

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2020

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Todd Thacker called the December 8, 2020, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed guests. This meeting was held at the Uintah Conference Center because of COVID-19 protocols.

Present:

Trustees: Todd Thacker, Greg Witbeck, Dean Baker, Shane Frost and Tyson Murray. Herb Snyder attended by telephone and Quentin Johnson was excused.

Others: William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering; Mike Collins and Jordan Oyler, Bowen Collins & Associates; Monty Pratt, Burns Bench; Bart Jensen, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Tyler Dow and Eric Kellems, WETx.

Approval of Minutes

Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the November 10, 2020, Board Meeting minutes after one change of substituting Tyson Murray making a MOTION on invoices instead of Shane Frost who was absent.

2021 Budget Hearing

Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to move into the Budget Hearing. William presented the proposed budget and opened it up to discussion. Restrictions from COVID-19 have changed how we spent money this year. We have spent more on cleaning drains than in the budget as well as canal repairs. Any money ready to be used this year that was not used will be rolled into next year's budget. There was a question on state requirements on depreciation and including it in our budgets. Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to go out of the Budget Hearing. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the 2020 Amended Budget as presented.

After discussion about salaries and a 3% increase built in, Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the 2021 Budget as presented.

Steinaker Dam Gate Modifications

The contractor, Weeminuche, came from Colorado and met with inspectors on the site. They pulled the gates and shipped them to California. Everything will be assembled there and the Bureau of Reclamation will send inspectors to inspect them there. The gates should be back in January to have them installed before time to deliver water.

**Steinaker Dam
SOD**

There was a week-long risk analysis to review that all slide issues were addressed and the dam is fixed in the way it was intended. This is to make sure that risk that was high is reduced. They evaluated the risk and made sure it was lower than it was when the slide happened.

**Vernal Unit
Efficiency
Project
Watershed Plan**

Bart Jensen reported they are continuing to work with Sunrise for economic analysis. The meetings are to make sure that everyone is on the same page. They are making sure the plan tells the whole picture. The draft Environmental Assessment has been submitted and there have been no comments.

**Uinta River
Bifurcation**

Bart said not much has changed since last month. Ken Asay sent a letter to all the funding partners involved. The plan for building it at the original location would change the funding since some canals would drop out since it would not benefit them at that location.

**Ashley
Upper/Highline
Canals Pipe
Project**

The structure has been built and all of the concrete is in place. Everything is in place for the radial gate to be placed. As of November 30, they had 30,000 feet of pipe fused and it will soon be in the ground. If the weather is good, they will meet their projected time frames.

**Steinaker Reach
II and III**

Mike Collins reported they had delivered a 30% Design document for review. The plan is to continue with design and have it ready in February or March. They are working with the Bureau of Reclamation for a \$1.5 million WaterSMART grant and working with Central Utah Water Conservancy District with a request for \$1.75 million from the State of Utah. The estimated cost for Reach II is \$10 million and Reach III is \$16 million. They will put together a funding package and go as far on the canal as the money takes it, building in phases and make bigger phases into smaller phases as necessary. They would like to put it out for bid with both HDPE and other kinds of pipe.

WETx

Tyler Dow explained what WETx does and how it would benefit the District with working with other entities in the Basin and utilizing the Green River water that is still available as well as managing the District's water assets better. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to authorize William to negotiate Phase I and Phase II agreements with WETx.

**Financial
Statements**

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the November 2020 financial statements.

Invoices

Tyson Murray made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to approve paying Bowen Collins \$20,028.83; McKeachnie Law Office \$505; PdM \$1,595; Sunrise Engineering for a total of \$22,138.83.

**2021 Board
Meeting
Schedule**

Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to hold 2021 Board Meetings on the following Tuesday: January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13 (Annual Meeting) May 11, June 8, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9. There will be no meeting in July and December's meeting will be Tuesday the 7th (Budget Hearing).

Christmas Eve

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to approve the employees having Christmas Eve off as a holiday.

Christmas Bonus

After some discussion, Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve a \$500 Christmas Bonus for employees.

Manager Report

Because of COVID-19 restrictions it was decided that the Uinta Basin Water Summit usually held in January would not be held. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to not hold the Summit in January 2021 and be held in Vernal in 2022.

Adjourn

Tyson Murray made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.