

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2022

Approved

<u>Conducting:</u>	Chairman Quentin R. Johnson called the February 8, 2022, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office.
<u>Present:</u>	<p><u>Trustees:</u> Quentin Johnson, Tyson Murray, Dean Baker, Todd Thacker, Greg Witbeck, Shane Frost and Mitch Phillips.</p> <p><u>Others:</u> William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; John Hunting, O&M Manager; Bart Jensen, Jones & DeMille; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering; Monty Pratt, Jensen Water; Scott Elliott, Bureau of Reclamation; Dan Larsen, Colorado River Authority.</p>
<u>Approval of Minutes</u>	Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Todd Thacker and passed unanimously to approve the January 11, 2022, Board Meeting minutes.
<u>New Board Member</u>	Mitch Phillips repeated the Oath of Office as the new Trustee for Uintah Water Conservancy District and was welcomed by all present.
<u>Operations Updates</u>	Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5477.58 with an active capacity of 8,471 acre-feet and an average inflow of 17 CFS. Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5571.4 with an active capacity of 10,955 acre-feet and an average inflow of 9 CFS. We are releasing 2.5 CFS for stockwater and pumping one CFS over to the sand mine. Brough Reservoir is at 5,107.35 elevation with an active capacity of 2,546 acre-feet. It is 400' from full. Pelican is almost full and we will have to top off Cottonwood.
<u>VU Efficiency Project Watershed Plan</u>	Bart Jensen reported they have had several meetings with RCPP and NRCS representatives. There was an issue with flood control. NRCS projects cannot induce any flooding. We need retention basins since the piped canals cannot contain flood water. They shifted money from that project into the piping project for the Upper and Highline Canals. Additional money has been requested through the PL-566 program for the Steinaker Service Canal. The Watershed Plan EA is submitted and being reviewed by the State.
<u>Steinaker Service Canal - RII&III</u>	We need to provide power to each vault and put sump pumps in them to keep them dry. We have a WaterSMART grant to help fund the automation project, or the purchase of electric actuators. The next step is to get a design together. Jones & DeMille recommended the contractor-assisted design process. Contractors bid on design-assist project which will identify change orders up front. We can then

bid out the contract for construction. The selection process is based on qualifications and price. Jones & DeMille asked for \$20,800 to complete Preconstruction Services and an estimated \$10,600 in hourly fees for Construction Services. Todd Thacker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to approve that contract not to exceed \$31,400.

Colorado River Authority

Dan Larsen reported on how they are finishing up the advisory councils. There will be several councils separated geographically. They should be presented next week at their meeting. The Colorado River Authority of Utah website has applications for the councils. There will be 15-21 on each committee and members will be on the committee only up to 2026. The Upper Basin States have to deliver 75 million acre-feet to the Lower Basin States over ten years. They have been delivering 88.5 million acre-feet over the ten years. The panel will be looking at delivering less. They have dropped Lake Powell and Lake Mead another 30 million acre-feet. There needs to be more accountability from the Lower Basin States. Flaming Gorge pulled 125,000 acre-feet out. They have adjusted flows out of Lake Powell. Part of the plan is to replace water they pull out of Flaming Gorge. Ron Winterton is introducing a bill to amend the Colorado River Authority to consult with the Tribe. The Tribe wants a seat for each tribe. The intention is to give the Ute Tribe a seat. Lake Powell is at 3,530. If it drops to 3,490, it will no longer be able to produce power. Councils will start filling in March and meet in April.

Red Fleet MOA Project

Burke Electric will be on site next week to do preliminary work. We will shut off the pumping plant February 28, then will drain lines and the regulating tank as well as clear anything settled on the bottom of the tank. Burke will do the upgrade of the pumping plant. Gateway of Utah is doing the recoating. Talon is pulling all remaining valves, taking them to Grand Junction to clean them up and make sure they are in proper order. The company who made the valves is no longer in existence. We need to be back up by April 1 so Central Utah can start their project. Everything that is scheduled to be delivered and completed is on schedule. We will be shutting off power on February 28 and be back up on March 29. John will be at Farm Field Day March 29. Sand mine is pulling heavy to prepare. They have pulled about eight million gallons to store during the shut-down. We need the contractor to re-coat portions of the transitions where pipe goes through cement. The Board expressed their desire to see the project when everything is completed.

Steinaker Dam Gate Repair

The kick-off meeting is this morning. Danny and Antonio from Weeminuche are meeting with Spencer Strand (who is in charge). They are pulling the gates out of the framework. We will have a local machinist (Keith Ferguson) manufacture stainless steel seats that have to be replaced. The Bureau of Reclamation will not do any material costs—just provide personnel. Weeminuche will contribute their time as well as the Bureau.

**Green River
Pumping Plant
Expenses**

The shareholders decided on Alternative III. Jake Parrish looked at the pump stations. He thought he could build them in for \$5,000-\$6,000 plus the cost of the pumps. We need four pump stations built. There were questions about the number of pumps requested. We would like to try to get the pump stations done for less than \$40,000. We need to find out for sure how many pumps are needed. This would make about 1,000 acre-feet to be sold above by the Moffat and bench customers. To do this we would not need the fourth pump yet. Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray to keep it as close to \$40,000 as we can but not to exceed \$50,000. The money would come out of the capital projects fund and hopefully sell water to pay it back.

**Financial
Statements**

Todd Thacker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the January 2022 financial statements.

Invoices

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve paying Bowen Collins \$4,441.75; Sunrise Engineering \$13,356 for a total of \$17,797.75.

FFA

The Uintah High School chapter of the FFA helped at the Uintah Basin Water Summit. Todd Thacker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to donate \$300 to the FFA.

**Hydrology
Update**

It still looks good but we need more snowfall. We had record low snowfall in January.

Manager Report

After reporting on the Water Summit, William went over several links available on the District Website.

There has been concern about the grass located behind the District Office and the amount of water used to irrigate it. One idea was to extend the board room and make a parking lot leaving a smaller area of grass. Members of the community still use the grass for recreation a lot during the spring, summer and fall months. Dan Larsen has been appointed the Uinta and Whiterocks River Commissioner.

Adjourn

Todd Thacker made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. after which cake was served in honor of Shane Frost's birthday.