

The Board of Directors of the Left Hand Water District, meeting as the Board of the District and of the Left Hand Water Activity Enterprise, held its regular meeting on September 17, 2020, at the District offices, 6800 Nimbus Road, Longmont, Colorado, via Zoom Video Conference to comply with State's safer-at-home order as part of the COVID-19 outbreak. The meeting was called to order by President Julie Trumpler at 9:03a.m.

**Directors Present:** Julie Trumpler, President  
Mark Hochhauser, Vice President  
Dan Lisco, Secretary  
Sam Barnsley, Treasurer  
Bart Fischer, Director  
Jim Richard, Director  
Alan Pratt, Director

**Directors Absent:** N/A

**Staff and Consultants:** Chris Smith, General Manager  
Vicki Santos, Finance Manager  
Scott Holwick, Attorney  
Jason Whitmore, Treatment Manager  
Adam Delaney, Distribution Manager  
Steve Buckbee, District Engineer  
Martin Harders, Engineering Tech I  
Jordan Tyson, GIS Technician  
Tina Conilogue, Assistant Secretary, Board of Directors

**Public Present:** Sean Cronin, Executive Director,  
St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District  
  
Jessie Olson, Executive Director,  
Left Hand Watershed Center

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING HELD 8/20/2020**

Approval of the Minutes:

*Draft minutes of the August 20, 2020, Board meeting were submitted to the Board prior to the meeting.*

**MSP:** *Director Richard moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2020, meeting, as amended by President Julie Trumpler at the time of the current meeting. Motion seconded by President Trumpler. Motion carried unanimously.*

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING/COMMENT**

Sean Cronin, Executive Director, St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District (SVLHWCD):

*Sean Cronin addressed the Board first as a private citizen regarding Ballot Initiative 7A, a ballot measure for a mill levy increase that would add 1.25 mills to the Conservancy District's current levy of 0.156 mills to provide approximately an additional \$3.3 million of revenue annually. The additional revenue would fund the SVLHWCD's Water Vision and Action Plan, working to protect and maintain the special characteristics of the Left Hand and St. Vrain watersheds.*

*Mr. Cronin then presented to the Board as Executive Director of the SVLHWCD, reviewing information about the Conservancy District and efforts it has made to obtain input from stakeholders and to identify and offer solutions for water management challenges in the northern front range of Colorado. He also discussed the District's work related to maximizing water supply in the basin and highlighted the investments that have been made in implementing the District's 5-point plan: (1) Protect Water Quality & Drinking Water Sources; (2) Safeguard & Conserve Drinking Water; (3) Grow Local Food; (4) Store Water for Dry Years; and (5) Maintain Healthy Rivers & Creeks.*

*Mr. Cronin concluded his remarks as a private citizen, noting there will be a campaign in support of the Ballot Initiative, and that LHWD Directors who would consider supporting it would be welcome to support through contributions, voting, and so forth.*

*Chris Smith disclosed he is on the Board of Directors for the Conservancy District and confirmed with Counsel that there is no conflict of interest for him to participate in this discussion at the LHWD Board meeting. Discussion.*

**MSP: Secretary Lisco moved to approve Resolution 2020-02, Adopting a Position of Advocacy Pursuant to §1-45-117(1)(b)(III), C.R.S., In Support of Ballot Initiative 7A Put Forth by the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District. Motion seconded by Director Pratt. Motion carried unanimously.**

Left Hand Watershed Center (LHWC) Annual Update:

*Jessie Olson, Executive Director of the LHWC, provided a review of the Center's activities and programs for the past year and a preview of next year. The Center's four primary areas of focus are: Engage Community; Adaptively Manage Watersheds; Restore Rivers; and Restore Forests. Ms. Olson discussed the various engagement activities the Center has engaged in during 2020 and plans for more engagement in 2021. Olson also discussed the Center's restoration activities in Left Hand Canyon and its work and experimentation on the most effective methods to trap sediment immediately upstream from the Haldi intake with the hope that it will reduce the maintenance needs for LHWD. The Center has also studied how to improve the overall resilience of the basin during wet and dry conditions. In 2021 the Center plans to continue those experiments as well as to develop designs for*

*fish passage barrier modifications at the Haldi and other locations. The Center also is continuing its work to utilize an Adaptive Management approach to monitor and detect issues and inform management actions.*

*Ms. Olson also presented information regarding a new initiative the Center has started on forest restoration, working with stakeholders with the goal of preparing the landscape to receive wildfire while protecting communities, water supplies, and the ecosystem. In 2021 the LHWC plans to continue all of its efforts in these areas, and looks forward to the continued partnership with LHWD.*

**SUBJECT: TAPS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION**

*There were no tap requests for Board consideration.*

**SUBJECT: FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Monthly Financial Statements:

*Vicki Santos presented the financial reports and payables for the month of August 2020. Discussion.*

Bills and Appropriations:

*A listing of monthly bills and appropriations was presented for review prior to the meeting. The total payables equaled \$761,239.82.*

Audit Engagement Letter – CliftonLarsonAllen:

*As discussed at the August Board meeting, an engagement letter from CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) for audit services for the year ending December 31, 2020, was included in this month's Board packet. The agreement is standard in form and content, and the fee quoted was increased from this year's fee only by the new 'Technology Fee' that CLA has begun charging. Discussion.*

**MSP:** *Treasurer Barnsley moved to accept and sign the Agreement to Provide Audit Services with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for the year ending December 31, 2020. Motion seconded by Director Pratt. Motion carried unanimously.*

**SUBJECT: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Information Items and Reports:

*Treatment, Distribution, Engineering, and Water Management reports were included in this month's packet to provide information related to operations. Discussion.*

**SUBJECT: NEW BUSINESS**

Public Hearing for Establishing Rates:

*In accordance with State statutes, Special Districts shall provide a 30-day notice and public hearing prior to making changes in rates and/or fees. Notifications will be made according to the District's 2020 Special District Transparency Notice. In order to meet the 30-day minimum notice for the November Board meeting, staff is requesting the Board to set the date at this time. Discussion.*

**MSP:** *President Trumpler moved to set a Public Hearing for the Purpose of Establishing Rates and/or Fees for November 19, 2020. Motion seconded by Director Hochhauser. Motion carried unanimously.*

Public Hearing for Approval of the 2021 Budget:

*A preliminary budget will be presented at the Board of Director's meeting scheduled for October 15, 2020. Staff will present a final proposed budget during the Board meeting scheduled for December 17, 2020. Notifications will be made according to the District's 2020 Special District Transparency Notice. Discussion.*

**MSP:** *Director Pratt moved to set a Public Hearing for the Purpose of Approval of the Left Hand Water District 2021 Budget for December 17, 2020. Motion seconded by Treasurer Barnsley. Motion carried unanimously.*

Designation of Interim Assistant Secretary to the Board:

*Due to a current vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary to the Board, staff recommended designating an Interim Assistant Secretary to the Board until the vacancy is filled. Tina Conilogue, the District's Receptionist/Billing Assistant, was suggested to the Board as an appropriate candidate to fill the interim position. Discussion.*

**MSP:** *Secretary Lisco moved to designate Tina Conilogue as Interim Assistant Secretary to the Board. Motion seconded by Director Fischer. Motion carried unanimously.*

General Manager Performance Review:

*The General Manager's contract requires an annual review with the Board of Directors no later than the September Board meeting, to give the General Manager and the Board an opportunity to discuss any issues that the Board believes may warrant additional focus in the coming year. In advance of this meeting, Chris Smith emailed a copy of the 2020 General Manager's Progress Report. In accordance with Section 24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S., the Board of Directors called for an Executive Session for purposes of discussing a personnel matter regarding the General Manager. Discussion.*

**MSP:** *President Trumpler moved to enter into Executive Session at 10:46 a.m., in accordance with Section 24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S. Motion seconded by Director Richard. Motion carried unanimously.*

**MSP:** *Director Richard moved to exit from Executive Session at 11:22 pm. Motion seconded by Treasurer Barnsley. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Following the Executive Session, President Trumpler noted the Board unanimously agrees that Chris Smith has been doing a great job as General Manager, and that the Board has determined to grant a 4% increase in compensation for 2021. President Trumpler also noted that the General Manager's current contract is in place through the end of 2021, and that there will be an opportunity in September 2021 for the Board to consider the structure of a future contract. Discussion.*

**MSP:** *Director Richard moved to modify Exhibit B of the contract currently in place for the General Manager to reflect a total increase in compensation for 2021 of 4% over 2020. Motion seconded by Secretary Lisco. Motion carried unanimously.*

Directors' Comments:

*Secretary Lisco requested that staff members other than Chris Smith, Vicki Santos and Tina Conilogue exit the meeting. After the remaining staff exited the Zoom meeting, Secretary Lisco inquired about recognizing the great job done by District staff during this difficult year and whether it would be appropriate for the Board to suggest a 2021 salary increase for all staff. Director Pratt and Chris Smith noted it would be appropriate for the Board to suggest increasing the aggregate salary budget for 2021 during the budget process next month and allowing department managers to distribute as appropriate rather than a certain percentage-across-the-board increase. Discussion.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

By,

Tina Conilogue, Interim Assistant Secretary, Board of Directors

Dan Lisco, Secretary