**Meeting of the**

**Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District**

**Wednesday March 16, 2016**

**4:00 to 5:30 p.m.**

**Mountain Valley Bank**

1. **Main Street, Meeker, CO 81641**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Roll Call Staff Present

Directors Present Scott Grosscup, District Attorney

Kelly Sheridan

Ben Rogers

Walter Proctor Others Present

Shawn Welder Reed Kelly

Paul Neilson Shanna Lewis, Division of Water Resources

Baily Franklin

Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2015

Director Proctor moved to amend the minutes from December 3, 2015, page 3, delete “allow for a smaller” and replace with “to raise the” and approve the minutes as amended, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Director Proctor indicated that the YJWCD was able to “close-out the books” for 2015 and pay all its bills received in 2015 with funds received in 2015 and that the YJWCD had started receiving tax payments and had a positive budget balance. He also indicated that he had paid the additional amount for the increased bonding for Directors consistent with direction at the previous meeting.

Director Proctor then moved to pay the accounts receivable from Balcomb & Green for December consistent with the 2015 Budget, and January and February and to pay the invoice received from Applegate Group from December. Director Smith second, all in favor.

Discussion followed regarding the potential to use portions of revenues received from Moffat County to serve those constituents. While there is no money budgeted this year for specific programs, the YJWCD may consider creating such options in future budgets.

Exemption from Audit

Director Proctor circulated forms for signature to seek an exemption from audit. Districts/governments with revenues and/or expenditures of less than $100,000 per year may request an exemption from state auditing requirements. Director Proctor will finalize the paperwork with Colorado CPA consistent with prior years.

Scoping Year 2 Yellow Jacket Study

Scott reviewed the results of the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy Water Storage Feasibility – Phase II study that was presented to the YJWCD board in December of last year. That report evaluated the YJWCD’s existing water rights portfolio, and limitations as a result of water court actions. The report analyzed the needs and demands for water right users within the boundaries of the YJWCD based on existing state studies. The report concluded that there is a need for additional water within the White River Basin to meet future demands. The demands include providing water for municipal and industrial uses, non-consumptive needs such as improving fish flows, and some agricultural uses.

The report then identified several options for water storage in the Upper White River and included raising the spillway and/or increasing the dam height for Lake Avery. Another option included several off-channel storage sites located above the Oak Ridge Park Ditch. And the study evaluated constructing Sawmill Mountain Reservoir in a fashion consistent with prior stipulations. The study then made several recommendations for next steps for further study of the potential reservoir locations.

The Board discussed how it should focus its resources and prioritize areas to be studied this year. Questions were raised about devoting too much energy in an enlarged Lake Avery until the State Engineer completes the reservoir spillway analysis. The Board also discussed the need to communicate with the Oak Ridge Park ditch about its interest in a project that would include off-channel reservoirs filled from the ditch as well as landowner sentiment for off-channel storage locations.

The Board also talked about the need to evaluate how the District’s remaining conditional water rights that would not be stored in an enlarged Lake Avery or other off-channel locations could be put to beneficial use. Discussion followed whether these conditional water rights could be stored in the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District’s proposed Wolf Creek Reservoir, and if so, how they could be used. Scott indicated that there may be an ability to store water in that reservoir and then release it by exchange to augment uses from the upper basin. Modeling of the potential future administration of the YJWCD’s water rights portfolio would be needed to maximize the use of the District’s water rights.

After discussion, Director Proctor moved to authorize Applegate Group to commence work to continue with the analysis of the YJWCD’s water rights focusing in priority and available budget on:

1. Continued analysis of the Off-Channel Sites identified in the Report, including meeting with affected parties, modeling of reservoir operations, evaluating flows on Little Beaver Creek, and power needs;
2. Evaluating the potential uses for the District’s remaining conditional water rights, including an analysis of the priority and administration of these rights; and
3. Begin, conceptual level analysis of the Lake Avery dam embankment to determine ability to store additional water and whether draining of the reservoir would be possible during potential future construction.

Director Smith second, all in favor.

New Business

Scott informed the Board that he will be attending the Meeker Chamber meeting on behalf of the YJWCD later that evening.

Director Welder questioned, and encouraged the other board members to be creative in working with other groups and to look at options in addition to reservoir construction to meet future needs and demands within the basin.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Read and approved this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2016

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Attest:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_