

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2017
UWCD Office
10:00 a.m.

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Todd Thacker called the August 8, 2017, 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 was absent.

Others: Gawain Snow, General Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Peter Crookston, Jay Kalafatis, Jared Baxter, Bureau of Reclamation; Clint Johnson, Jones & Demille; Clint Allen, CRS Engineers; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering.

Approval of Minutes Vern Richens made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the June 13, 2017, Board Meeting minutes.

Steinaker - Safety of Dams They are still on schedule. Documentation is with BOR contracting. They have decided not to do the seismic stability berm for cost savings of approximately \$4,000,000. The planned berm did not cover the risk and there is insubstantial information on faults in this area. They plan to wait until new criteria is available before doing a seismic fix.

Vernal Unit Efficiency Project The project is still not quite complete; there a few finish-up items.

Phase II Bowen Collins did research on pipe for Phase II. There is a new funding opportunity for salinity funds. We would like to explore combining Phase II and Phase III which would complete the piping to a point where the next phase would tie into Steinaker Dam. That might mean a delay but gives more time to get pipe and materials.

Office Parking Lot Aaron Averett from Sunrise Engineering presented a plan for enlarging the parking lot to 14 lots. He estimated it would cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. After discussing options, it was decided that for the time being, we should stripe some stalls in the shop parking lot and put the project on hold.

**Uinta River
Bifurcation**

Clint Johnson reported that the BIA has added this project to their list. We are now waiting for funds to be allocated by the BIA.

**Financial
Statements**

Herb Snyder made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to approve the June and July financial statements.

Invoices

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Herb Snyder and passed unanimously to approve the following invoices: Bowen Collins \$1,881.50; CKC Field Services \$3,597; Jensen Water \$12,629.31; Snow Christensen \$455; W. W. Clyde \$171,912.63; for a total of \$190,475.44 with the stipulation that W. W. Clyde not be paid until they finish the job.

**Board Member
Practices**

The Utah State Legislature sent a letter to all board members of Utah's Limited Purpose Entities expressing concern about occurrences of fraud, waste, abuse and poor management. They developed a list of best practices for internal control and governance for the board to review and implement.

SOD Repayment

There will be a meeting August 9 at 11:00 with Wayne Pullan and staff to talk about Steinaker dam repair repayment contract. Dean Baker and Quentin Johnson agreed to attend that meeting.

Manager Report

Our Water Strategy report was delivered to the Governor on July 28. The Flaming Gorge water right from went from the Bureau of Reclamation to the State of Utah. It was split between Duchesne County, Uintah County and the Lake Powell pipeline project. It was expected to be under a service contract. The Bureau came up with an exchange concept. It would exclude water that is already being put to beneficial use. Water put to use in the future would have to pay a fee to the State of Utah and then another to the Bureau. It insures that the water cannot be taken from the state of Utah. A public meeting will be held in Vernal sometime in September or October to negotiate a rate.

The Upper and Highline canals met with the Uintah County Commissioners about their flood control project. UWCD would be a pass-through for funding. If this project doesn't go through, it would equate to a loss of about \$20 million.

We are joining with Ashley Valley Water and Sewer to set up a tour for elected and public officials to visit Key Water Infrastructures August 18. RSVP by August 15.

Adjourn

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION to Adjourn which was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.