

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2018

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Todd Thacker called the March 13, 2018, 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; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Scott Elliott and Peter Crookston, Bureau of Reclamation; Bill Stringer and Brad Horrocks, Uintah County Commissioners; Wayne Simper and Dave Chivers, Central Canal; Eric Major, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Jeff McCarty, Sunrise Engineering; Clint Allen, CRS Engineers; Curt Smuin, Highline Canal; Butch Kidd, Rock Point Canal; Mike Collins, Bowen Collins; Troy Ostler, CIVCO Engineering; Gayle McKeachnie, Attorney for Highline, Ashley Upper, Rock Point Canal Companies; Jim Slaugh, water user; Eric Johnson, Bond Counsel; Bryan Meier, Uintah County Roads; Cheryl Meier, Uintah County Public Lands.

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

Public Bond Hearing for CIB loan/grant Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to enter a public hearing on an application to the Community Impact Board for a grant in the amount of \$8,179,251 and a loan in the amount of \$2,727,000 for flood control in Ashley Valley. Gawain Snow gave background information on the project which was started two years ago by Uintah County. All necessary studies have been completed. The plan is to empty the canals of irrigation water and use the channels for flood water and build additional retention basins. The District and the canal companies are working together. The District accepted taking over this project in the February meeting. Brad Horrocks and Bill Stringer, Uintah County Commissioners, expressed their support of the District taking over the project. All those in attendance representing various entities in Uintah County expressed their support for the District taking over this project.

Since the County's application cannot be simply transferred, the District is making a new application (the terms of which would remain the same) which requires a hearing and bonding process. The application is on the CIB's May 3

agenda. We have to go through the bonding process and the project has to be bid before we can request funds. If things go smoothly, we should be ready for construction this fall. Eric Johnson stated that when the process is completed, the funds should be transferred without any change in amount since the CIB already has the money set aside. He has spoken with Candace Powers and Bill Prayder at PCIB who indicated that they prefer the security of the bonding process.

Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to close the public hearing.

**Steinaker -
Safety of Dams**

Peter Crookston reported that a TPEC was held in January. The MOD report was sent to Congress November 15 for a 60-day review. It was still at OMB February 15 so we contacted Rob Bishop's office requesting their help to move it out of OMB to Congress. We also requested that Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman become personally involved. The MOD report moved from OMB to Congress February 28 for a 30-day comment period. The Bureau is working with the contractor and hopes to be able to award the contract the first part of April. We are still on schedule but the whole project is contingent on weather conditions and water usage.

**Vernal Unit
Efficiency
Project**

Mike Collins presented the benefits and limitations of two options: (1) continuing with the enclosure of the canal including connecting with the dam or (2) lining the remainder of the canal. The Board felt that both options needed to be looked at before continuing with the next phase of the enclosure.

**Uinta River
Bifurcation**

Eric Major reported that we are still waiting on the funds from the BIA. Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to put further work on this project on hold until the money is received from the BIA. The EA is completed and the Bureau will continue to do what they need to do so the project will be ready to go when the money comes.

**Financial
Statements**

Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to approve the February financial statements.

Invoices

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the following invoices: Bowen Collins \$3,274.25; Jones & DeMille \$421.25. The Stubbs & Stubbs invoice in the amount of \$2,515 is not approved until they give us an itemized invoice.

Farm Field Day

William Merkley made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve a \$200 donation and send John Hunting to Farm Field Day.

**Deputy General
Manager**

The committee met and prepared a job description for this position. This is a temporary position that would be dissolved after Gawain Snow retires. The

position would possibly be for about a year. After much discussion about budget and length of the position, Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed with a majority (William Merkley abstained from voting) to put this position on hold until we receive something firm and solid as far as Gawain Snow's plans for retirement.

Manager Report

Gawain Snow, William Merkley and John Hunting will attend the Utah Water Users Workshop in St. George next week.

There will be a meeting held by the State on April 13 at the Uintah County Library about water quality in the State of Utah.

Adjourn

Greg Witbeck made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Herb Snyder and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.