

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2019

Approved

- Conducting:** Chairman Todd Thacker called the October 7, 2019, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed guests.
- Present:**
- Trustees:** Todd Thacker, Quentin Johnson, Greg Witbeck, 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; Scott Elliott, Bureau of Reclamation; Bart Jensen, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Clint Allen and Keith Despain, CRS Engineers; Jeff McCarty, Sunrise Engineering; Wayne Simper, Central Canal.
- Approval of Minutes** Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Herb Snyder and passed unanimously to approve the September 10, 2019, Board Meeting minutes.
- Steinaker - Safety of Dams** John Hunting reported that construction is finished and the contractor is just finishing up with rebuilding roads. One emergency slide gate bonnet is leaking hydraulic oil. District operators are slowly adjusting the seal to correct the problem.
- Vernal Unit Efficiency Project Watershed Plan** Bart Jensen reported they are getting feedback from the NRCS national center that is helping to streamline the process. They need to have a 30% design done. Other projects are waiting for this one to be completed. It looks like it will be Spring when the draft is completed. They should wrap it up in June.
- Eagle Project** Brad Ufford reported that he had finished repainting the Service Canal barrier. It took them about 55 hours of work on the wall. They ran out of paint and had to get more for a cost of about \$700 for paint, rollers and gloves. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to approve the project and authorize William Merkley to sign Brad's Eagle Scout award application.
- Uinta River Bifurcation** Eric Major is meeting with Ken Asay and UIIP to get the last signatures for the structure. There should be no problem getting the WaterSMART grant extended. They will put this project out to bid and leave it up to the contractor as to how much they can get done this winter.
- Ashley Upper/Highline Canals Pipe** William reported on two significant items: (1) Shon Massey is willing to allow use of his property for habitat replacement. The Project will pay for the removal of tamarisk and Russian olive and planting cottonwoods. (2) One Ute-ladies'-

Project

tresses was found on 27 miles of canal. We are not sure what they are going to allow us to do about that. We will only be using half of the property Shon has so maybe it could be used for future project habitat mitigation. We could also contact Ouray Park Irrigation for ground to use for mitigation. There will be a meeting at 2:00 today to select a CM/GC contractor to provide preconstruction services. There were two respondents to choose from. The contractor will review the engineer's design and give constructive criticism. Hopefully we can get the contractor on board with cost savings.

**Ashley Creek
Diversion
Structure**

The drawings will be presented next Monday. One ULT was found but not in a problem area. We agreed to pay engineering costs for this up to \$45,000.

Master Plan

Bowen Collins revised the Scope of Work and came up with a cost estimate. It will be done in early Spring. Herb Snyder made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to accept the proposal from Bowen Collins Associates.

**Website
Redesign**

William, John and Mary had a telephone conference with the designer to plan a mock-up for the website. When that is completed, it will be presented to the Board.

**Financial
Statements**

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

Invoices

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve paying Snow Christensen \$3,112.50.

**CUWCD
Representative**

The Uintah County Commissioners will send a list of three names to the Governor's office to consider for each vacancy on the Board of Trustees of the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to recommend William Merkley for the representative position.

**UASD
Representative**

The UASD Annual Convention is the same time as the NWRA convention, so Quentin Johnson made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to appoint John Hunting to represent the District at the convention.

Manager Report

William will attend the American Water Works Association annual convention in Sun Valley, Idaho this week.

Regarding the WaterSMART application for the Service Canal Enclosure, Jones & DeMille had two different phases we applied for and two different fundings. They cut Reach III into three different sections. They are trying to maximize the funding awards. The way we submitted was based on recommendations by the

Bureau of Reclamation.

The contractor price for the gate repair on Steinaker Dam was \$877,000. We are waiting to see what the Bureau will charge for oversight.

The terms for Tyson Murray, Dean Baker and Greg Witbeck expire January 1, 2020. They need to send a letter to the Uintah County Commission expressing their desire to continue.

Adjourn

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.