

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2018

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Todd Thacker called the December 10, 2018, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed guests.

Present: **Trustees:** Todd Thacker, Quentin Johnson, Greg Witbeck, Herb Snyder, Vern Richens, William Merkley and Dean Baker**Others:** Gawain Snow, UWCD General Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Bart Jensen, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Jeff McCarty, Sunrise Engineering; Greg Buxton, Civil Engineer Tech; Wayne Simper and Dave Chivers, Central Canal; Randy and Randan Vincent; Verlin Vincent, Brush Creek Water Commissioner; Shirley Slauch, Ashley Water Users; Scoot Wilkins, Jensen Water.

Approval of Minutes Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the November 13, 2018, Board Meeting minutes.

Budget Hearing Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to open the 2018 Revised Budget and 2019 Proposed Budget Hearings. After some questions and explanations and a Motion by William Merkley that was SECONDED by Vern Richens, the 2018 Revised Budget was set at \$16, 295,797 which includes \$10,000,000 for pass-through flood control funding, and the 2019 Budget was set at \$19,694,264 which includes \$11,915,095 for pass-through flood control funding. Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to close the Budget Hearing and go back into the regular monthly board meeting.

Steinaker - Safety of Dams Gawain Snow signed a Technical Service Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to move ahead with working on the Steinaker gates while the water is out of the reservoir. The Bureau looked at similar work done by the current contractor and concluded that they would be best to repair the gates. The Bureau will come up with the scope of work for the contractor who will then come up with a price. The cost (approximately \$300,000-\$400,000) will come out of the District's Capital Projects Fund. This project is critical to the safety of operations of Steinaker Dam. This is a project that be completed during the winter. The contractor already has a heater set up.

Dirt work is ended until the ground thaws. They are doing cement pours. They will put the pipe together then start encasing the pipe. They will start crushing rocks in January to have material ready in March. They want to have material in place to get above the water level in case we have some inflow.

**Vernal Unit
Efficiency
Project**

Bart Jensen gave an update on the Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment. They are still in the information gathering stage. They will be doing the Upper and Highline Canals together. They are getting a project description compiled. They are looking at starting later next summer or into fall 2019.

**Uinta River
Bifurcation**

They are waiting for a right-of-way from the BIA.

**Financial
Statements**

Herb Snyder made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously to approve the November financial statements.

Invoices

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to approve paying Jones & DeMille \$5,381.48.

**Randy Vincent
request**

Randy Vincent presented a request for financial assistance to put a pump in Green River by the Burns Bench pumps and make an exchange to send water over to the Vernal Unit at an estimated cost of \$2.7 million. He stated several ways to cut costs. After discussion about power options, water rights, required studies. The District could look at helping with a feasibility study to look at what can be done on the present system and what can be done in addition to the current system. Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to move forward with this after we get more information.

**2019 Meeting
Schedule**

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to approve the 2019 meeting schedule as follows: January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9 (Annual Meeting), May 14, June 11, no meeting in July, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 9 (Budget Hearing). All meetings are on Tuesday except for December and all will be held at 10:00 a.m.

**New General
Manager**

Gawain Snow announced his retirement date will be April 16. The Board will interview January 8 after board meeting. Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck (William Merkley abstained and Quentin Johnson was against) which passed by majority vote to start a new General Manager on March 4 to give Gawain six weeks to train.

Manager Report

Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously to give employees a \$500 end-of-year bonus and let them have Christmas Eve off.

The Uintah Basin Water Summit will be held January 16. All trustees said they could attend.

Closed Session

Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Herb Snyder and passed by Quentin Johnson, Greg Witbeck, Herb Snyder, Vern Richens, Todd Thacker and Dean Baker (William Merkley abstained) to go into and out of closed session to discuss personnel matters. William Merkley left at that time. Closed session ended at 1:20 p.m.

Adjourn

Vern Richens made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.