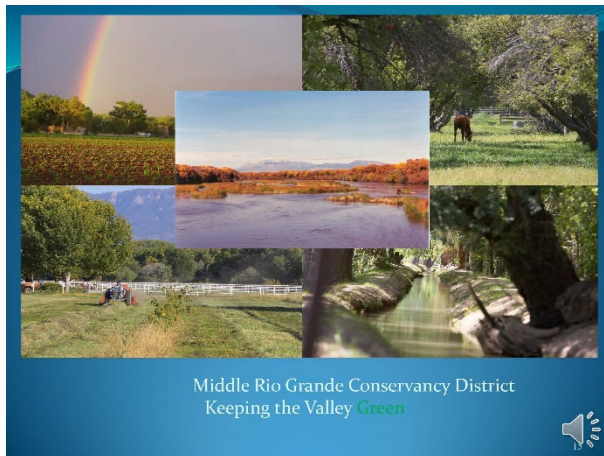


Legal Requirements and Implications Dr. Charles DuMars, Chief Legal Counsel

- Rio Grande Compact and State of New Mexico State Engineer and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
- Texas v. New Mexico and Colorado

Meeting the Challenges

- Expand existing water bank to include the option of leasing pre-1907 rights to avoid curtailments, improve in-river habitats, and to allow on-farm conjunctive uses of groundwater for pressurized systems.
- Operate under a basin-wide plan to prevent under deliveries by terms of the Rio Grande Compact.
- Work collaboratively with municipalities to manage overall depletions in a conjunctive use strategy that preserves agriculture in the middle valley through participation in the Upper Rio Grande Basin Study and Regional Water Planning
- Pursue federal and state grants to improve water efficiencies both in the delivery system and on-farm
- Strategically use supplemental wells, drains and off-stream storage as an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) system in certain areas of the District that minimizes depletions.



AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (Comments are held to six (6) minutes)

Horacio Romero

Mr. Romero, a Valencia County farmer, questioned how to work together to manage the water more efficiently. He also stated that one of his concerns was wondering how he was going to get crops planted in the fall if he does not know when he will get to plant. Another concern he mentioned was if they are told they will have water on a certain date, then they need to make sure they get that water on that date.

Matthew Chavez

Mr. Chavez expressed his concern with shutting off the whole system when they get ditch breaks. He then gave a suggestion of an alternative solution when the ditch breaks happen. He also mentioned that some of the problem is that some ditch riders just aren't good and don't do a good job. He ended his comment by suggestion the members of the Board go out and see the ditches and irrigators for themselves. He also suggested forming an emergency crew that can work weekends.

Matthew Aragon

Mr. Aragon, farmer from Valencia County, read a section of the policy and a piece of the Declaration of Independence. He stated that cutting the season two months short is taxation without representation.

Andrea Padilla

Ms. Padilla stated she was there to represent the Town of Tome Land Grant and New Mexico Land Grant Consejo. She explained she was concerned about the water delivery system. She explained that some people are getting plenty of water while others are not. She stated she was only asking for equity and fairness and suggested training for the ditch riders and to check up on them to make sure they're doing their job. She ended her statement asking the Board to please consider the lives of these farmers when making their decisions.

Travis Harris

Mr. Harris, a farmer from the lower end of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, started his comment off by asking why they can't use drain water if it continues to rain. He also stated planting in the fall is the best time of the year to plant, so cutting it short would not be good for farmers. Mr. Harris said he had once raised concern with Xochitl Torres Small about COVID restricting the guys in the refuge to work, so they weren't able to prepare the soil to plant corn, which posed a risk to the farmers crops. He also expressed he too believes they should be able to use the drain water.

Mitchell Vergeer

Mr. Vergeer, a farmer from Valencia County, asked the board several questions about the compact. He stated that he believes they should try to go to the Supreme Court and fight for New Mexico's right to their water.

Mike Desmet

Mr. Desmet, a dairy farmer from Valencia County, stated that many cows are leaving the area, because no one can afford to feed their animals. He stated that he agreed with Mr. Arrigon on figuring out how to implement and stick to the rules. He expressed concern that there won't be any dairies left by the end of the year if something doesn't change. He also explained they took both planting seasons away when they stop during the middle of seasons.

Kristen Mavis

Kristen Mavis, a first time farmer, stated she never hears the board talk about healthy soil and watershed. She expressed that if the water is taken away, there won't be any agriculture, which is what makes New Mexico. She said the Board is not offering anything to help the farmers, and she suggested petitioning the Supreme Court over the compact.

Anonymous Speaker

He described himself as a consumer and stated he's concerned about what is going on. He mentioned that price of hay going up from \$8 to \$18, which is making it unaffordable for people

with horses. He expressed his concern that wells are going to go dry and have a desolate Rio Rancho. He stated that down south everything is lush and green but dry up here.

Mike Silva

Mr. Silva, a farmer from Tome and retired ditch rider, stated he thinks that when computers and water measuring came into play is when everything went south. He stated that when he was a ditch rider, there was always water in the ditches, and that he thinks the problem now is that the ditch riders aren't talking to each other. He also stated that if they are going to shut water off, they need to do it for everyone. Mr. Silva said that when they cut it off early in September, there was no feed for his cows.

Mr. Padilla

This farmer out of Tome expressed to the Board he believes they are paying Texas for water that evaporates out of the dams. He stated farmers along the Pecos River was dealing with the same issue but took Texas to the Supreme Court and won their case. He suggested they do the same.

Erica Desmet

Erica Desmet, a Valencia County farmer, stated she brought \$150,000 worth of feed bills. She expressed that the Board does not have a lot of power over the people, that John D'Antonio does. She then went on to ask where Mr. D'Antonio was, so she can talk to him.

Madam Chair Dunning stated that they can provide Mr. D'Antonio's contact information.

Kathryn Romero

Ms. Romero expressed a concern that when they say they will have water by April 1st, they don't actually get it until May 1st due to the problems in the ditches that were not addressed in the winter. She also stated that due to the late water arrival, their wheat did not do well, and they lost two dairy customers. She expressed that farmers are not being treated fairly and that it is affecting their livelihood.

Stephanie McCleary

Mrs. McCleary, farmer out of Bosque, expressed that their bill should not be the same if there is no water, and that the MRGCD should fix that.

Chris Sichler

Mr. Sichler stated he thinks it would be a bad idea to renegotiate the compact, because he thinks they would lose. He also stated the compact is not the problem, that the issues getting the water delivered to Texas is the problem, which is why they are still so much in debt. He suggested they get a channel down the river, or they will never get out of debt. He also stated there's a lot of drainage water coming out of the Middle Rio Grande that could be used for winter crops.

Dr. Chuck DuMars

Dr. DuMars stated he agreed with Mr. Sichler and spoke about an infrastructure bill that's out there that could potentially give them 30 million dollars to clean up the low flow channel that would make a huge difference. He also stated that yes, they do work with John D'Antonio, but that MRGCD is an independent political subdivision that has the ability to allocate water independent of the state engineer.

Janet Jarrett

Ms. Jarrett explained that she does agree that the compact does not need to be changed but does believe MRGCD could be a better advocate of compact enforcement. She stated that there's issues in interior management that the district could make more efficient and equitable. She also expressed she does not agree with cutting the irrigation season short. She mentioned that she sent every member on the board a document stating why early curtailment is devastating for crops. She went on to say Albuquerque's response to the drought was to pump more water, which was being sucked from under the district. Ms. Jarrett requested that MRGCD needs to push back on this and support their farmers.

Viola Sanchez, Designated Engineer for the BIA

Ms. Sanchez stated that the pueblos are on scheduled rotation even with senior water rights. She also mentioned that many years ago the construction of the Low Flow Conveyance Channel helped New Mexico get out of debt and now it is not functional. She ended her comment requesting that farmers be given these requests in plenty of time to respond to them.

Jeremy Golliheair

Mr. Golliheair asked the Board how bad it has to get before they ask for federal help. He expressed they should be worried about helping people now before they worry about the future.

Corky Herkenhoff

Mr. Herkenhoff expressed that when they cut the water early it destroys a lot of opportunities to make more crops. He also suggested to go back to two meetings a month.

Jeremy DeArmond

Mr. DeArmond, a MRGCD employee, in hydrology, expressed that MRGCD is expanding operations and efforts and has classes and information becoming available. He stated that as farmers they need to be more flexible and share information with one another.

Neil Heiss

Mr. Heiss stated that the attorney needs to take this to the Supreme Court and get money from the governor, because the evaporation from the lake is an opportunity to protect farmers.

Elaine Hebard

Ms. Hebard expressed that when water doesn't get delivered through the ditches and drains, the whole area loses benefits. She also stated they are a very important aspect of the water budget and should be included in the analysis.

Madam Dunning expressed that some of the people who wanted questions answered had left and asked Mr. Hamman his preference for how to handle that.

Jeri Miller

Ms. Miller, a farmer out of Valencia County, suggested that questions be answered anyway, because everyone else would like to hear them also.

Dr. DuMars explained the evaporation off of Elephant Butte and how that works. He explained there is no evaporation loss in the process. He described that 57% of the water goes to New Mexico and 43% to Texas. He also said the compact favors New Mexico and is a very good document.

Mr. Hamman discussed the drains and the delivery systems. He also stated that if they were to continue after October 1st, depletions would occur, and the longer you push it out there's no extra water. He also stated that if they get some rain in September, the vessel will start to fill up and they can afford to add more depletions.

Vice Chair Russo Baca brought up the issue that if they ended the irrigation season on October 1st, they would go double into debt instead of chipping away at debt. She also talked about the issue where only some would get to irrigate and how they would determine that.

Director Duggins urged the other board members to come out and actually see their farms, see their ditches. He stated they should put the water in the ditch if they need it even if it causes debt.

Madam Chair Dunning stated they hired someone to help educate farmers on healthy soil. She also asked if there was some kind of system they could set up for people to report people wasting water.

Mr. Hamman stated that they are continuing to recruit and train more ditch riders about the waste of water. He also mentioned that there has been talk about maybe setting a yearly allocation and a method to determine how much water a particular crop and field will need to be successful. He said they will probably have a different approach where they flush the system a couple weeks earlier in order for everybody to get going quicker.

Vice Chair Russo Baca read off a question that asked how does the use of water for the Facebook data plant, and Niagara bottling plant in Los Lunas, and the city of Albuquerque's go towards depletions. The next question she read off was regarding planting alfalfa at the end of the season. Vice Chair Russo Baca referred to Dr. DuMars.

Dr. DuMars stated the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority have gone to surface water, using San Juan-Chama water and a bladder dam, and when there is low water, they go back to groundwater. He also stated that the water table around Albuquerque's wells has gone up and they switched to other sources. He also mentioned that he does

understand the argument of the wells without offset requirements on them, but still believes the Lower Rio Grande and Middle Rio Grande are very different.

Mr. Hamman added that the district took a step to protest water right transfers for the first time in a long time to Rio Rancho, because of the concerns about the transfer of agricultural rights to municipal uses. He also stated that he thinks municipalities can take stronger actions during times of shortage to further constrain household, outdoor, or any other uses. He assured that the state engineer prefers solutions to water disputes as a regional conflict resolutions process through an alternative water management entity.

Director Kelly asked Mike why the state engineer is not making a request of the groundwater pumpers with junior water rights, and what is his role here.

Dr. DuMars stated that the state engineer doesn't have the authority to do that, but legislature could step in. He also stated that the consequences of having a septic tank does mean that you get return flows. He also stated they're getting fixed, but it's going to take a lot more.

Madam Chair Dunning interjected to say it sounds like something we could work with legislature on to pass something to deal with this issue. She also mentioned she agreed with Ms. Jarrett that groundwater users are taking the brunt of something that should be shared with other users.

Director Kelly asked how they resolve the issue of their failure to get water to people by April 1st like was promised, so that it doesn't happen again.

Mr. Hamman stated they learned they simply need to flush the system earlier. He also stated that they did start up quickly and started getting water to people that first week of April. He also committed to getting everything flushed out early to get them in a position to deliver water.

Madam Chair Dunning explained that there are two different issues, the first one being people being promised water April 1st, but some didn't get it until later. She stated the other issue is the number of watering they got over the summer. She also stated that Mr. Hamman has clearly stated lessons were learned and committed to it not happening again.

Director Duggins expressed his frustration with not knowing when to plant and not getting any water. He also expressed the importance of not cutting off early in the fall.

Madam Chair Dunning stated there is an understanding of how people were impacted, and they were lucky this year to get the rains they did, because without those rains some farmers wouldn't have gotten any crops in. She also explained that if they don't have water in storage, then they can't deliver it.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2021 AND 2022 IRRIGATION SEASON

- a. Report on Water Supply Conditions and General Water Operations - Anne Marken, Acting Water Operations Division Manager and Mike Lopez, Water Distribution Division Manager**

Anne Marken reported that we started the year off with only prior and paramount water in storage in El Vado. She stated they received 65% allocation of San Juan-Chama water, so the inability to control storage in the river has constrained ability to control or meet the need of the irrigators. She also reiterated that the monsoons really helped them this year. She reported that there is still P&P water in storage and that they've managed to keep Embudo and La Puente above at P&P demand. La Puente is currently at 35 CFS and Embudo at 315 right now. She explained that turning off irrigation season early will fill that hole. Ms. Marken emphasized that they are always considering the farmers in their decisions. She explained that if they would not have shut off, they would have gone 9000-acre-feet into debit; whereas they were able to chip away about 7000-acre-feet.

Director Duggins asked if that acre feet they chipped away is what was paid down on the water debt or if that is what it would have cost if they didn't shutdown.

Ms. Marken stated that's potentially true. She said that was their total obligation. She also reiterated these are rough numbers and it's hard to quantify how it benefited them in the November deliveries, but it did help deliver a large portion of water to Elephant Butte in November.

Director Duggins again asked if that number is what was saved or spent, and Ms. Marken answered that it would have been added.

Mr. Hamman explained that is what makes the compact work and that what they're offering is a way to dig out of the hole while in drought. Director Duggins responded that it is going to snow, and the river is going to bust and go everywhere.

Dr. DuMars described it as a situation where if you keep adding and adding to the debt, it is going to be much more difficult to get out. He explained that's the dilemma because there are people that really need water. He also stated that it is all caused by the climate changing and that it is a difficult choice.

Ms. Marken explained that last year they had 200 CFS at Embudo and 830 at Otowi gage, because some of it was P&P water but 365 of it was released from Article 6 water. This year, there is 320 at Embudo and 430 at Otowi, so it is limited. She stated for that reason they can't do it this year, but that they were able to last year.

Director Kelly asked Ms. Marken what the three-month outlook is showing for September, and she showed him a slide with that information on it.

Mr. Hamman explained it shows a big high pressure sitting over the four corners. He also stated their half month outlook is pretty accurate. He stated they also believe they're heading into La Nina effects, but it does not say it will rain, just a 33% to 40% that it will be drier than normal. He said that October tends to dry out some, but that he saw good moisture in October. He also explained that if you have decent fall moisture, then the runoff will be a lot better.

b. Staff Recommendation and Board Consideration/Approval of Changing the End of the 2021 Irrigation Season and Discussion of the 2022 Irrigation Season Outlook - Mike A. Hamman, CE/CEO and Anne Marken, Acting Water Operations Division Manager

Mr. Hamman explained that this issue is a really tough decision, because he knows a lot of people need water to get their fall planting in, but that his biggest fear is the river drying out in September. He stated there is only one real senior right on the river, so the chance to have a significant amount of water to work with may be 80 to 100 CFS for all the other lands besides pueblo lands. He explained that the river is drying out and that drains, and low flow will recede. He explained that extending the irrigation season to October 15th or 31st would not allow the water to fill up the system, which will take more water in November. He explained that he wanted the district to be in the position where they have good runoff to use El Vado and provide water in the late season. He reiterated that it is not them taking water from anyone, because there is not going to be water in October unless there is a miracle rain that happens. He recommended that they go ahead and tell the farmers were going to shut down on October 1st and that we will plan for next year, but he will seriously look at how they start next year. He also suggested a hotline of some kind to raise attention.

Mike Lopez expressed that if there are concerns, he's willing to meet with anybody. He stated he heard a lot of the people's concerns and that he would be happy to take down their information for individual meetings or taking him to show him the problem.

Mr. Hamman added that even though it doesn't feel like it sometimes, they are making improvements. Mr. Lopez agreed and stated that a huge flood event impacted their valley and took massive amounts of resources.

Madam Chair Dunning stated that she also agreed with a hotline and thinks it's a good way to get more accountability and a good management tool. She also reiterated that anyone could go to the website and contact any of the board members with issues.

Director Duggins stated that anyone can go to the website and contact any of the board members and they will help you. He also expressed that he agrees with the two meetings a month.

Vice Chair Russo Baca explained that they had community office hours prior to COVID where each board member had meetings at the division officers where people could come and talk freely without a time limit, and that she would like to do that again.

Madam Chair Dunning announced that discussion of two meetings per month will be on next month's agenda.

Director Kelly asked Mr. Hamman if he felt like an October 1st shutdown was in the best interest of the MRGCD given his career and experience, and Mr. Hamman replied that he would not have made that recommendation if he didn't. Director Kelly then asked Dr. DuMars if he agreed that an October 1st shutdown was in the best interest of MRGCD, and he replied that he did from a legal perspective.

Barbara Baca thanked everyone for coming and explained she knows it's a very difficult time. She explained that they are in serious drought and a large debit they cannot continue to borrow. She said that we'll all have to sacrifice and that they are coming from a place of improving the health of our valley.

Anne Marken explained again there is no more storage other than P&P and that there is no way to make it the entire season if this step is not taken now.

Madam Chair explained there has been enough discussion on the matter and asked if someone would like to make a motion.

Director Duggins asked what if the rain did come. Vice Chair Russo Baca stated that if they got a ton of rain, they could pay the debt back by sending it down the river but that would give less certainty to farmers.

Mr. Hamman stated that the pueblos would be requested to join them at the September 2nd Coalition meeting and stated that they have been very supportive.

Director Kelly made the **MOTION TO SUPPORT OUR CHIEF ENGINEER AND CEO'S RECOMMENDATION TO SHUT THE IRRIGATION SEASON DOWN ON OCTOBER 1ST WITH THE DIRECTION TO MR. HAMMAN AND DR. DUMARS TO TAKE ALL EFFORTS WITH OUR FEDERAL CONTINGENT ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE BILL AND TO EXPRESS OUR SUPPORT FOR REHAB OF THAT FLOODWAY AND THE LOWER END OF THE CONVEYANCE CHANNEL TO ENHANCE THE DELIVERY EFFICIENCIES IN THAT CRITICAL REACH OF THE RIVER AND TO HAVE SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE STATE ENGINEER AND THE INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION ABOUT THEIR OBLIGATION TO LOOK AT SOME OF THE GROUNDWATER PUMPING AND RESTRICTIONS ON THOSE JUNIOR RIGHTS AS PART OF THIS MORE REGIONAL SOLUTION INSTEAD OF JUST FOCUSING ON US AND OUR FARMERS AS THE REMAINING SURFACE WATER USERS.** Director Barbara Baca seconded the motion. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting. The **MOTION CARRIED.**

Director Barbara Baca	Yes	Madam Chairwoman	Yes
Director Sandoval	No	Vice Chair Russo Baca	Yes
Director Kelly	Yes	Director Duggins	No
		Director Joaquin Baca	Absent

Director Joaquin Baca left the meeting but later called in although he was disconnected.

Further discussion was had regarding the pueblos and the cutoff date whether or not if it also applies to the pueblos.

With no further comments, questions or concerns, Madam Chair Dunning adjourned the meeting at 2:04 pm.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of August 20, 2021

ATTESTED:

Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
Secretary/Treasurer



Karen Dunning, Madam Chair
MRGCD Board of Directors