

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2017
UWCD Office
10:00 a.m.

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Todd Thacker called the September 12, 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 Greg Witbeck. Dean Baker was excused.

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

Approval of Minutes Herb Snyder made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously to approve the August 8, 2017, Board Meeting minutes.

Steinaker - Safety of Dams The Island Ditch payment ends in 2033 and we have suggested not starting the repayment on the dam repair until 2034. There is a meeting schedule for September 13 for discussing the payment schedule.

The repair is still on schedule. The Bureau is ready to take it to OMB and on to Congress. There is a pre-construction site visit scheduled for October 25.

Vernal Unit Efficiency Project W. W. Clyde reduced the final cost by \$5,000 to let District employees cover the final items. There is still money left in the budget which will be applied to Phases II and III. The NEPA work is completed for piping the entire canal.

Phase II There was a funding opportunity that we applied for in the amount of \$9 million. The Uintah County application was tied to our NRCS application. If it comes through, we should have sufficient funds for both Phase II and Phase III. We will put out an RFP for the design of Phase II and III. It will probably exceed our contracted amount of \$200,000. William Merkley made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to ask Jay Henrie to prepare an RFP for the October board meeting.

Uinta River Bifurcation The BIA added the project to their inventory so they can add money for it. We are hoping construction can begin after water season of 2018. The BIA will do the environmental study with oversight by the Bureau of Reclamation.

**Financial
Statements**

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the August financial statements.

Invoices

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously to approve the following invoices: Bowen Collins \$4,658.36; Jay Henrie \$425; Snow Christensen \$265; W. W. Clyde \$166,912.63 (reduced by \$5,000 from approved amount in August); for a total of \$172,260.99.

Cloud Seeding

After some discussion, William Merkley made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve an amount not to exceed \$13,950 for cloud seeding 2017-2018.

Flood Enclosure

Uintah County's commission asked for a study from Sunrise Engineering and Jones & DeMille Engineering. The best investment and most feasible option for protecting the valley from flooding was to use existing canals. Retaining ponds are the next best option. The District would act as a pass-through agency. A person would be hired to keep track of the funds. The \$10 million from the CIB would be for the entire project. Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to enter into an agreement for the District to act as a pass-through agency for this project. The canals will own the easements and would carry liability for the pipeline. Uintah County would assume liability for flood control.

2017-2018 Rates

William Merkley made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously to approve the Rates as presented. There are no changes from last year's rates.

Manager Report

The Flaming Gorge water right is having a meeting every two weeks. Any water that is already being put to beneficial use will not have additional associated costs. Unless there is a change application. There is public negotiation meeting October 4 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. This right ties up storage so it cannot be sent to Colorado.

Utah Water Summit will be held October 23 in Provo.

Utah Association of Special District will be held November 1-3 in Layton. Todd Thacker expressed interest in going together with Gawain Snow and John Hunting.

NWRA will be held November 15 in Tucson. Gawain will go along with possibly Todd Thacker and William Merkley.

Colorado River Water Users will be held December 13-15. William expressed interest in going.

Peter Crookston reported that the District needs to move the gas tank from the back yard as a HAZMAT requirement. Red Fleet toe drains cannot get a camera in to inspect the drain. It is full of soil and weeds. Red Fleet will have to be drained to fix this, upgrade the campground and put in a sandy beach, and the DWR needs to put in fish barriers.

Peter also reported that the DWR is going to put in fish barriers in Steinaker also while it is drained for the dam fix. The barriers are supposed to be low enough that boats won't hit them. The Steinaker campground is just starting to be designed.

The water facilities tour for elected officials went well. Participants said it was very educational.

Adjourn

Vern Richens made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.