

# Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2017  
UWCD Office  
10:00 a.m.

Approved

- Conducting:** Chairman Todd Thacker called the December 11, 2017, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed guests.
- Present:**
- Trustees:** Todd Thacker, Quentin Johnson , Herb Snyder, Vern Richens, and Greg Witbeck. Dean Baker was excused.
- Others:** Gawain Snow, UWCD General Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Jay Kalafatis and Peter Crookston, Bureau of Reclamation.
- Approval of Minutes** Herb Snyder made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the November 14, 2017, Board Meeting minutes.
- Budget Hearing** Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to suspend the regular board meeting and go into the 2017 Revised Budget and 2018 Proposed Budget Hearing. William Merkley made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously to approve the 2017 Revised Budget in the amount of \$5,611,981. The increase in the budget was due mostly to moving a manhole on the Vernal Unit drains from private property into the street for improved access for maintenance. Vern Richens made a MOTION that was SECONDED by William Merkley and passed unanimously to approve the 2018 Budget as presented in the amount of \$5,463,359. The regular board meeting was then re-convened.
- Steinaker - Safety of Dams** Jay Kalafatis reported that there are no changes as far as schedule. There will be a site walk December 13, questions are due December 15 and bids are due January 5. January 16 they will meet to go over the proposals and make decisions on who to recommend for the project. The contract will be awarded March 30. Once the elevation is where it is needed, they can get started—probably in August. The money is in place. There will be a negotiation meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation on January 9 before the regular board meeting to be held at the conference center.
- Vernal Unit Efficiency Project** There is now a signed agreement with NRCS for RCPP funds. They are having trouble getting the money transferred to the state in the amount of \$5.5 million. We need the county to close on their CIB loan. We have been doing

improvements and work on the canal. They are hauling in clay to seal leaks, building up the banks and fixing fence.

**Uinta River  
Bifurcation**

Jones & DeMille sent out letters and we have received some payments on this. They want to do the environmental work then proceed next fall.

**Red Fleet  
Groundwater**

They will report on this in the January meeting.

**Financial  
Statements**

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

**Invoices**

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously to approve the following invoices: Jessy McKee \$2,325.50; Jones & DeMille \$620; PdM \$3,625; Stubbs & Stubbs \$27,972.72; for a total of \$34,545.22. It was suggested that rates be obtained from several contractors in writing to serve the process of competitive bidding.

**Pickup**

We need to sell an older pickup and replace it with a new one for Devin. Bids were received from two companies on the Wasatch Front and one from Showalter Motor in Vernal. Showalter's bid was higher in the amount of \$218.51 which would not cover the trip to the Wasatch Front to get the pickup. Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to purchase a pickup from Showalter Motor for the amount of \$35,096.51.

**COL Raise and  
Bonus**

After discussion Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Vern Richens and passed unanimously to approve a cost of living of raise of 3% figured by the total of salaries X .03 divided equally among the employees and also to approve a \$250 end of year bonus for each employee. The board also approved December 26 as a holiday for employees.

**GRPP water**

Alan Cooper has requested water from the Flaming Gorge water right. William Merkley made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to approve leasing him 90 acre feet at \$12.50/AF. Gawain will write him a letter listing the other costs.

**2018 Schedule**

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the following meeting schedule for 2018: January 9 at 11:00 a.m. at the Convention Center, February 13, March 13, April 17 (Annual Meeting), May 8, June 12, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13 and December 10 (Monday Budget Meeting) all to be held at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 78 West 3325 North, Vernal, Utah. There will be no meeting in July.

### **Manager Report**

Gawain reported that at the NWRA meeting with the national commissioner, it was determined that it was no longer necessary to do the seismic fix on Steinaker Dam yet they had continued to drill for it. We requested that the District not be charged for these drilling costs. The meetings were more upbeat and the acting commissioner was very positive.

Gawain has been attending the Flaming Gorge negotiation meetings to determine the price and terms for the water right. There will be one more meeting in Salt Lake City in January. This will not affect water already being put to use so the Green River Pump Project will not be affected. It just affects future and new water.

Gawain, William, Greg and John plan to attend the Colorado River Water Users Convention in Las Vegas.

The Uinta Basin Water Summit will be held January 17 at the Grace Event Center in Roosevelt. All trustees will be registered. Dave Rasmussen suggested Laris Hunting for Golden Shovel, but the board agreed to do that when the summit is held in Vernal.

### **Closed Session**

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and agreed to by William Merkley, Vern Richens, Herb Snyder to go in and out of closed session to discuss personnel issues. The closed session began at 11:45 and the regular meeting was reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

### **Adjourn**

Greg Witbeck made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.