

**Colorado Water Resources
and
Power Development Authority**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2024

Call to Order

Chair Steve Vandiver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Authority Conference Room, located at 1580 North Logan Street, Suite #810, Denver, CO 80203, and via video and audio teleconferencing.

Board Member Identification and Declaration of a Quorum

Board members present: Steve Vandiver (Chair), Chris Treese (Vice-Chair), Mike Fabbre (Secretary/Treasurer), Matthew Shuler, Patti Wells, Bruce Whitehead, Eric Wilkinson, and Karen Wogsland. Lucas Hale was absent, and Eric Wilkinson joined virtually. A quorum was declared with eight Board members present.

Following the roll call, Chair Vandiver led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Vandiver announced that the following items were placed on the Consent Agenda for Board consideration at the Project Finance Committee meeting: Agenda items 7(a) Drinking Water Revolving Fund and Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund loan application for the Town of Ridgway, Resolution No. 24-18, 7(b) and 8(b) DOLA's Small Communities Technical Services funding request, and 7(d) and 8(d) Principal Forgiveness Caps and Maximums recommendations. After hearing no comments, a motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Motion: Chris Treese
2nd: Karen Wogsland
Vote: Motion carried

Approval of Minutes – April 26, 2024

The April 26, 2024, Minutes were presented for approval. After hearing no comments, a motion was made to approve the Minutes of April 26, 2024.

Motion: Mike Fabbre
2nd: Bruce Whitehead
Vote: Motion carried

Introduction of Guests

Chair Steve Vandiver asked all guests in attendance to introduce themselves and state their affiliation for the record.

Other Agency Reports

Report of Colorado Water Conservation Board ("CWCB")

Kirk Russell, CWCB Finance Section Chief, referred to his written report and announced that the CWCB Board met in May and approved one loan increase and one loan repayment deferral. Mr. Russell touted the flexibility of the CWCB loan program in granting the two requests. On average, the CWCB Board approves roughly 20 loans for approximately \$40-\$50 million, and for FY23/24, the Board approved nine new loans totaling approximately \$176 million. This significant difference was the result of the Board approving two large loans. Mr. Russell noted that the CWCB has been working with the City of Ft. Collins, Project 7 Water Authority and the Town of Milliken on some large projects and potential large loans. Interest in the

CWCB's loan program remains high with many potential borrowers seeking increased funding. The CWCB is seeking ways to stretch its available funding to help as many communities as possible. The CWCB Board also approved approximately \$700,000 in Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants ("WSRF") for two communities. Mr. Russell also discussed the current projections for the Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund and stated that next year's projection is approximately \$50 million, which is similar to the previous year's allocation. The CWCB Board also approved the Water Plan Grant ("WPG") budget categories for FY24/25. A full allocation breakdown was provided in the written report. Approximately \$2.3 million in FY23/24 Prop DD revenues were appropriated in the 2024 Projects Bill and available for grant distribution in FY24/25. The two application deadlines for grant funding are July 1st and December 1st. Mr. Russell also briefly discussed the 2024 ballot measure that would allow the state to retain tax revenue collected above \$29 million annual cap from the tax on sports betting proceeds. The CWCB Board also approved the Water Education Colorado ("WEco") Scope of Work for its annual \$150,000 appropriation. The agency report concluded with an announcement that the next CWCB Board meeting will be held on July 17th and 18th in the North Platte Basin.

Report of Water Quality Control Division ("WQCD")

Ron Falco, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager, referred to the provided written report and announced that the Water Quality Control Commission approved new Regulation#102, which moves the Drinking Water and Clean Water fees into regulation and outside of statute and increases fees by 13 percent due to inflation. The Commission will meet again in Pueblo on June 10th and 11th. On April 10th, the EPA released the final primary Drinking Water standards for maximum contaminant levels ("MCLs) for five PFAS compounds. The Division has been proactively implementing PFAS testing and reducing exposure statewide. To date, the Division has had over 2/3 of community water systems in Colorado tested for PFAS and the Division expects a couple of dozen systems will require treatment. The Division has been assisting those water treatment systems move forward in that process. The WQCD is planning to release a Request For Applications ("RFA") in June for the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation ("WIIN") Emerging Contaminant-Small Disadvantaged Communities grant program. This program funds planning, design, and construction for emerging contaminant projects and is targeted towards small and disadvantaged communities. The agency report continued with an announcement that the two State Revolving Fund program reports were completed and submitted to both the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board ("WWFOCB") and the EPA for approval. The meeting concluded with Mr. Falco announcing that the Division is currently evaluating options for replacement of the Colorado Environmental Online Services ("CEOS") public portal, due to the aging IT infrastructure and potential loss of IT support. The Authority Board and staff will be briefed as the Division transitions to the next phase.

Report of Department of Local Affairs ("DOLA")

Eric Bergman, newly appointed Division Director of the Division of Local Government within the Department of Local Affairs, introduced himself and referred to the provided agency report. Mr. Bergman highlighted the legislative activities contained in the written report and stated that there were a number of bills addressing the housing crisis in the state and confirmed that the Division will be involved in implementing a number of those bills, starting this summer and fall. Mr. Bergman also confirmed there will be a large emphasis on infrastructure associated with those bills. A few of the bills were briefly discussed. Mr. McLaughlin thanked Mr. Bergman for the introduction and offered him the Authority's full support in assisting him and the Division, if needed.

Report of the Chair – Chair Vandiver reported that since the last Board meeting, the Governmental/Public Affairs and Project Finance Committees have met, and he and Mr. McLaughlin have also conferred on several important issues.

Report of the Treasurer – Treasurer Fabbre stated that the Board approved the 2023 Audited Financial Statements at the April 26th Board meeting and, since that time, neither the Budget & Audit Committee nor Investment Committee has met. Treasurer Fabbre then deferred to Assistant Controller, Valerie Lovato, to continue the report in Mr. Noll’s absence. Ms. Lovato stated that financials were provided through March for most of the programs and the Authority’s financials through February. Typically, staff is through the March financials at this time of year, and through June by the end of July. June data is needed for reporting purposes in several reports. Ms. Lovato noted that March is a bond debt service month for the State Revolving Funds. All of the Authority’s bond issues in the two SRF Programs pay bond interest in March. However, the refundings pay bond principal and interest in March. Ms. Lovato confirmed that all of the loan programs continue to operate normally, and all loans are current. The Authority’s auditor, Forvis, has joined with another firm to create a new, top 10 global network, effective June 1st. Forvis is the 8th largest public accounting firm in the United States and the new global network will be a two firm network operating under a single global brand with revenues of approximately \$5 billion. The firm’s new name is Forvis Mazars. Following the report, Mr. McLaughlin thanked the Accounting department for its efforts, especially while still being understaffed. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

Motion: Mike Fabbre
2nd: Matthew Shuler
Vote: Motion carried

Report of Executive Director – Keith McLaughlin referred to the written report contained in the Board’s materials and noted that he participated in two EPA Community Grant listening sessions. During the sessions, the EPA asked a series of questions related to the States ability and desire to take over administration of Congressionally Directed Spending (“CDS”) Grants. As previously discussed, it is a tough ask for the states, given CDS has cut SRF funding by approximately 56 percent a year since 2021. Mr. McLaughlin shared his concern that Congress could assign this duty, regardless of the states’ desire to participate. Mr. McLaughlin attended the first Council of Infrastructure Financing Authority (“CIFA”) Advocacy Committee meeting. This Committee was specifically created to address the CDS issue and is making some progress. The schedule for the August 21st joint meeting with the Water Quality Control Commission (“WQCC”) was briefly outlined as follows: from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, the WQCC will meet separately; from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm a joint lunch between the WQCC and Authority Board; from 1:00 to 3:00 pm the joint meeting with the WQCC and Authority Board; from 3:00 to 5:00 the regularly scheduled Authority Board meeting; and dinner at 6:00 pm. for the Authority Board and staff. Mr. McLaughlin is working with Chair Vandiver on an Agenda and a copy will be provided upon finalization. Mr. McLaughlin also met with the Employers Council on May 28th to discuss a potential salary and benefits survey, as historically conducted every 2-3 years as previously requested by the Board. Mr. McLaughlin noted it has been a challenge working with Employers Council since the last survey was completed due to staff turnover and reliance on consultants. Additionally, the salary and benefits proposal Employers Council provided was almost double what it was in previous years. Mr. McLaughlin is meeting with another potential Human Resources representative that has worked with him and the Colorado Water Congress previously with success. Director Wells offered to provide Mr. McLaughlin with an alternative source, as her experience with Employers Council was also difficult, especially in a local government capacity. Mr. McLaughlin confirmed that the two SRF Annual Reports were completed and submitted to EPA in a timely fashion and thanked the Division, DOLA and Authority staff for putting it together. Mr. McLaughlin shared the 2024 sponsorship spreadsheet with the Board, noting the contributions to various agencies to date and stated that a final report will be provided at year-end. Mr. McLaughlin noted that he resigned as Treasurer of the Colorado Water Congress due to time constraints and other priorities, but he remains on the Board. Mr. McLaughlin mentioned the many challenges as the Authority staff’s work has doubled, and the staff is trying to manage its heavier workload. Two Authority staff anniversaries were highlighted: Jim Griffiths original hire date of June 11th and Aaron Best’s one year anniversary on June 20th.

Arkansas Valley Conduit – Leann Noga & Chris Woodka – Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Mr. McLaughlin introduced Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (“SECWCD”) Executive Director, Leann Noga, and Senior Policy and Issues Manager, Chris Woodka, who were present to discuss the Arkansas Valley Conduit (“AVC”) project and available to answer any questions. Mr. McLaughlin stated the Authority staff met with SECWCD and the CWCB on May 22nd and wanted to discuss a few follow-up items from that meeting. First, Mr. McLaughlin confirmed that the CWCB has not conferred with the Attorney General’s office about the funding proposal, and added CWCB believes that it may not be needed. Second, Mr. McLaughlin confirmed that Otero County de-Bruced fully in 1995 and is therefore eligible to collect excess funds, including the proposed grant funds in compliance with TABOR. Additionally, Mr. McLaughlin announced that Otero County has previously acted as the fiscal agent and already has the mechanism, structure and experience in place to administer the funding. Mr. McLaughlin also learned that the CWCB funds can only be distributed to two entities: SECWCD or Otero County. A Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) to identify each agency’s roles and responsibilities was proposed to SECWCD, CWCB and Otero County and was enthusiastically accepted. Mr. McLaughlin offered to have Karl Ohlsen, the Authority’s general counsel, compose the initial draft MOU document. Ms. Noga then addressed the Board and expressed the SECWCD’s full support of the proposed MOU to provide a clear understanding of the overall process and an agreed upon path forward. The District is preparing a revised, high-level flowchart of the overall project with greater detail and will be sharing it with the Authority Board upon completion. Ms. Noga noted that she intends to attend the August Board meeting during the Colorado Water Congress’ Summer Conference and will be available to answer any questions as needed. Director Treese congratulated Ms. Noga on her new Executive Director role at SECWCD and asked about the anticipated timing of the first SRF application for the AVC project. Ms. Noga responded that the District is evaluating its process and is currently working on package 1 of 7 details and must work with the SECWCD’s Board before moving to the loan stage, so an exact timeline is still to be determined. A few follow-up questions about the overall project were answered and discussed further. Ms. Noga also provided a brief construction update on the overall project.

Accounting Manager’s Report

Assistant Controller, Valerie Lovato, announced that the Accounting staff continues to process 2024 transactions while preparing for the busy month of August. September is the Authority’s biggest debt service month for the SRF Programs, with both bond principal and interest being paid for all of the bond issues. Staff will also be working on annual updates to the SRF data system and other schedules for the 2025 Intended Use Plans. The Accounting Department is beginning to test its new accounting software and is planning implementation in connection with the July financials. The manager’s report concluded with an announcement that the department is continuing to interview candidates for the open Accounting Clerk/Technician position.

Finance Manager’s Report

Finance Director Jim Griffiths noted the previous evening’s review of the Authority’s interest rates and economic update at the Board Program Work Session. Mr. Griffiths then provided a brief administrative (“admin”) fee update, and for the benefit of Director Shuler, provided a brief history of the use of admin fees within the two SRF Programs. In the Drinking Water Revolving Fund Program, the current balance in the admin fee account is approximately \$15.5 million, with approximately \$6.4 million owed to the Authority for state match reimbursement, for a net balance of approximately \$9 million. Similarly, in the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Program, the current balance in the admin fee account is approximately \$16.8 million, with approximately \$1.2 million owed to the Authority for state match reimbursement, for a net balance of approximately \$15.6 million. Mr. Griffiths noted that due to the hard work of the CWRPDA Board and staff, both programs are operating in a healthier financial position than

in years past, particularly in the DWRP Program. Mr. Griffiths reviewed the main contributors to the new trend including increasing our loan interest rates, using some of the reloan investment earnings for Admin Fee, making certain large direct loans, getting BIL Lead funds (that require no state match) out to borrowers quickly and several others.

Office Manager's Report

Office Manager Sabrina Speed announced that HB24-1454 was signed into law by the Governor on May 24th. This bill provides a one-year grace period of the deadline for public agencies to comply with digital accessibility standards, if the public agency demonstrates a good-faith effort. Ms. Speed confirmed that the Authority has complied with almost all of the requirements and will be fully compliant by the July 1, 2025, deadline. Ms. Speed also distributed copies of the 2023 Popular Annual Financial Report ("PAFR") to the Board and copies of the various Water Education Colorado studies and reports were available to the Board, if desired. Ms. Speed concluded her manager's report with an update on the Authority's scanning project.

Report of Legal Counsel

General counsel Karl Ohlsen didn't have a formal report but noted that he continues to work on finalizing the Evergreen Lake Company's DWRP private, not-for-profit loan application. Mr. Ohlsen also spoke with Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Griffiths about the preparation of a MOU for the Arkansas Valley Conduit and will follow up with SECWCD legal counsel, Lee Miller, to keep the process moving.

The Agenda was rearranged to accommodate certain guests in attendance.

Drinking Water Revolving Fund

Lookout Mountain Water District BIL Business Case Request

Mr. Vandiver acknowledged the representatives from the Lookout Mountain Water District that were joining virtually and welcomed them to the meeting. Kevin Carpenter recapped the previous discussion about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law ("BIL") business case at the Project Finance Committee meeting. The project consists of replacing the existing 14" tar-lined steel pipe main with 12" PVC pipe. The 12" PVC pipe will now meet the pressure rating required. Two new sections of 8" PVC pipe will also be added. The total project cost is estimated at approximately \$6.81 million, with \$4.81 million in funding from a potential DWRP loan. The District does not contest the BIL eligibility criteria or data but historic decisions predating the District have left them in a difficult situation, and they believe grants and loan forgiveness are essential to the District's ability to make the necessary upgrades. The District is currently under an enforcement order and has another costly lateral project that requires completion. Mr. Carpenter addressed the previous question about the affordability of the future project and stated that some significant level of rate increases will be needed, even if the District is granted BIL status. Addressing another question about the status of CDS funds, Mr. Carpenter confirmed that the funds are approved and the District is in the process of securing those funds. If this business case is approved, it would grant the District access to DWRP BIL funds but not Disadvantaged Communities ("DAC") status, and, pending available funds, would allow access to the newly adopted cap of \$1.5 million in BIL principal forgiveness funds. As a reminder, the SRF Committee forwarded "no recommendation" to the Project Finance Committee ("PFC") and the PFC forwarded an "unfavorable" recommendation to the full Board. Mr. Carpenter invited the District representatives to address the Board and answer any outstanding questions. Kyle Schroeder, District Manager, addressed the Board and provided additional details about the overall project and the District's history that led to the need for BIL consideration. After some additional discussion, Mr. McLaughlin explained that the Board is sympathetic to the District's situation but grant funds are generally intended to assist Disadvantaged Communities and the District doesn't qualify as such under the loan program's criteria. A motion was made to deny the Lookout Mountain Water District's BIL business case for BIL funding.

Motion: Chris Treese

2nd: Matthew Shuler
Vote: Motion carried

Project 7 Water Authority, Resolution No. 24-17

Austin Reichel acknowledged the Project 7 Water Authority representatives that were attending virtually and presented the Project 7 Water Authority's loan request for a Base direct loan through the DWRF loan program in the total amount of \$3,000,000. The loan term is for up to 30 years with a 3.5% interest rate. The Authority will pledge water system revenues to secure the loan. The Authority also secured a \$5 million interim loan for this project and staff is working to extend the terms of that interim loan. There is no estimated rate increase needed for this loan. The intent of this loan is to fund, in part, the design and engineering and preconstruction costs for the project. The project consists of constructing a raw water transmission line and intake structure downstream of the Ridgway Reservoir, a new water treatment facility and treated water transmission line serving the communities of the Uncompahgre and Gunnison Valleys as a redundant water source. All the current indicators in the credit report were strong and Project 7 must meet the required rate covenant, three month operations and maintenance reserve and 110% additional bonds test, if applicable, on an annual basis. Project 7 has met existing loan covenants on its existing DWRF 2008 leveraged loan and 2023 interim loan with no debt service issues. This request received a favorable recommendation from both the SRF and Project Finance Committees. A motion was made to approve Resolution No. 24-17, approving a DWRF Design & Engineering loan to the Project 7 Water Authority and execution of a loan agreement and other documents necessary therefor.

Motion: Chris Treese
2nd: Bruce Whitehead
Vote: Motion carried

Following the vote, Chair Vandiver welcomed Preston Neill of the Town of Ridgway and apologized for not acknowledging him earlier in the meeting as the Town's DWRF loan and accompanying Resolution No. 24-18 was approved on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Neill thanked the Board for its consideration and support.

State Revolving Fund 2024 Series A/B Bond Sale Results

Ian Loffert confirmed that the successful SRF 2024 Series A/B bond sale occurred on May 8, 2024, and was completed via a competitive sale. The total issue comprised of the 2024 Series A tax-exempt bonds, and the 2024 Series B taxable bonds. There were 17 bidders for the Series A bonds and 9 for the Series B bonds. This was a highly competitive sale that ultimately benefited the various borrowers with lower rates. The bidder with the lowest true interest cost was selected, and the bid for Series A was awarded to UBS Financial Services Inc., and the bid for Series B was awarded to Raymond James & Associates Inc. Mr. Loffert noted the bonds were sold at a net premium. Since the bond sale on May 8th market interest rates have increased 40 basis points, or 0.4%. With the subsidy that the Authority provides between the two issues, the borrowers in these bond issues received savings on the AAA interest rate that ranged between .52% and .79%. Following Mr. Loffert's presentation, Wesley Williams thanked and acknowledged Mr. Loffert for all his efforts running a successful bond sale and closing. A number of challenges arose during the bond sale, and Mr. Loffert handled them all very well and successfully managed the bond sale and associated loan closings.

State Revolving Fund Prioritization Model

Wesley Williams briefly reviewed the previous evening's discussion on the prioritization model that Mark Henderson presented during the Board Program Work Session and outlined in the June 7, 2024, memorandum contained in the Board materials. The proposed changes, identified as 2B "Designated Cycles" in the memorandum, received a favorable recommendation from the Board Program Work Session. Director Wells noted that the Committee did an amazing job presenting several ideas and tested those options with actual SRF borrowers and created a viable recommendation and thanked them for their efforts.

A motion was made to approve the suggested changes, identified as 2B “Designated Cycles”, to the SRF Prioritization Model and incorporate the changes into the 2025 Intended Use Plan.

Motion: Karen Wogsland
2nd: Matthew Shuler
Vote: Motion carried

Status of Projects

Giorgi Gazashvili reported that staff had attended two DWRF pre-qualification meetings since the last Board meeting, with the Town of Rico and the City of Trinidad, both for storage tank projects. The Authority has received five loan applications for consideration at the August Board meeting: Project 7 Water Authority (\$27,000,000), Buffalo Mountain Metropolitan District (\$6,633,840), Town of La Veta (\$3,978,000), Town of Estes Park (\$6,000,000), and Town of Kremmling (\$15,922,960). Additionally, there was a potential loan application from Karval Water Authority (\$1,249,900). No new Planning Grants have been issued since the last Board meeting and \$125,000 remains available for the remainder of 2024. There have been six Design & Engineering (“D&E”) Grants issued since the last Board meeting. Of the budgeted \$1.5 million allocated for 2024 D&E grants, there is approximately \$10,841 remaining for the year. Mr. Gazashvili reported that eight 2022 borrower audits remain outstanding out of the 158 total. In August, staff is expecting eight projects totaling approximately \$15 million in funding requests and, if approved, approximately \$54 million remains in Drinking Water capacity for the remainder of the year. The DWRF program currently has 223 loans outstanding with an approximate balance of \$448 million.

Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund

Clifton Sanitation District, Resolution 24-19

Giorgi Gazashvili presented the Clifton Sanitation District’s (“District”) loan request for a WPCRF Base Green Project Reserve (“GPR”) direct loan in the amount of \$3,000,000. The loan term is for 20 years with a 1.5% interest rate. The project consists of the construction of four acres of solar panels capable of producing 1 megawatt (MW) of electricity, a battery storage system, and related system components. Mr. Gazashvili noted that questions that arose during the Project Finance Committee have all been answered and responses were previously emailed to all Board members. The District is in a strong financial position to take on this loan without any required rate increases. This project came to the Board with a favorable recommendation from the SRF and Project Finance Committees. Mr. Gazashvili noted that representatives were available virtually to answer any questions. Director Fabbre inquired if the life span of the batteries and the solar panels would last as long as the loan term. Eli Jennings, Clifton Sanitation District Manager, confirmed that the solar panels have a 20-year performance guarantee and a 30-year expected life span. Similarly, the batteries have a pro-active replacement at year 15, that the District is comfortable with. Mr. Jennings also confirmed the battery source replacement times with the solar panels, as requested by the Board. Following this discussion, a motion was made to approve Resolution 24-19, approving a wastewater direct loan to the Clifton Sanitation District and execution of a loan agreement and other documents necessary therefor.

Motion: Chris Treese
2nd: Patti Wells
Vote: Motion carried

Status of Projects

Ian Loffert reported that staff attended one WPCRF pre-qualification meeting with the City of Evans (\$30,000,000 for a wastewater treatment expansion project). Three loan applications were received for consideration at the August Board meeting from the Town of Manzanola (\$2,728,225), Huerfano County-Gardner Public Improvement District (\$1,000,000) and the Town of Sedgwick (\$2,700,065). After considering this next round of applications, the WPCRF loan capacity is approximately \$22 million for the remainder of the year. No Planning Grants have been issued since the last Board meeting and \$150,000 remains available for the remainder of 2024. There have not been any Design & Engineering Grants awarded since the last Board meeting and approximately \$1,000,000 of the budgeted amount for 2024

D&E's remain. Five 2022 missing audits are outstanding in the WPCRF Program. The WPCRF program currently has 204 loans outstanding with an approximate balance of \$651 million.

Small Hydropower Loan Program

Wesley Williams reported that the Authority received a call from Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District inquiring about rehabilitating its 2 mega-watt hydropower generator, that was originally funded through the Authority's Water Revenue Bond Program in 1998. Subsequently, the District received additional funding for its small hydropower unit for use in the Taylor Draw Dam and Reservoir. The generator has reached its useful life limit and the District is looking to replace the unit. Authority staff will be meeting with the District to discuss funding the replacement but Mr. Williams noted that the current Small Hydropower Loan Program's criteria is for funding new hydropower projects only. This project may be returned to the Board in the future for consideration of changing the existing policy or providing a one-time waiver.

Water Revenue Bond Program

Wesley Williams reported there was nothing new to report in the Water Revenue Bond Program.

Long Hollow Dam & Bobby K. Taylor Reservoir

Jim Griffiths acknowledged receipt of the volume graph and stated that, according to the graph, the Reservoir level is at 1,800 acre feet as of May 15th. Director Whitehead stated that his report indicates the current level is at 499 acre feet, with 200 acre feet of exchange water available and 300 acre feet of compact pool. Director Whitehead offered to double check those numbers, but Mr. Griffiths stated those numbers are likely more current.

Future Projects Escrow Funding Agreement

Keith McLaughlin briefly reviewed the previous evening's discussion at the Board Program Work Session about the Future Projects Escrow Funding Agreement and stated that staff received the feedback they needed to proceed. The decision will allow the Authority to potentially open up some opportunities to complete worthy projects in the basin area. Mr. McLaughlin will be working with Authority general counsel, Karl Ohlsen, to draft a letter to the La Plata Water Conservancy District, as discussed. Mr. McLaughlin will also reach out to the District to let them know that a formal letter will be forthcoming.

Project Finance Committee

Committee Chair Treese noted that the Project Finance Committee met and recommended three loan applications for approval and sent one to the Consent Agenda. The Committee also discussed the BIL business case and made the difficult decision to not recommend approval. Director Treese commended the Committee for its thorough review and thoughtful consideration. All Board members participated in the discussion and Director Treese opined that the Committee reached a reasonable and appropriate decision with the full Board's input.

Board Program Work Session

Committee Chair Wilkinson thanked Chair Vandiver for chairing and leading the discussion at the meeting. Committee Chair Wilkinson thanked staff for their excellent job in presenting the issues to the Board, and particularly the prioritization discussion. This allows the Board and the SRF program to take a more proactive approach to ensure the correct projects are funded. Director Wilkinson appreciated the Board's full participation as well.

Governmental/Public Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Patti Wells stated the Committee met and discussed the wrap-up of the legislative session. Director Wells opined that the meeting was educational and beneficial to the Board, and hopes that it will become a regular, routine meeting in the future. Director Wells thanked the Board for its participation in the Committee meeting.

Legislative Issues and Other Business

Mr. McLaughlin reported on a few state legislative issues, including HB24-1413, regarding Severance Tax transfers and added that he spoke with the Division and they share some of the same concerns of the Board. Mr. McLaughlin also briefly mentioned HB24-1379, regarding the regulation of dredge and fill activities in state waters in response to recent federal action. There were approximately 700 bills debated during this last legislative session and today is the deadline for the Governor to sign legislation. Unless otherwise noted, anything left unsigned becomes law, unless vetoed. On the federal side, Mr. McLaughlin shared some notes from Christine Arbogast, who apologized for missing the meeting. Ms. Arbogast plans to attend the August 21st Board meeting and will provide a full update on her legislative activities regarding CDS. Representative Pettersen, from the 7th Congressional District, has drafted a letter that has been widely circulated and is gaining momentum. Additionally, Representative Pettersen also proactively reached out to Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper’s offices for co-sponsorship and to coordinate activities to address the SRF issue. Ms. Arbogast has also been in contact with Representative Boebert’s office as they are becoming more involved in the water space. Representative Boebert is the leading vote getter in the fourth congressional District and will likely be elected to that open seat. Ms. Arbogast is also working strategically to address the issue at the House level.

Arrangements for Future Meetings

The August Board meeting will include a joint meeting with the Water Quality Control Commission, prior to the regularly scheduled Authority Board meeting, on Wednesday, August 21st. An Agenda for the joint meeting will be distributed when finalized. Mr. McLaughlin asked Board members to contact Ms. Speed if any changes were needed to the previously arranged conference and/or room accommodations.

Adjournment

Chair Vandiver adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sabrina Speed, Assistant Secretary

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