

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2018

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Todd Thacker called the February 13, 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; Wayne Simper, Central Canal; Jeff McCarty, Sunrise Engineering; Curt Smuin, Highline Canal; Bill Cook, Ashley Upper Canal; Ken Long and Butch Kidd, Rock Point Canal; Mike Collins, Bowen Collins; Gayle McKeachnie, Attorney for Highline, Ashley Upper, Rock Point Canal Companies.

Approval of Minutes Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the January 9, 2018, Board Meeting minutes.

Steinaker - Safety of Dams After the contractor is selected, the Bureau will go into contract negotiations. The modification report was sent in November to the Federal Office of Management and Budgets which office sends it to congress who must hold it for thirty days. It has been stuck in the OMB so we have contacted Rob Bishop to find out what the delay is. They cannot award the contract until congress approves it. They are still planning on making the award the end of March.

Vernal Unit Efficiency - Project We have been concerned about the rising cost of pipe and other supplies for this project so we need to take a fresh look at and gather information about more options. Some of these are starting the enclosure at the dam and also lining the canal instead of piping it. After discussion, Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to look at other alternatives and then make a decision.

Uinta River Bifurcation We still haven't received money from Ute Irrigation but are trying to move ahead. Jones & DeMille presented the schedule status.

Ashley Valley Flood Control Uintah County did a study in 2008 in conjunction with Naples and other local entities to find a way for protection of property and public safety. The estimated cost is \$288 million. There are parts that could be done in a less expensive way. The proposal was to use irrigation channels after they are piped. With the assistance of salinity control, the county received grants and an interest-free loan

to assist the canal companies to move water out of the canals through pipes so the canals can be used for flood water. The funding must go through a government agency, not directly to the canal companies because the companies could lose their tax exempt status. The county does not want to take on any more debt so they have requested that Uintah Water Conservancy District take the lead on this project. The District would act as construction manager while pipelines are installed and as supervisor of in-coming and out-going funds. It is important that the District participate in this as part of their RCDD application depends on the CIB application being approved and used as part of this. UWCD would take the \$2.7 million loan as a water revenue bond then bill Rock Point, Highline and Ashley Upper canals for their portion. The grant is for \$8.1 million. The canal companies would do the operations and maintenance. Uintah County would hold the canal companies and the District harmless in case of flood damage. There would be an administrative fee paid to the District to handle this project. Any disputes would be handled by the canal companies. Easements will not be turned over to the County. The County has approved the transfer of this CIB grant and loan to UWCD. The District will submit a new application. The bond attorney will prepare documents. The project has been in limbo for over a year and the canal companies expressed appreciation for the District's help.

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve Resolution 20180213 which provides that Uintah Water Conservancy District become the sponsor of this flood control project and authorize Todd Thacker and Gawain Snow to sign grant documents and CIB application. Gayle McEachnie is working on the agreements between Uintah Water Conservancy District and the canal companies and Uintah County. The design is not complete and the environmental work needs to be done. Now is a good time to get this project done while Steinaker Dam is being repaired.

**Financial
Statements**

William Merkley made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Herb Snyder and passed unanimously to approve the January financial statements.

Invoices

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Herb Snyder and passed unanimously to approve the following invoice: Lewis Young Robertson & Burningham \$1,750.

**Deputy General
Manager**

With the aging workforce at the District, it would be good to find someone to come in and work under the General Manager and learn how the District works. The flood control project will also create substantially more work. The administrative fee could cover part of the wages of a new employee. John Hunting stated that he was not interested in the position or the position of General Manager. Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously (with William Merkley abstaining because of personal interest in the position) to create a temporary position of Deputy General Manager that would be dissolved once the General Manager

position is opened. A special committee consisting of Greg Witbeck, Quentin Johnson and Dean Baker will meet March 6 at 11:00 a.m. to prepare a job description for this new position.

Contractor List

Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vernon Richens and passed unanimously to approve the contractor list as presented.

Manager Report

We received a letter from Duchesne County Water Conservancy District expressing thanks for help with the Water Summit.

Gawain reported on the water task force responsibilities. Dean Baker reported on House Bill 175.

Utah Water Users Workshop is March 20-21. Greg and Todd want to go.

John Hunting reported on water elevations and storage in Red Fleet, Steinaker, Cottonwood, Brough and Pelican.

Adjourn

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