

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2022

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Quentin Johnson called the November 15, 2022, Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the District Office and welcomed guests.

Present: Trustees: Quentin Johnson, Tyson Murray, Dean Baker, Shane Frost, Greg Witbeck and Mitch Phillips. Todd Thacker was excused.
Others: William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Bart Jensen, Jones & DeMille; Jordan Oyler, Bowen Collins & Associates; and Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering.

Approval of Minutes Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the October 11, 2022, Board Meeting minutes.

Operations Updates Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5480.62 with an active capacity of 9,808 acre feet and an inflow of 32 CFS. Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5562.14 with an active capacity of 8,379 acre-feet and inflow of 12 CFS with 3 going out. Brough is at elevation 5098.05 with an active capacity of 1,392 acre feet with 7 CFS coming in. We have pumped about 6,000 acre feet from Green River. Cottonwood is at elevation 5241 with an active capacity of 1,943 with 58 CFS going out and 103 coming in.

Service Canal Enclosure Project Jordan Oyler reported that all of the pipe has been delivered. The second Talon machine is here. About 3800 linear feet of pipe is fused and the project is getting close to 500 West where the road has been closed to all traffic for a couple of weeks. The projected substantial completion date is now April 10 instead of April 17. They were shut down for one day when a snow storm came through. There are some trees within the right-of-way boundary that an owner would like us to take down. She has requested that they be taken down as part of the project. The cost would be \$1,500-\$2,000 a tree. Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to have the trees removed.

Red Fleet MOA Project We are still having lingering issues with the switch gears. The drives continue to randomly trip. Everything is still under warranty and they have been out five times to work on this but have not found the source of the problem yet. We still have erosion around the spillway that needs to be addressed. The Bureau of Reclamation is ordering check valves but it will be a late summer 2023 project. The regulating gates are leaking.

**VU Efficiency
Project
Watershed Plan**

Bart Jensen reported that any projects that were already started were declared ineligible for the NRCS funding. The Steinaker Service Canal Enclosure Project does not have a high enough benefit/cost ratio to be considered eligible. They are looking to see what documents they need to close out the Environmental Assessment. If the other canal companies had delayed their projects in anticipation of this funding, the cost increases would have been significant.

**Uinta River
Bifurcation**

Bart Jensen reported we have still not seen the funding documents come through. The BIA is ready to go as soon as the optimization grant comes through.

**Financial
Statements**

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the October 2022 financial statements.

Invoices

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve paying BHI \$755,355.85; Bowen Collins \$19,753.02; Jones & DeMille Engineers \$2,816.75 for a total of \$777,925.62.

**2023 Tentative
Budget**

William reported that payments that were budgeted for this year on the Steinaker Service Canal will not become due until next year since the project is not complete, so he would like to put the \$527,000 payment in the Capital Projects account and build the budget around the “worst case” scenario. Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to approve posting the Amended 2022 Budget and the Proposed 2023 Budget.

**Golden Shovel
Award**

Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Mitch Phillips and passed unanimously to nominate Shane Frost for the Golden Shovel Award that will be presented in the annual Uinta Basin Water Conference January 12.

**2023 Schedule of
Public Meetings**

This will be approved in the December meeting if no problems with the presented schedule are found between now and then.

**Hydrology
Update**

The soil moisture is looking good right now.

Manager Report

William reported that he and Tyson met with the USBOR Commissioner as well as her deputy and Wayne Pullan. They reported to her that the fees associated with Flaming Gorge have created a hardship for developing our Green River water.

There was discussion on concerns associated with Utah H.B. 168 that will go into effect May 2023. The Board told William to meet with Clyde from Duchesne Water and see what we can do about this.

Registration needs to be completed for anyone wishing to attend the Colorado River Water Users in December.

Adjourn

Shane Frost made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.