**Meeting of the**

**Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District**

**Thursday December 8, 2016**

**2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Fairfield Center**

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Roll Call Staff Present

Directors Present Scott Grosscup, District Attorney

Kelly Sheridan

Ben Rogers

Walter Proctor

Shawn Welder

Paul Neilson

Baily Franklin

Approval of Minutes from March 16, 2016 and September 27, 2016

Director Rogers moved to approve the minutes from March 16, 2016 and September 27, 2016, with minor edits to the September 27, 2016 minutes – page 1 “Balcomb & Green and Applegate Group”, and “need to increase” – Director Proctor Second, all in favor.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Director Proctor discussed the accounts payable and indicated that he anticipated the District would have sufficient funds to pay budgeted items in 2016 and that there would be some funds remaining at the end of the year.

Director Proctor moved to pay Balcomb & Green invoices from September through November. Director Neilson second, all in favor.

Director Proctor moved to pay Applegate Group for its October invoice. Director Franklin second, all in favor.

Yellow Jacked Water Storage Feasibility Study

Scott briefly summarized the results of the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District, Water Storage Feasibility – 2016 report prepared by Applegate Group. The 2016 report further identified potential need and demand for the District’s water rights for use to augment wells in the event of water rights administration on the White River. The study concludes that these wells may consume up to 4,200 acre feet per year and could require some form of augmentation source. The study also resulted in two new potential reservoir sites that could provide locations for future development. One is located on Little Beaver Creek below the Oak Ridge Park Ditch, and the other is Tom Little Reservoir, downstream from the Town of Meeker.

The Directors discussed the potential benefits of being able to provide an augmentation source and whether well owners would use the supply or allow their wells to be administered. They also discussed the next steps for 2017 to continue the process of evaluating potential projects.

The Directors indicated that it was important to continue to keep in mind the potential for an enlargement to Lake Avery and how that could also play into future augmentation plans and District planning. Questions were raised about how Tom Little Reservoir could pay for itself and whether power production could off-set a portion of the operation costs.

Directors discussed the potential use of the North Fork Feeder conduit as potential to provide hydro power, potentially through the Highland Ditch or Miller Creek Ditch into Flag Creek. Discussion pointed to potential environmental benefits and ability to run in the winter along with elevation changes and improvements.

The Directors outlined the following next steps for 2017:

* Request that Applegate Group prepare a short letter that could be shared with landowners underlying the Little Beaver Creek Reservoir outlining potential impacts of such a reservoir and potential benefits;
* Analyze potential hydro-power uses on the Highland Ditch;
* Continue analysis of moving water rights to Lake Avery;
* Refine augmentation demands; and
* Analyze the potential financial return for construction of Tom Little Reservoir and confirm whether water would need to be pumped into the Reservoir.

Adoption of 2017 Budget

Director Proctor moved to open the hearing on the 2017 Budget, director Franklin second, all in favor.

There were no members of the public to speak on the Budget and Scott did not receive any comments after posting and publishing notice of the Budget and Budget Hearing and making the Budget available for inspection. Scott indicated that there were a couple of changes from the Budget presented in September. The assessed valuation in Rio Blanco County and Moffat County was reduced resulting in a reduction of approximately $3,000 in revenues. This resulted in a $1,000 reduction to the operating budget and $2,000 reduction to the Reserve Account. Director Proctor also noted some additional clean-up with some of the numbers in the final resolutions.

Director Proctor moved to adopt Resolution to Appropriate Sums of Money, director Neilson second, all in favor.

Director Proctor moved to adopt Resolution to Adopt Budget, Director Rogers second, all in favor.

Director Proctor moved to adopt Resolution to Set Mill Levy 2017, Director Franklin second, all in favor.

Director Proctor moved to close the Budget Hearing for 2017, Director Franklin second, all in favor.

New Business

Scott indicated that Director Rogers had been re-appointed to the Board of Directors and that there still remains one vacancy on the Board.

Scott then reported on the recent Supreme Court Opinion where a number of entities on the West Slope had opposed a change of water rights for the Busk-Ivanhoe water system by Aurora. He said that the West Slope entities had prevailed at the Colorado Supreme Court resulting in a decrease in the transferable yield of these water rights.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Read and approved this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017

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

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