

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2019

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Todd Thacker called the February 12, 2019, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed guests.

Present: **Trustees:** Todd Thacker, Quentin Johnson, Greg Witbeck, Herb Snyder, William Merkley and Dean Baker. Vern Richens was excused.
Others: Gawain Snow, UWCD General Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Jay Kalafatis, Bureau of Reclamation; Clint Johnson, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering.

Approval of Minutes Herb Snyder made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to approve the January 8, 2019, Board Meeting minutes.

Steinaker - Safety of Dams Jay Kalafitis presented an update on work completed on Steinaker Dam and the gates. The concrete work should be done the end of February. They are processing material at the Ouray borrow site to build up gravel materials.

The gate modifications were issued last week. The contractor is going on time and materials while the actual costs are being determined. The contractor is working daily with the Bureau of Reclamation to make headway on finalizing the final cost of the gates. They won't know until the valves are removed the extent of refurbishing. The contractor is building a hoist system that will be left for the District when the project is completed. The clay material in the dam cannot be compacted in cold weather but they are still on track. June 1 is the target date to be able to pass through water. Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to approve Task Order 2019-01 for gate repair.

Vernal Unit Efficiency Project Clint Johnson reported that they are starting to work on a draft EA for the NRCS. They are still on schedule.

Uinta River Bifurcation Clint Johnson reported that the structure has been modified because of concerns. They lowered the crest and widened the gates. They are waiting on the FONSI from the BIA as well as a right-of-way and access permit. The right-of-way is sitting in the Appraiser's office after which it will need to go through the business committee. Once we get the ROW and access permit, we will be able to go on site with contractors who are interested in the project. The board suggested that they make qualifications be part of the bidding process for contractors.

Construction won't start until after high water.

**Financial
Statements**

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the January financial statements.

Invoices

Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to approve paying Jones & DeMille \$13,433.88 and US Bureau of Reclamation \$1,036,600 for a total of \$1,050,033.88.

GRPP

Josh Horrocks bought the Nielsen place by the Green River Pump Plant. He reported that the river is washing away his property because of trackhoe work done to help the river flow to the pump plant. He wondered what can be done to prevent or slow down further erosion. Gawain Snow said that any design has to be approved by the Army Corp of Engineers and Utah Fish and Wildlife. He reported that there is \$30,000 match funding available through Sovereign Lands. Josh also requested to make a T from our mainline. The Board responded that it would have to go through Ouray Park Irrigation since it is their water and line. There would also have to be pressure reducers. Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to have Gawain Snow talk to an engineer about the bank erosion and then report the results to Josh Horrocks.

Manager Report

There are WaterSmart opportunities for up to \$300,000. With everything we have going, we should wait until the next opportunity. There are several bills in the legislature talking about water conservancy districts not using property taxes for O&M. They want the end users to pay all the costs.

Closed Session

Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and agreed to by Herb Snyder, Quentin Johnson, Todd Thacker and William Merkley that the board go into and out of closed session to discuss personnel issues. William Merkley was excused. After the closed session, the board offered the position of General Manager to William Merkley with a salary of \$75,000 to be reviewed in six months. He would start March 4 and will be General Manager from that day on.

Adjourn

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.