

Uintah Water Conservancy District

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

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Todd Thacker called the October 10, 2017, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed guests.

Present:

Trustees: Todd Thacker, Herb Snyder, Vern Richens, William Merkley, Dean Baker and Greg Witbeck. Quentin Johnson was excused.

Others: Gawain Snow, General Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Eric Major, Jones & Demille; Clint Allen, CRS Engineers; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering.

Approval of Minutes Vern Richens made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the September 12, 2017, Board Meeting minutes.

Steinaker - Safety of Dams There was a meeting held with Jeff Hearty from the Bureau of Reclamation to discuss the repayment schedule. He reported that the Bureau has changed how costs are allocated on Safety of Dams. The payments are now based on who receives benefits with agriculture and M&I benefits being equal. We need to find more M&I users since about 400 shares have moved from agriculture to M&I. The proposal to delay payments until 2033 has been approved on several levels but not yet final. The district needs to set a policy so when future agriculture stock is moved to smaller landowners, it needs to be reflected in a change from Ag to M&I. There will a pre-bid visit for contractors on October 27. We will have a better idea of costs when the contract is awarded.

Phase II Our application for \$9 million funding was not approved. No construction projects were approved. We need to get an RFP drawn up for design of the project to be ready to go when funding becomes available. Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to proceed with putting out an RFP and going through the process of selecting an engineering firm to do Reach II and Reach III.

Uinta River Bifurcation The structure is now on the inventory of the BIA. They also completed the environmental study. They took advantage of a WaterSmart grant from Duchesne County. We need to get payment from the water users who have already committed. As soon as the District gets the money, we can go ahead with the design and bidding process so it can be constructed by next fall. The District needs to set up a separate PTIF account to account for the money.

**General Services
Agreements**

Every five years, we need to have new contracts for financial consulting and engineering. We have these agreements in place to keep the procurement process in place and to have engineers in place for ongoing projects. We also need to sign a letter of continued engagement with Snow, Christensen and Martineau. William Merkley made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Herb Snyder to enter into contracts for general services with CIVCO, Bowen Collins, Sunrise, CRS, Jones & DeMille, Jay Henrie and any others that continue to assist us with projects as well as a letter to continue with the services of Snow, Christensen and Martineau.

Drains

The drains were installed over ag ground to make the ground productive and eligible for project water. As the city and developments have occurred, they have changed property from Ag use to housing. The Bureau of Reclamation has a jetter that comes out and cleans the drains but there were some that did not get cleaned and the water is backing up into basements. Part of the issue is that people have planted trees, fences, etc. over the drains. Some of the drains are in the city and some are on project ground. There is a need for us to purchase our own jetter if we are going to maintain these drains. Herb Snyder made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to buy a jetter that would "blow the manhole cover off."

**Financial
Statements**

William Merkley made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously to approve the September financial statements.

Invoices

Herb Snyder made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the following invoices: Jones & DeMille \$4,143.75; Snow Christensen \$927.50; Stubbs & Stubbs \$21,511; for a total of \$26,582.25.

**Purchase of
Backhoe**

After some discussion, Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously to purchase the backhoe that we are currently leasing for the West Side in the amount of \$75,000.

Trustees Terms

The terms of Quentin Johnson, Todd Thacker, Herb Snyder and Vern Richens will expire January 1, 2018. All expressed their desire to serve another term.

Manager Report

There will be a meeting held October 30 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the conference center to discuss the Flaming Gorge water rights.

We need to purchase a new compressor for Red Fleet but that will come out of the reserve funds.

Adjourn

Vern Richens made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at noon.