

# Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2019

Approved

**Conducting:** Chairman Todd Thacker called the June 11, 2019, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed guests.

**Present:**

**Trustees:** Todd Thacker, Quentin Johnson, Greg Witbeck, Herb Snyder, Shane Frost, Dean Baker and Tyson Murray

**Others:** William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Jay Kalafatis and Scott Elliott, Bureau of Reclamation; Bart Jensen, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering; Wayne Simper, Central Canal.

**Approval of Minutes** Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the May 14, 2019, Board Meeting minutes.

**Steinaker - Safety of Dams** Jay Kalafatis reported that they have started filling the dead pool and started replacing the rip-rap. It is starting to look like a dam again. The gate work should be done by Friday. There are no updates on the final cost of the gates. They should be able to fill more this weekend. So far they are right on schedule and looking to finish in October. They are hoping to by-pass water in two weeks. Most people have been able to get water. The amount of water we can store will be up to the contractor—the contract only lets us fill up to the conservation pool. The haul roads need at least a 10' buffer.

**Vernal Unit Efficiency Project** Bart Jensen reported that they are still moving forward and compiling information. They are still waiting on the Highline and Upper Canals' process. They are looking at other options of maybe splitting those canals' processes off so the project can move on. They are still hoping to finish by the first part of 2020. Several projects are waiting on this plan to be completed.

**Uinta River Bifurcation** Eric Major took a site visit with the Ute Fish and Game. The condition of the Bifurcation made it very apparent that the structure needs to be replaced. The Ute Fish and Game will be pushing the Business Committee. They had a trackhoe in the river to try to get more water moving. We are moving forward until all contracts are signed.

**Financial Statements** Herb Snyder made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to approve the May financial statements. There was discussion on the variance in contractors' rates. Because of the large number of projects we are doing, it becomes very apparent.

**Invoices**

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to approve paying Blue Northern \$3,957.50; Jones & DeMille \$11,357.25; PdM \$9,575.00; Weldon Construction \$9,240; Snow Christensen \$3,959.50; Stubbs & Stubbs \$3,959.50 for a total of \$42,036.75. The board also requested that all invoices be examined carefully and compared for cost savings and to ask about the fuel truck usage of Stubbs & Stubbs. There was also discussion on the high cost of maintenance on the Green River Pump Project.

**Certified Tax Rate**

After discussion about how the certified rate is set and the loss of revenue caused by not going with the certified tax rate, William Merkley suggested that we approve the certified tax rate so we can meet our rising O&M costs and start putting away more money for future projects. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to approve the certified tax rate of .000495.

**Trailer Purchase**

With the additional responsibilities that Gordon Merkley is taking on over on the West Side, we need to be able to transport the Ranger. Bids obtained from B&D were for a 12' trailer \$2,450 and for a 14' trailer \$2,600. The board suggested looking at a dump trailer and William report back. Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to compare the costs of both kinds of trailers and call board members for approval.

**Jensen Unit Allotment**

John Hunting reported that the Jensen Unit had enough water to set a full allotment. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to set a full allotment plus 10% shrinkage.

**Vernal Unit Allotment**

After discussion, Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to set the allotment for whatever we can store in the lake. It also depends on how much the creek is flowing.

**GPS Fleet Tracking**

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to purchase seven GPS units and contract for monitoring.

**Overtime Policy**

William Merkley presented several overtime and alternative work schedules to alleviate the District's high cost for overtime. After discussion, the Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously that this be tabled until the water delivery period is over—possibly September.

**Personal Use of District Property**

After discussion, Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to add "Authorized Personal Use of District Property" to the Administrative Code.

**Adjourn**

Shane Frost made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.