

**5-2-1- DRAINAGE AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD**

MAY 23, 2007

Grand Junction City Hall, Executive Conference Room  
Grand Junction, Colorado

Chairman Jim Doody called roll of the Board Members.

**Board Members Present:**

Dave Walker - Excused	Town of Palisade
Dave Karisny	City of Fruita
Richard Bowman	Grand Junction Drainage District
Steve Acquafresca	Mesa County Commissioner
Jim Doody, Chairman	City of Grand Junction

**Also Present:**

**John Ballagh** (Grand Junction Drainage District, Manager), **Vohnnie Pearson** (Town of Palisade, Planner), **Eric Mende** (Fruita City Engineer), **Julie Constan** (Mesa County Engineering), **Trent Prall** (Grand Junction City Engineer), **Greg Trainer** (City of Grand Junction Director of Utility & Street Systems), **Eileen List** (Grand Junction Environmental Services Manager).

**Agenda:**

Chairman Jim Doody opened the meeting at 3:05 p.m. He asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as is. Dave Karisny made the motion to adopt the agenda, Steve Acquafresca seconded, Chairman Doody polled the Board to accept the agenda.

The roll call vote results:	<b>Contracting Party</b>	<b>Vote</b>
	Grand Junction Drainage District	aye
	Mesa County	aye
	Grand Junction	aye
	Fruita	aye
	Palisade	absent

**Minutes:**

Steve Acquafresca proposed a change in the minutes to paragraph 6 on page 3, to read "All board members present expressed that the Drainage Authority is ultimately headed towards a utility to provide a variety of services." Also the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet on page 4 to read, "Steve Acquafresca envisions that the DA will move forward in a measured and calculated manner based on consensus building."

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Chairman Jim Doody asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of April 25, 2007.  
Steve Acquafresca moved the Minutes for the Board Meeting be accepted as amended.  
Dave Karisny seconded the motion.

The roll call vote results:	<b>Contracting Party</b>	<b>Vote</b>
	Grand Junction Drainage District	aye
	Mesa County	aye
	Grand Junction	aye
	Fruita	aye
	Palisade	absent

**Financial Report:**

John Ballagh reviewed the February 2007 balance sheet, profit & loss statement, and the check register. All items were reported to be within budget. There is money in savings earning interest. To the question regarding why there is monthly income reported for the GJDD only, John Ballagh replied that all the other entities have already made their financial contributions in the form of a one-time payment to the Authority, whereas the GJDD's financial contribution is on a monthly basis to cover administration costs.

To the question regarding no charge this month for the basin study, John Ballagh reported that AMEC is waiting on us to get back to them with directions on the next step of rate setting.

The charge for Beckner is work done for us regarding a name change for the 5-2-1- Drainage Authority to the 5-2-1 Stormwater Authority. It was suggested that the current name has been out there for so long, perhaps it wouldn't be in the best interests to change the name now. John Ballagh stated that stormwater better describes what the Authority does rather than the word drainage, which conjures up the image of only drainage related issues. The legal opinion is that the name can be changed as long as it is done under the statute the Authority was formed under.

Richard Bowman moved that the Financial Report be accepted as is, Steve Acquafresca seconded the motion, and Chairman Jim Doody polled the Board.

The roll call vote results:	<b>Contracting Party</b>	<b>Vote</b>
	Grand Junction Drainage District	aye
	Mesa County	aye
	Grand Junction	aye
	Fruita	aye
	Palisade	absent

**Reports:**

John Ballagh directed the Board's attention to the thank you letter from the W.A.T.E.R. Club, stating that the Colorado River clean-up was a huge success and that something like three dumpsters of trash were removed which included something like 16 cubic yards of debris and 29 tires, etc.

John Ballagh also drew the Board's attention to the write-up on the Children's Water Festival. Dave Karisny stated it was good to participate in this festival each year. Eileen List reported there were about 1500 5<sup>th</sup> grade kids that attended the 5-2-1 DA class.

**Action Item:**

No action items were discussed.

**Discussion Items:**

Trent Prall was given the direction to revise figures in the Business Plan for a smaller number of staff members, but considering NPDES demands, it would be difficult because the Manager, Office Manager, Developing Engineer and 2 inspectors are the basic personnel needed for compliance. The Manager is needed for oversight, the Office Manager is needed to generate reports from the inspectors, the Development Engineer is needed to oversee compliance issues, and 2 inspectors are needed to gather compliance information from the field.

Right now there are a number of employees in the Grand Junction and Mesa County engineering departments that are providing work for the Drainage Authority. If the time these employees spend is added up, it would prove the money spent on salaries and the need for the planned Drainage Authority employees. The individual entities would keep doing what they are doing, and the 5-2-1 will oversee all the individual entities. Julie Constan advised that the *permittee's construction sites* are obligated to *be inspected* every 2 weeks. They would also inspect right after each storm event. Inspections would be accomplished even without a storm event to be sure BMPs haven't been taken out by a backhoe or something, and to make sure the HOAs have hired a qualified person to inspect illicit discharges, etc. The 5-2-1 would be obligated to audit construction and post-construction facilities and handle the paperwork forever. This function should be fee supported.

The spreadsheets for the Revised Business Plan that Trent Prall produced were discussed. He took a look at charging permit fees for construction activities, a general fund transfer, and a combination of the two. There were three options provided: 1) general fund transfer with cost shares and no permit fees (totally funded by contributions), 2) general fund transfer with cost shares and with subsidized permit fees (46% fee funding of

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compliance), and 3) general fund transfer with cost shares but with unsubsidized permit fees (100% fee funding of compliance).

The \$1.60 fee rate includes administration, NPDES, and basin studies. This is the Huffey bike plus basin studies to the year 2015. Capital improvements and operation & maintenance were not figured into these three options. Dave Karisny wanted to know if the figures include 5 or 6 employees. Trent Prall stated it includes the 5 personnel to get up and running at \$1.6 million/year, and the 6<sup>th</sup> one hasn't been added into the mix yet.

Dave Karisny stated if general funds is one of the ways of funding, we need to re-look at the percentage of contribution. John Ballagh and Richard Bowman stated that the GJDD is on a fixed budget and wouldn't be able to come up with the needed contribution. Richard Bowman stated the figure is 15% of the total budget. He said without a change in mill levy, the GJDD's contribution needs to be limited to \$50,000 to \$55,000. He thought there never was a question that a fee would be charged.

Vohnnie Pearson discussed the inability of the Town of Palisade to come up with its portion of the money, and Eric Mende believed the City of Fruita would voice the same concern. Trent Prall stated that if we give up the general revenue, we would need something to make up for the loss. Dave Karisny stated, *even though a fee had been discussed from the beginning and is the reason an Authority was established, it was always understood that the 5-2-1 Authority Board members represent their municipalities and any decision regarding the establishment of any funding mechanism would need to be discussed with and supported by those entities. Simply discussing or planning for a fee never committed any board member to approving such a (utility) fee.*

Richard Bowman questioned if the 5-2-1 would take over all permitting from all entities. Trent Prall answered that the 5 individuals would handle all permitting and compliance inspections. This Business Plan is the bare bones starting point on the lean side. Richard Bowman said (*in his opinion*) he didn't think it was a good or responsible idea to under fund. He was involved with a *new utility that did not have adequate funding to carry out its assigned duties* and it caused nothing but heartburn. Trent Prall stated that a fund should be set up to draw off of so there is always a cushion. Richard Bowman stated this Business Plan is a good idea over all but how do we afford it?

Steve Acquafresca stated the spreadsheets are so comprehensive that they need to be taken back to his two colleagues to bring them up to the Board's level of understanding. He intends to have a conversation with the other two Commissioners to get enough of a sense if they are attracted to the options. He hopes to come back with a decision. Jim Doody and Dave Karisny agreed that the information needs to be taken back to their respective boards prior to making any kind of decision.

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Jim Doody, Steve Acquafresca and Richard Bowman felt it is important that the partnership stays together, and stated it would be a mistake for the 5-2-1 to not move forward.

The Board asked Trent Prall to look at 2008 with just administration costs, then just NPDES costs, then basin studies, etc. Trent described it as going to a pogo stick or a unicycle from the Huff bicycle.

**Read Ahead:**

There were no read ahead items.

**Meeting Calendar for the Future:**

June 27 <sup>th</sup>	December 26 <sup>th</sup>
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	January 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2008
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	February 27 <sup>th</sup> 2008
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	March 26 <sup>th</sup> 2008
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	April 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2008
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	May 28 <sup>th</sup> 2008

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Doody adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

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Jim Doody, Chairman