

**Colorado Water Resources
and
Power Development Authority**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2021

Call to Order

Chair Webb Jones called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. via video and audio tele-conferencing due to COVID-19 and the related restrictions.

Board Member Identification and Declaration of a Quorum

Board members present: Webb Jones (Chair), Bob Wolff (Vice-Chair), Judy Skram (Secretary/Treasurer), George Corkle, Mike Fabbre, Roy Heald, Steve Price, Chris Treese and Steve Vandiver. A quorum was declared with nine Board members present.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Jones announced the following items had been placed on the Consent Agenda for Board consideration by the Project Finance Committee and Board Program Work Session: Agenda Item 7(a) Loan Applications for Blue Mountain Water District (Resolution No. 21-05) and Evergreen Metropolitan District (Resolution No. 21-07) and Agenda Item 8(b) Town of Ramah Disadvantaged Communities Business Case. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Motion: Bob Wolff
2nd: Steve Price
Vote: Motion carried

Approval of Minutes – January 29, 2021

The January 29, 2021, Minutes were presented for approval. Director Fabbre suggested two minor corrections to the minutes: on page 3, the paragraph following the vote for Resolution of Appreciation to Steve Price, Resolution 21-01, Director Fabbre suggested changing from “Chair ~~Heald~~” to “Chair **Jones**” and on page 5, under Internet Technology Acceptable Use Policy Review, Director Fabbre suggested changing the verbiage to indicate an acknowledgement is necessary only after a policy change. The Board was agreeable to the suggested changes. After hearing no further changes, a motion was made to approve the Minutes for January 29, 2021, as corrected.

Motion: Mike Fabbre
2nd: Chris Treese
Vote: Motion carried

Introduction of Guests

Chair Jones referred to the Zoom participant list and asked all present during the meeting to state for the record their name and affiliation using the on-line tools. Chair Jones acknowledged that it has been one year since the Authority Board met in person and asked all Authority staff to introduce themselves and state their role at the Authority. All Authority staff in attendance made the requested introductions. Chair Jones also introduced the newly appointed Authority Board members Eric Wilkinson and Patti Wells. Mr. Wilkinson and Ms. Wells are awaiting Senate confirmation hearings to formally join the Authority Board.

Other Agency Reports

Report of Department of Local Affairs

Desi Santerre, Water and Wastewater Program Manager of Local Government Services, introduced the new Division of Local Government Deputy Director, Dave Bowman, to the Authority Board. Mr. Bowman filled the position vacated by Rachel Harlow-Schalk. Mr. Bowman introduced himself to the Board and

stated that he's been with the Department of Local Affairs for seven years in his former role in Disaster Recovery where he assisted with the devastating 2013 floods. He has been familiarizing himself with the various water projects around the state and looks forward to working with the Authority Board. Ms. Santerre continued the agency report with an update on Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund ("EIAF") Program and stated the Energy Impact Advisory Committee met on January 14, 2021, to review the October 1st Tier II funding requests and provide recommendations to DOLA Executive Director Garcia. A complete list of Tier II grant awards (up to \$1,000,000) was provided in the Board materials and noted that many of the grant recipients received less than the requested amount due to limited available funding. Ms. Santerre added the last EIAF application deadline was March 1, 2021, for Tier I (up to \$200,000) grant requests only. There will be approximately \$4 million available, and awards are expected in early May. The list of March 1st applicants wasn't available prior to the Authority's Board posting, but Ms. Santerre confirmed 14 applications were submitted for water and sewer projects and the total number of applications submitted were 50. There is approximately \$7.3 million in available funding for those Tier I applicants. A full list of applicants will be provided at the April Board meeting. Ms. Santerre also reviewed the table of the most recent Severance and Federal Mineral Lease revenue forecasts that was provided in the Board materials and stated that DOLA is anticipating some recovery for FY 21-22 and the EIAF program is anticipating two grant cycles of up to \$15 million per cycle. The Drought Task Force continues to meet monthly to discuss current drought conditions and future recommendations. The Municipal Water Impact Task Force is also meeting monthly with water providers and other stakeholders to coordinate preparations for handling a multi-year drought. The agency report concluded with an update on the Small and Rural Communities Technical Services contractor, noting that in January 2021, DOLA spent a total of \$4,880 for technical services to three projects within the program.

Report of Colorado Water Conservation Board ("CWCB")

Kirk Russell, Finance Section Chief of the CWCB, stated that the CWCB Board has not met since the Authority's January Board meeting so a written report wasn't provided. The CWCB Board will meet on March 10th and 11th and will be recommending eight loans for approval, including a hydropower plant loan for a project near Palisade. The CWCB is still dealing with a borrower in default and is moving forward with foreclosure. The March Board meeting will include consideration of 28 grant requests for approximately \$4.2 million of available funding. Mr. Russell concluded his report by stating the CWCB's loan program turns 50 this year and a commemorative celebration will be forthcoming. Mr. Russell then introduced CWCB Director Rebecca Mitchell to the Board. Ms. Mitchell spoke of the challenges the CWCB has experienced due to the pandemic and the resulting state budget shortfalls. Despite these challenges, the state is moving forward with Colorado's Water Plan update. This water plan update uses a tiered approach of water projects across the state that is in line with Governor Polis' Wildly Important Goal ("WIG"). Ms. Mitchell also stated the public outreach data obtained in the first Water Plan will also be used in the second Water Plan. Ms. Mitchell also confirmed that the CWCB received three Board member confirmations on March 4th, including new Board member Bob Sakata, representing the South Platte River. Ms. Mitchell also reported on the Colorado River and its continuation of demand management investigation and associated feasibility work. Following Ms. Mitchell's report, Director Treese asked how the Authority should, on a strategic basis, view, and incorporate Colorado's Water Plan. Ms. Mitchell responded that Colorado's water future includes storage, conservation, recreation, a safe and secure municipal supply, and agriculture. All these factors are likely in line with the Authority's goals and the Authority can use the Water Plan to help determine how money is spent across the state. Mr. McLaughlin inquired if the CWCB has taken a formal position on Senate Bill 21-034 (Water Resource Financing Enterprise). Ms. Mitchell responded that, to her knowledge, the CWCB has not taken a formal position on the proposed legislation but stated the two agencies can and should be working together without the ratification of legislation and she would be working to ensure that happens.

Report of Water Quality Control Division ("WQCD")

Ron Falco, Drinking Water Program Manager, referred to the Division's written report and noted a couple of items not included in the written report. Mr. Falco reported the Division has been assisting utilities and

water systems across the state that have been impacted by weather events, similar to the 2013 assistance, issuing approximately 20-30 boil orders. Additionally, the Division will be starting the stakeholder efforts to create a regulatory framework for direct potable reuse in the state, in support of the aforementioned Water Plan. This is designed to ensure safety and ensure that the health department can help support good projects and be ready to address a drought emergency in the event a community needs to go in that direction. Mr. Falco also reported that the 10th circuit court lifted the stay in Colorado regarding the 2020 Waters of the U.S. Rule and an announcement would be forthcoming on a stakeholder meeting to discuss and assess the next steps in the process. Addressing the written report, Mr. Falco noted the Commission will meet on March 8th to consider the approval of the WQCD's proposed submittal of projects for the FY21-22 Section 319 nonpoint source funds. The Division will also host an informational briefing regarding PFAS and the implementation of Policy 20-1, updates on PFAS actions nationally and a local update on the Division's PFAS action plan. The Grants and Loan Unit opened a request for applications for the Small Communities Grant Program and a total of approximately \$4.5 million is available for funding. The Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Board has recently initiated remote testing in the Operator Certification Program and adopted a broader reciprocity policy for Operator Certification. Following Mr. Falco's report, Mr. McLaughlin thanked Mr. Falco, Mr. Beck and the entire WQCD staff on its completion of the Annual Report and stated it gives valuable insight on the projects and critical work performed by the Division and the SRF programs.

Authority Reports

Report of the Board/Public

Director Heald thanked Chair Jones for reintroducing the Authority staff at the start of the meeting and added that he misses the interaction with staff at the in-person meetings at the Authority. Director Heald also extended a welcome to the Authority's newest staff member, Kevin Carpenter.

Report of the Chair

Chair ~~Jones~~~~Heald~~ thanked Director Treese and Keith McLaughlin for the insightful strategic planning exercise at last evening's Board Program Work Session. It was noted that such planning helps to switch the Board's concentration from the immediate need to a longer term 5-year focus. Chair Jones encouraged the Board to continue this thinking into the future and to address, as needed, at future Work Sessions.

Report of the Treasurer – Director Skram delegated the Treasurer's Report to Controller Justin Noll. Mr. Noll confirmed that the Authority's auditors started audit field work on Monday, March 1st and are completing all work virtually. In the Board materials the auditors provided the required annual pre-audit letter that outlines the audit overview, provides guidance the auditors are following and associated risks and provides contact information if there is a need to contact the auditors. Mr. Noll also confirmed that financial statements have been provided through December of 2020 and Mr. Noll drew attention to the consolidated financials that breaks out the Authority's three operating funds: Water Operations, Drinking Water Revolving Fund and Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund. In the Water Operations Fund, the Small Water Resources Program ("SWRP") and Animas-La Plata Escrow Account ("ALP") will no longer be included in the Authority's financials. Total assets for all funds are \$1.4 billion. Mr. Noll also noted that the General and Administrative Expenses in the Authority's Water Operations fund is slightly skewed due to the PERA pension expense the Authority is required to include in its financial statements. Mr. Noll concluded the Treasurer's report by announcing that the Budget & Audit Committee would be convening mid-April to discuss the completed audit prior to the April Board meeting. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report.

Motion: Roy Heald
2nd: Judy Skram
Vote: Motion carried

Report of Executive Director – Keith McLaughlin referred to the written report provided in the Board materials and reported that discussion continue with the Southwest Wildfire Impact Fund ("SWIF") and

Northbridge Environmental on the Authority's Watershed Protection and Forest Health Program and Jim Griffiths will provide a full report later in the meeting. Mr. McLaughlin also met virtually with Denver Water and Colorado Springs Utilities about the Authority's forest health program, and there seems to be an increased interest from those entities as well. Mr. McLaughlin also reported that he met with Water Education Colorado ("WEco") Executive Director, Jayla Poppleton, and Membership & Engagement Officer, Sami Miller, to convey the Board's concerns expressed at the January 29, 2021, Board meeting. Mr. McLaughlin has committed to continue to follow up with WEco if any concerns arise again and asked for the Board's assistance in identifying any issues that need to be addressed. It was also confirmed that the Authority has increased its membership financial support as WEco requested. Mr. McLaughlin stated the tedious revision work continues on the Employee Handbook in conjunction with legal counsel and he hopes to have a first draft available for review by the Personnel Committee at the April or perhaps the June Board meeting, as it is taking longer than originally anticipated. Mr. McLaughlin continued his report by noting the recent announcement of the first in-person conference by Colorado Municipal League. The conference is scheduled for September 22-24 at the Westin Westminster. Mr. McLaughlin concluded his report by thanking Eric Wilkinson and Patti Wells for attending the meeting and looks forward to the two of them joining the Authority Board and thanked Judy Skram and Steve Price for their past contributions while serving.

Finance Manager's Report

Finance Director Jim Griffiths reported that the Authority staff is meeting next week to determine whether to proceed with a proposed spring bond refunding of up to six series of bonds. The refunding, if approved, will collapse several associated reserve funds to pay down bonds. The Authority's Municipal Advisor, Guy Nagahama, is currently preparing an estimate of savings based on the recent uptick in interest rates. Mr. Griffiths also provided an update on the continuing DWRP admin fee situation and stated that the Authority is still in early discussions with the City of Westminster on its \$20 million project that, if financed with the Authority, will provide additional interest and admin fees for the program. Additionally, the Authority can complete an accounting swap for direct loans that can earn more interest and that would garner an additional \$850,000 (approximately) in additional admin fees. The Authority is also realizing the financial benefit of decreasing the issuance of 0% loans as well as decreasing the number of Category 2 Disadvantaged Communities loans. Mr. Griffiths concluded his report with a brief update of the continuing meetings held with the Southwestern Wildfire Impact Fund ("SWIF") group and stated the proposed use of a lease purchase structure. The SWIF group is considering using this type of pledge rather than a traditional revenue or general obligation pledge to finance its planned project. Authority staff has met with SWIF's general and bond counsel to discuss this pledge. Since this is a new concept, Authority staff may plan a future presentation by bond counsel to discuss this type of pledge in greater detail should the group desire to finance its project using this method.

Accounting Manager's Report

Controller Justin Noll reported that the Authority staff is still in the process of transitioning from office desktop PC machines to managed laptop devices. The second half of the Authority staff will receive their new managed laptops, but the delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic means it will be approximately one more month before delivery takes place.

Office Manager's Report

Office Manager Sabrina Speed reported that due to the lengthy delay of the draft Pay Equity Audit report, there simply wasn't adequate time to fully review the draft report and provide a final copy to the Personnel Committee as originally planned before the March Board meeting, so it was delayed until the April 23, 2021 Board meeting. Director Heald will convene a Personnel Committee meeting prior to the April Board meeting to review the final Pay Equity Audit report, review the suggested revisions to the Employee Handbook, if available and other items as deemed necessary. Ms. Speed also reported that Authority staff continues to work from home as the City and County of Denver remains under yellow cautionary restrictions and referred to the provided chart that outlines the restriction specifics. The Authority also

remains under its own public health orders due to a positive COVID-19 case by an employee. That order requires management to conduct twice daily employee health screenings along with other requirements. Finally, the report concluded with an announcement that only the final posting of Board materials would include page numbers. This should help attendees assess if they have the final version of Board materials before the start of a meeting. Chair Jones confirmed the Board agreed to continue adding page numbers to the final version only and thanked office manager Speed for the good idea.

Report of Legal Counsel – Karl Ohlsen

Karl Ohlsen, representing Carlson, Hammond & Paddock, had no formal legal report but stated he worked with Keith McLaughlin on reviewing the proposed amendments to HB 21-1008, concerning Forest Health Project Financing. Mr. Ohlsen also thanked Directors Skram and Price for their time serving on the Authority's Board and looks forward to working with Eric Wilkinson and Patti Wells.

Drinking Water Revolving Fund

Loan Application - East Alamosa Water and Sanitation District, Resolution No. 21-06

Austin Reichel presented the East Alamosa Water and Sanitation District's ("District") request for a Disadvantaged Communities direct loan through the DWRP loan program in the amount of \$1,379,742, at an interest rate of 1.5%, for a term of up to 30 years. Mr. Reichel noted this item was not considered for the consent agenda based on concern with the District meeting the Authority's coverage ratio. After further analysis, it appears the District will be able to meet the necessary coverage, based on its January 1, 2021, rate increase as well as planned rate increases in 2023 and 2025. The project consists of replacing distribution system asbestos cement (AC) pipe and installation of new water meters. Mr. Reichel noted the District is a repeat borrower and has met the loan covenants on its DWRP direct loan dated 2008 and confirmed the District does not have any debt service payment issues. The proposed project received a favorable recommendation from the Project Finance Committee. Director Heald expressed concern about financing the water meters with a 30-year debt as the life of that asset isn't likely to last for the loan term. Mark Henderson explained that the new meters are a small portion of the overall project, estimated at approximately \$137,500 of the \$2.9 million total project cost. Director Heald suggested future loan applications have meters, or other shorter-term assets, earmarked with available grant funding or reserves. Mr. Griffiths agreed to provide information on how overall useful life is determined at a future BPWS and agreed to find a way to get the meters funded with other sources. A motion was made to adopt Resolution No. 21-06.

Motion: Steve Vandiver

2nd: Steve Price

Vote: Motion carried; Roy Heald opposed

Loan Application – Town of Mancos, Resolution No. 21-08

Austin Reichel presented the Town of Mancos' ("Town") request for a Disadvantaged Communities direct loan through the DWRP loan program in the amount of \$1,500,000, at an interest rate of 1.5%, for a term of up to 30 years. The project consists of water treatment system upgrades, replacement of an existing water storage tank and control system improvements. The Town is utilizing a water system revenue pledge for this loan. The concern of the Project Finance Committee was the growing, but manageable, debt burden for a small community. The new proposed debt should not result in a user fee increase for the Town's residents, but the Town does anticipate an increase of approximately \$10,000 in operating expenses.

Mr. Reichel noted the Town is a repeat borrower and has met the loan covenants on its WPCRF direct loans dated 2009 and 2011 and confirmed the Town has not had any debt service payment issues. The proposed project received a favorable recommendation from the Project Finance Committee. Director Heald expressed similar concerns about the proposed control systems lasting 30 years. Mr. Griffiths confirmed the Authority can, using payment requisitions, ensure that shorter-lived assets are financed through reserves or available grant funding. Director Price cautioned against piecemealing project components as each piece of a total system is an integral part of a complex system. A full discussion on the effective useful life of a

system will occur at a future Board Program Work Session. A motion was made to adopt Resolution 21-08.

Motion: Bob Wolff
2nd: Steve Price
Vote: Motion carried

Prior to the next two credit reviews, Chair Jones noted that the Authority's existing direct loan limit is currently \$3 million and the loan requests for the City of Salida and the Town of Platteville both exceed that limit. Chair Jones asked staff to expound on the reason or need to exceed this direct loan limit. Jim Griffiths explained that staff has periodically asked for authorization to exceed the direct loan limit for various reasons, including timing of project needs and monetary size of issuing bonds. Wesley Williams explained in the case of the City of Salida and the Town of Platteville, issuing bonds for the size of the two projects isn't financially feasible, so staff decided to ask for a one-time direct loan limit waiver to finance the two projects. Additionally, the City of Salida has been designated a Disadvantaged Community and added costs associated with a bond issue are not as feasible for the City. There was also an added benefit of additional admin fees associated with issuing two large direct loans that factored into staff's decision to ask for the one-time exemption. The consensus of the Board was to consider each of the applications and the associated waiver request and revisit the Authority's current direct loan limit at a future meeting, if necessary.

Loan Application – City of Salida, Resolution No. 21-09

Wesley Williams presented the City of Salida's ("City") request for a Disadvantaged Communities direct loan through the DWRP loan program in the amount of \$4,184,000, at an interest rate of 1.5%, for a term of 20 years. Staff is requesting a one-time, direct loan limit exemption in the amount of \$1,184,000, for the total direct loan request on behalf of the City. The project consists of replacement of the pump station and disinfection facilities. This request received a favorable recommendation from the Project Finance Committee and the one-time waiver request was the reason this project wasn't placed on the consent agenda. This project is the final phase of the City's Capital Improvement Plan and the City is in a strong financial position. Mr. Williams noted the City is a repeat borrower and executed SRF loans in 2011 and 2017 and has had no debt service or covenant compliance issues with either loan. A motion was made to approve the City of Salida for a one-time direct loan limit waiver in the amount of \$1,184,000.

Motion: Roy Heald
2nd: Chris Treese
Vote: Motion carried

A subsequent motion was made to approve the loan request and adopt Resolution No. 21-09.

Motion: George Corkle
2nd: Mike Fabbre
Vote: Motion carried

Status of Projects

Kevin Carpenter reported that since the last Board meeting, no DWRP pre-qual meetings were held but staff expects to meet with representatives from Mount Werner Water & Sanitation District next week to discuss a potential project. Additionally, Forest Hills Metropolitan District may be submitting its request for a supplemental loan in the amount of approximately \$150,000, due to higher than anticipated project bids. The loan application may be considered at the April or June Board meeting. There was one DWRP loan application submitted for consideration by the February 15th deadline from the Town of Hayden for approximately \$854,400. Mr. Carpenter confirmed that since the last Board meeting, no Planning Grants were issued and \$150,000 remains available for 2021. Additionally, no Design & Engineering Grants were issued since the last Board meeting, and approximately \$1,129,300 of budgeted Design and Engineering Grant funding remains available for 2021. Mr. Carpenter concluded his status report with an announcement that staff received an email from the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") this past week that the

amount of Colorado's portion of the Federal Capitalization Grant will be approximately \$21.5 million for 2021, which is approximately the same amount as it was for 2020.

Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund

Town of Platteville, Resolution No. 21-10

Ian Loffert announced that the Town of Platteville's request wasn't placed on the consent agenda due to the associated direct loan waiver request and the relatively large loan amount. The Town of Platteville's ("Town") request for a direct loan through the WPCRF loan program in the amount of \$6,300,000, at an interest rate of 2.25%, for a term of up to 30 years. This project will consist of replacing the existing lagoons and constructed wetlands with a new headworks building including screening and grit removal, a new sequencing batch reactor (SBR) treatment system and replacing chlorine disinfection with UV disinfection. The pledge for the proposed loan will be sewer revenues. The Town's request comes to the Board with a favorable recommendation from both the Project Finance Committee and the SRF Committee. The Town's sewer enterprise is in a healthy financial position to take on the additional proposed debt and maintains healthy reserves. Additionally, the Town increased user rates in 2020 and is prepared to increase rates, as necessary, to meet the required coverage ratio, but no current rate increase is necessary at this time. Chair Jones welcomed the Town's representatives that were on the call, Town Manager, Troy Renken, and Public Works Director, David Brand, and invited them to address the Board. Mr. Renken stated the Town was comfortable with the terms of the proposed loan and they have demonstrated fiscal responsibility in preparation for this project and loan. A motion was made to approve the Town of Platteville for a one-time direct loan limit waiver in the total amount of \$6,300,000.

Motion: Roy Heald

2nd: Bob Wolff

Vote: Motion carried

A subsequent motion was made to approve the loan request and adopt Resolution No. 21-10.

Motion: George Corkle

2nd: Bob Wolff

Vote: Motion carried

Following the vote, the Town's representatives were thanked for joining the call and for their patience.

Status of Projects

Ian Loffert reported that one WPCRF pre-qual submittal from the Fort Garland Water & Sanitation District had to be rescheduled because the District was uncertain of its cost estimates on the anticipated project and will be rescheduled at a later date. In addition, staff met with the City of Fort Lupton on its approximately \$40 million wastewater treatment plant expansion project. Fort Lupton's City Council will meet on March 18th to explore and discuss its financing options. Further information will be provided as discussions with the City continue. There were no WPCRF loan applications submitted by the February 15th application deadline for consideration at the April Board meeting. Additionally, there have been no Planning Grants or Design & Engineering Grants issued since the January Board meeting. Mr. Loffert concluded his update by stating that four loans have been approved in the WPCRF program totaling approximately \$12.4 million but have not been executed, and three loans have closed to date totaling approximately \$4.9 million.

Small Hydropower Loan Program

Kevin Carpenter provided a brief refresher on the terms of the Small Hydropower Loan Program: projects up to 10 megawatts, 30-year maximum term, a \$5 million maximum loan amount and a 2.5% interest rate. The Authority has budgeted \$150,000 for ten Small Hydropower Matching Grants for 2021, and there have been no Matching Grants awarded to date this year. There are seven loans outstanding in the Program with an approximate balance of \$8.6 million.

Water Revenue Bond Program

Jim Griffiths reported there are no current projects seeking financing within this program, and the City of Fort Lupton initially was considering submitting a loan application but has opted for the SRF program

instead. A full presentation on existing and proposed program terms will be provided at a future Board meeting.

Long Hollow Dam and Bobby K. Taylor Reservoir

Status Report

Keith McLaughlin provided an update on Long Hollow Reservoir, stating that the repair work on the right abutment leakage issue has been completed. The invoices submitted thus far have totaled approximately \$105,000, and final invoices should be submitted by the end of March. Mr. McLaughlin noted the Authority will continue to cover the construction costs until the reservoir is at first fill level. As of February 9, 2021, the reservoir held 663-acre feet of storage. For comparison purposes, Mr. McLaughlin confirmed the reservoir held 413-acre feet of storage on January 5, 2021. As a reminder, Mr. McLaughlin confirmed first fill is at 5,309-acre feet of storage, and last year the reservoir was approximately 150-acre feet short of the requirement. Once that level is reached, the project converts from a construction project to an operations and maintenance project and the Authority's financial obligation is complete.

Unfinished Business – Committee Reports

Project Finance Committee

Committee Chair Steve Vandiver questioned if the Board should address the need to raise the direct loan limit and Mr. Griffiths responded that staff continuously evaluates the threshold and will bring that to a future Board Program Work Session, if necessary. Mr. McLaughlin added that there are benefits to raising that limit but also doing so may limit the capacity within the program. Staff will continue to weigh the benefits as well as the risks to the program.

Board Program Work Session

Committee Chair Chris Treese thanked Chair Jones for taking over the meeting in his absence and referred to the provided minutes that summarized the evening's discussions. Director Wolff suggested adding inflation to the on-going discussions of strategic planning.

New Business

Legislative Issues and Other Business of Interest to the Authority

Keith McLaughlin reported that the Senate confirmation hearings will be forthcoming and likely by video conference call for the new appointees, Eric Wilkinson, and Patti Wells. In preparation of the appointments, staff is updating the new Board member orientation materials for Mr. Wilkinson and Ms. Wells in electronic format. Mr. McLaughlin confirmed that HJR 21-1002, the Authority's Eligibility Lists, is moving along in the legislative process and passed from the House to the Senate, where it passed unanimously on March 4, 2021. Mr. McLaughlin testified during the Senate Ag hearings and received positive feedback on the Authority and the proposed legislation. There is an April 1st statutory requirement for signature and Mr. McLaughlin is confident that requirement will be met. Mr. McLaughlin also testified in support of HB 21-1008, concerning Forest Health Project Financing, that among other things, extends the Authority's ability to issue bonds to fund watershed protection projects and forest health projects from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2033. Mr. McLaughlin concluded with an update on SB 21-034, concerning a Water Resource Financing Enterprise. This bill was introduced by Senator Coram and creates the Water Resources Financing Enterprise that consists of the Board of Directors from the Authority and the CWCB. The enterprise will be funded by collecting a fee from water bills on users around the state. There has been some opposition to the proposed bill by some of the large water utilities across that state and the bill will likely face some challenges. Director Treese provided some additional insight and stated the bill was on the legislative calendar for the coming week and is reluctant to take an official position at this time. Director Treese expressed appreciation to Senator Coram for seeking solutions in infrastructure funding for water and wastewater projects. Director Wolff suggested holding discussions through the Governmental/Public Affairs Committee before taking an official position. The consensus of the Board was to not take an official position at this time and continue to monitor the bill through the legislative process. Mr. McLaughlin concluded by referring to the PFAS articles included in the Board materials.

Arrangements for Future Meetings

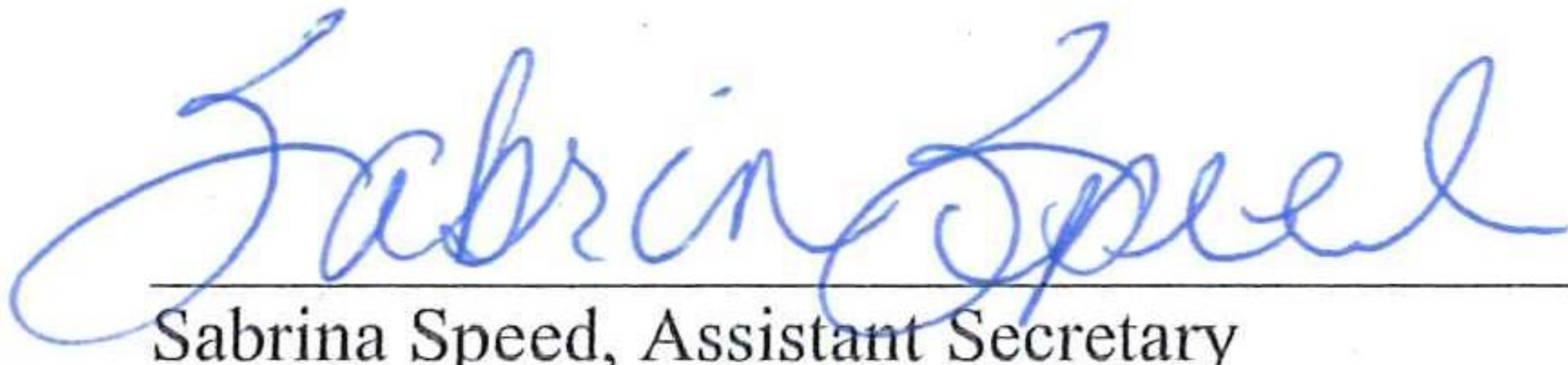
Future Board meetings will be held on April 23, 2021, and June 4, 2021, and each meeting is expected to include both a Project Finance Committee conference call and Board Program Work Session. Meeting details have yet to be determined due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and will likely be held virtually. The August meeting will be determined, pending a Water Congress in-person meeting.

Director Skram stated it's been an honor and a privilege to service on this Board and thanked the Authority staff and Board for all the assistance that's been provided over the years. Chair Jones thanked Director Skram for her comments and contributions.

Adjournment

Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sabrina Speed, Assistant Secretary

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