

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Annual Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Todd Thacker called the April 13, 2021, Annual Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed guests.

Present:

Trustees: Todd Thacker, Greg Witbeck, Quentin Johnson, 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; Mike Miles, Auditor; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering; Bart Jensen, Jones & DeMille; Jordan Oyler, Bowen Collins & Associates; Wayne Simper, Ashley Central Canal; Morgan Batty, Island Ditch; Monty Pratt, Brush Creek Distribution; Tyler Dow, Eric Kellems, Dan Matthews, Jesse Empey, WETx.

Approval of Minutes Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the March 9, 2021, Board Meeting minutes.

Elections Tyson Murray made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to elect Quentin Johnson as Chairman, President; Todd Thacker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to elect Tyson Murray as 1st Vice Chairman. Todd Thacker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to elect Dean Baker as 2nd Vice Chairman. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to re-appoint William Merkley as Secretary/Treasurer and Mary Searle as District Clerk.

New Employee Dustin Nebeker was introduced as the District's new Electronics/Automation & Control Technician.

2020 Financial Audit Mike Miles presented the audit with one finding that will be taken care of during this meeting regarding the State Fraud Risk Assessment. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the 2020 Financial Audit as presented.

2020 Annual Report William Merkley presented the 2020 Annual Report. He stated that we are still going through Steinaker Dam gate repair. Because of COVID 19, travel and conferences have been shut down. We should have the Tyzack pump plant upgrade and regulating tank re-coating completed this Fall. The 2020 Water Conservation Plan will be presented for approval in next month's meeting. Shane

Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to approve the 2020 Annual Report as presented.

**Steinaker and
Red Fleet Inflows**

John Hunting reported that Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5588.34 with an active capacity of 16,973 acre-feet and an average inflow of 12 CFS (that has been as low as 7-8 CFS). Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5476.89 with an active capacity of 8,179 acre-feet and an average inflow of 17 CFS. There is not much chance of filling unless we receive a lot of rain. We need to pull about 100 AF out of Ashley to meet expectations. Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to set the allotment for Steinaker water at 30% and raise it later if conditions improve.

**Vernal Unit
Efficiency
Project
Watershed Plan**

Bart Jones reported they met with NRCS and will meet with the economist this week and internal teams. It is looking like they will have a draft submission of the EA in July.

**Ashley
Upper/Highline
Canals Pipe
Project**

April 15 is the deadline to have the project substantially complete. The Upper is piped a short section to Roger Hutchison. We need to build a dissipation structure to hold water back and make deliveries. The Board of Water Resources granted a 30-year term 1% to fund the balance of the project, a loan that is in their ability to pay. That is significant progress in funding to finish the project..

**Work Order
2021-1**

We have talked about advertising additional water to be delivered through the Green River Pumping Plant. We have received requests in excess of what we can deliver. On a dry year, we are limited in our ability to make exchanges out of Cottonwood Reservoir. There are some infrastructure changes that need to take place. The Steering Committee discussed different ideas but need a consulting engineer to help explore options. Bowen Collins will develop a feasibility study for us to determine what it will take to develop 2415 AF of water. We need to pump more water to meet exchanges. One option is to pump around the PSV vault. This feasibility study is to inventory where water goes presently and develop alternatives to enhance exchanges. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve Task Order 2021-1 in an amount not to exceed \$24,064.

WETx

WETx is contracting through Sunrise Engineers for Phase I (\$10,000) and Phase II (\$15,000). Dan Matthews talked about having transparency in water deliveries and what they have discovered in Phase I as far as inventory and assets, water rights, system assets and ability to move water around. We need to actively preserve our Green River water right. A part of that process has been to scan District documents and prepare a searchable data base. We need to show maximum efficiency and maximum conservation. If we don't use the Green

River water, it will be gone to the lower states. They want to provide us with the tools and software that we can use for a water bank as well as tools for irrigation users. WETx is a sole source of technology. There are ways they can help us monetize our assets. They want to create a system that works for us and will work for other companies. William Merkley said he will submit an application to the CIB for water development and a water market strategy. It would help build technology for marketing the water. Phase III (Technology) would cost \$75,000. Creating a water bank would cost \$350,000, which expense would be shared. Dean Baker said we need to shore up more water because Ashley Springs cannot continue to be our sole source of water. This project would help us look after and protect the customers and water users. William said we would eventually invite the canal companies to participate and benefit from the water banks.

**WaterSMART
Awards**

We were successful with two WaterSMART applications: (a) Steinkacker Service Canal Enclosure Project - Reaches I & II Automation, and (b) Ashley Upper and Highline Canals Metering Project. These were 50/50 grants with \$260,000 to automation and \$442,000 toward metering.

**Financial
Statements**

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to approve the March 2021 financial statements.

Invoices

Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Herb Snyder and passed unanimously to approve paying Bowen Collins \$50,949.96; George Weldon Construction \$12,640; High Voltage \$1,440; Jones & DeMille \$51,933.71; PdM \$8,940; Brett Prevedel \$358.01; Snow Christensen \$278; Sunrise Engineering \$21,142; Weeminuche \$14,600.76 for a total of \$162,282.44. Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Herb Snyder to check out the price of equipment to clean the drains ourselves.

**Fraud Risk
Assessment**

The State requires that we complete a Fraud Risk Assessment every year. One thing suggested strongly by the Auditor is that check signers also initial each invoice.

Manager Report

William reported that David Robertson has been watching interest rates for possible debt re-funding. He is preparing his findings for the May Board meeting. He also reported the Utah Water Users conference will be held in May.

Closed Session

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker with Ayes from Todd Thacker, Quentin Johnson, Greg Witbeck, Herb Snyder, Tyson Murray, and Dean Baker to go into (and out of when the time comes) closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Closed session was held from 12:55 to 1:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.