**Meeting of the**

**Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District**

**Thursday December 12, 2024**

**3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m**

**Meeker Library**

**490 Main Street, Meeker, CO 81641**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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| Directors Present  Kelly Sheridan, President  Ben Rogers, Vice-President  Baily Franklin, Treasurer  David Smith  Shawn Welder  Anthony Theos  Paul Neilson  Shanna Lewis  Brett Harvey | Staff Present  Scott Grosscup, Secretary  Others Present  Ben Felt, Colorado Parks and Wildlife  John Livingston  Doug Overton  Present via Microsoft Teams  Erin Light, Division Engineer, Water Division 6  Becky Kracht, Water Commissioner  Joe Livingston |

Approval of Minutes from May 28, 2023

Director Franklin moved to approve the minutes from the May 28, 2024 meeting, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Public Comment

There were no members from the public wishing to discuss items not on the agenda.

Lake Avery Enlargement

Scott reported he and Directors Sheridan and Franklin met with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff and representatives from the Colorado River Water Conservation District at Lake Avery to review reservoir site, discuss the proposed expansion project, and to discuss needs and uses of an expanded Reservoir. River District staff were receptive to the presentation. Additionally, Applegate Group completed the request for proposal to conduct the feasibility analysis for the enlarged reservoir. Scott reviewed the RFP with the board.

Discussion followed regarding the status of CPW’s current work on the rehabilitation of the outlet structures and whether that would impact any enlargement. Mr. John Livingston asked about how the enlarged reservoir would be operated and whether there could be efforts to mitigate any impacts of drawdown as a result of an expanded reservoir. The Board discussed benefits of an expanded reservoir to serve constituents and promote river health below the reservoir and the potential for future administration on the White River.

Division Engineer Light stated she had requested a determination from the State Engineer that the White River is over-appropriated. She discussed the process she is following and discussions with State Engineer Ulmann. The process may be similar to that followed in the Yampa River basin with a phased in approach to allow certain wells to be permitted prior to the official designations.

Director Neilson moved to authorize issuance of the RFP, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Scott indicated Applegate Group is still in the process of finalizing the hydrology study for Lake Avery with the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Treasurer’s Report and Approval of Accounts Payable

Director Franklin discussed outstanding bills and the status of current certificate of deposit and plans to renew.

Director Smith moved to approve payment of all outstanding bills as reported in the Treasurer’s report, Director Neilson second, all in favor.

Discussion followed that additional funds would be transferred from the operating account to the reserve account as provided in the 2024 budget.

Director Theos moved to approve payment of December bills by the treasurer, provided such bills are within budget for the District, director Smith second, all in favor.

Approval of the 2025 Budget

Director Franklin moved to open the budget hearing for the 2025 Budget, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Scott reported he send a draft of the budget to the board members on October 15, 2024, notice of the hearing was published in the local papers in all three counties affected, copies of the budget were also made available at the county clerk and recorders and on the District’s website. No comments were received from the public and there were no members of the public to comment on the proposed budget. Scott indicated he had made minor changes to the budget from October 15, based on revised valuations and projected 2024 expenses.

Director Franklin moved to adopt Resolution No. 1 to set the mill levy at 0.209 mills, Director Theos second, all in favor.

Director Smith moved to adopt Resolution No. 2 to adopt the budget, Director Franklin second, all in favor.

Director Neilson moved to adopt Resolution No. 3 to appropriate sums of money, Director Franklin second, all in favor.

There being no further discussion on the 2025 Budget, Director Neilson moved to close the budget hearing, Director Franklin second, all in favor.

Approval of Exemption from Audit

Director Smith moved to authorize the Treasurer to request an exemption from audit for the 2024 budget, Director Franklin second, all in favor.

New Business

Director Harvey asked about the relation between the YJWCD and the RBWCD. Scott reported the two districts had entered into an intergovernmental agreement to allow YJWCD constituents to contract for water from the proposed Wolf Creek Reservoir. However, the YJWCD has not taken any formal position on the proposed reservoir. The YJWCD is participating in the federal analysis of the reservoir as a “cooperating agency”.

There was some discussion concerning implementation of measurement rules in Division 6.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Read and approved this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2025.

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

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