

Minutes of the Acequia del Caño Biannual Meeting January 6, 2014

Secretary Meade Martin called the meeting of parciantes to order at the Nambé Community center at 6:55 p.m. Treasurer Tim Merrigan announced that in person and by proxy 62 of 124 votes were present, a quorum.

Present were Ramos Archuleta for Eduardo Archuleta, Janet Arrowsmith, Luana Berger, Jack Blum, Peter Buehner, Gediminas Civas, Gary Clark, John Gutting, Meade Martin, Robin Martin, Bruce Lewis, Tim Merrigan, Joe Montes, Pedro Romero, Jorge Ruiz-Navarro, Kate Ruiz-Navarro, Julia Takahachi.

Gutting moved to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Martin read the minutes of the previous meeting. John Gutting noted that the date for the minutes of the Special Meeting was December 14, 2010 and not 12/14/11 as reported in the minutes. Julia Takahashi moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim Merrigan read the financial report, which is attached. The cash balance at Dec. 15, 2013 was \$7,257.52. He said that some \$1,000 of the outstanding assessments of \$1379.42 is owed by two parciantes, and that number has been accumulating over some years. He said the total of outstanding assessments has gone down. Gutting moved to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Gutting said that as part of the Aamodt settlement, people not paying their assessments and not irrigating will come under scrutiny from the State Engineer's office. The parciantes proceeded to discuss water banking. Martin urged all to do their own research into the stipulations of the settlement.

Pete Romero moved to reelect all commissioners by acclamation. The motion passed unanimously but for one nay vote by Tim Merrigan. Officers will be Bruce Lewis chairman; Meade Martin, secretary; Tim Merrigan, treasurer; Jack Blum, mayordomo.

Romero stressed that the acequia needs volunteers who are not commissioners to help with the acequia and learn its function. He said the river is like a living thing, like a child that always goes where you do not

want it to go. He said the present commission is working well together, but must finish the current project in the river. He suggested installing metal plates on the concrete barriers.

Gary Clark suggested sending a letter out to members, outlining how the ditch needs the help of all parciantes. Romero emphasized that all parciantes are responsible for getting the water to their own properties. Takahashi said she never saw an irrigation schedule for the acequia for this year. Blum explained that Merrigan made written schedules, but those were superseded by events on the ditch during the irrigation season. A discussion of the pros and cons of a water schedule ensued.

Clark suggested explaining the watering system to absentee owners. Bruce Lewis volunteered to put together a five-point letter about how to get water, how to clean the ditch before watering, how to clean the sand trap. A spirited discussion of the sand trap ensued. Romero said he wants to train more people how to put water in the ditch. He said don't force the river to the acequia, but take the acequia to the river.

Clark asked the commissioners to send a letter of appreciation to former commissioner Jim Rogers.

Romero suggested holding a meeting of paricantes at the diversion, to explain to all how it works. Takahashi made a motion to form a ditch education committee. She volunteered to head the committee. Clark and Janet Arrowsmith nominated her. The motion passed unanimously.

Gutting passed around a chart of water use by the ditches in the valley. He said it showed 20,000 acre-feet of overuse in the basin. He said some of this high number is due to malfunction of the metering flumes, but that the report shows over use by tribal ditches. Martin recommended that all parciantes record when they get irrigation water.

Gutting said that as part of the Aamodt suit adjudication; in January and February, the State Engineer will start mailing 8,000 offers to owners of post-moratorium wells.

There being no other business, Ramos Archuleta made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully taken and submitted by Robin Martin at the request of Meade Martin, Secretary.

Approved unanimously as submitted at the 1/26/2015 member meeting.