

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2018

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Todd Thacker called the November 13, 2018, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed guests.

Present:

Trustees: Todd Thacker, Quentin Johnson, Herb Snyder, Vern Richens, William Merkley and Dean Baker. Greg Witbeck attended via telephone.

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; Scott Elliott, Bureau of Reclamation.

Approval of Minutes Herb Snyder made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously to approve the October 9, 2018, Board Meeting minutes .

Steinaker - Safety of Dams The excavating is mostly completed. They are pouring cement to protect pipe a little at a time because curing time is affected by the cold weather. They plan to haul material in and get up above the water level so run-off from storms won't affect the work.

We received a letter from the Bureau showing pictures taken during inspection of the outlet works. With the reservoir empty due to the dam repair, they recommend that we pull the gate leaves (both guard gates and both regulating gates) and refurbish the seats and sills of the regulating gates and sand blast and recoat all the metal surfaces including the gate leaves, bonnets, and concrete embedded metal framework of the guard and regulating gates. This should help to improve operation and maintenance, as well as reduce hazards, and increase safety and longevity of the dam and its appurtenances.

Gawain Snow met with the BOR Commissioner and requested that this be put on the Safety of Dams work list and the Bureau should pay 85%. After that was met with a cool reception, he requested that the Bureau do a change order on the current Safety of Dams project and have the current contractor do this additional work. They do have experience with similar projects. We need to look at replacing the hydraulic lines also. Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously that we ask the Bureau to make the change order and go ahead with these repairs with the final decision being subject to cost. It will need to be done by June 1.

**Vernal Unit
Efficiency
Project**

Bart Jensen reported on the progress of the Watershed Plan. They are still in the information-gathering stage. The NEPA process for the Highline and Upper Canals is ongoing. That has to be included in the watershed plan, so we have to let them finish out that process. Draft plan should be done by August of 2019 although it could happen sooner. It has to be completed by October 2020 for the BOR Salinity funding.

**Uinta River
Bifurcation**

Bart Jensen reported they got quotes back on the gates that were higher than expected. They are trying to modify the design to lower the cost. They are still waiting on a right-of-way from the BIA as well as temporary access permits to take contractors to the site. The contractors will help finish the design. Depending on the river flows, they might be able to start earlier than expected.

**Preliminary
Budget**

The preliminary budget was discussed and explained by John Hunting. The Board requested that the pumping budget be increased to reflect usage this year.

**Financial
Statements**

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the October financial statements.

Invoices

Vern Richens made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to approve the following invoices: Bowen Collins \$542.50, Jones & DeMille \$40,303.25 for a total of \$40,845.75.

**New General
Manager**

The Board (William Merkley abstained) decided that the position would be put on hold until Gawain Snow gives them a solid retirement date. He said he would do that in December's meeting. Mary Searle is to notify all applicants.

Manager Report

We received a letter from Utah Local Governments Trust stating that they were sending us \$3,168 for a premium relief credit on the liability insurance and workman's comp.

Gawain Snow reported on the meeting he had with the BOR Commissioner at the NWRA and also on the Salinity Forum. He said there will be another funding opportunity for salinity projects, \$10 million for off-farm and \$18-19 million for on-farm in Utah.

He also reported on the attempt to take 55,000 acre feet of water out of Utah to Colorado. We submitted a letter of protest. Scott Martin attended the hearing representing water districts from Provo, Uintah, Duchesne opposing the project. We don't know the outcome yet.

The Board suggested Jim Slauch and Laris Hunting for Golden Shovel award at the Uinta Basin Water Summit in January.

Scott Elliott reported that the Bureau of Reclamation had gone over the Safety of

Dams Annual Report and they were very impressed with the work done on our Safety of Dams project.

Board Training

Mike Hansen presented Open and Public Meetings training to the board members present (Todd Thacker, Quentin Johnson, Herb Snyder, Vern Richens, William Merkley, Dean Baker) and Mary Searle. This training went from 11:30-12:30.

Adjourn

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.