

# Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2023

Approved

**Conducting:** Vice-Chairman Tyson Murray called the May 9, 2023, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office and welcomed guests.

**Present:**

**Trustees:** Tyson Murray , Dean Baker, Shane Frost, Todd Thacker, Greg Witbeck and Mitch Phillips. Quentin Johnson was excused.

**Others:** William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; Jordan Oyler, Bowen Collins & Associates; Wyatt Carter, Bureau of Reclamation; Bart Jensen, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering; Wayne Simper, Ashley Central Irrigation Company.

**Approval of Minutes** Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the April 11, 2023, Annual Meeting minutes.

**Operations Updates** Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5504.82 with an active capacity of 23,261 acre-feet and 260.47 CFS coming in.. Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5579.50 with a total capacity of 13,692 acre-feet with 185 CFS coming in and releasing about 90. West Side reservoirs are full. Uintah County has been running trucks with large rock from Simplot and has been running a dozer in Ashley Creek..

**Service Canal Enclosure Project** They are getting ready to pressure-test the pipe. The piping is done for the turnouts. There are still some concrete to be poured for the turnout vaults. Six of ten concrete saddle blocks are poured. Most of the upstream work is completed. They should be on schedule to deliver water if the pressure-test goes well. ISCO and AGRU did not have issues with paying for the concrete blocks. The District will pay for the blocks but reduce the retainage. Change orders that have assisted with the progress of the project over time need to go before the Board for final approval. Flange adapters underneath Hwy 40 are already in the ground. They are going to put fences back in the original positions. Trench stabilization has added to the cost. We need to allow for a shed that was built on the right-of-way. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Mitch Phillips and passed unanimously to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$21,118 and Change Order #2 in the amount of \$214,067. Along with the change orders, Bowen Collins has provided additional services including keeping Jordan Oyler available for the length of the project and exceeding the hours agreed upon in the contract. The weather played a factor in extending the needed service. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to increase the contract in the amount of \$89,518.

**Uinta River  
Bifurcation**

Bart Jensen reported they are working on getting radial gates ordered. There is a local company that will bid on it. The design should be finished this week and out for final review next week and then it can be put out for bid. They would prefer radial gates rather than slide gates. The West structure easement needs to be written with a legal description. They are working on having the final design completed by the end of June. They will see what happens with Ute Lady Tresses after the flooding is over.

**Bridge  
Inspections**

During Bureau of Reclamation inspections, a Critical Finding was identified. There is severe undermining or scouring that has removed material from under the right spread footing abutment of the lower bridge on the Steinaker Feeder Canal. This bridge is only used by two landowners besides the District. It will be required that this bridge be closed until repaired. As well as being important to landowners, it is vital to the District to maintain and operate the drop structures. The landowners can get to their property from another way. Another bridge has a split girder. No repairs can be made until after high water is over. The lower bridge will be barricaded until repairs can be made. The Board recommended that District employees do as much of the repairs that need to be done. An engineer will need to design the structure.

**Financial  
Proposal**

David Robertson from Lewis Young Robertson & Burningham has proposed to build a tool for the District to show where we are financially today and what we need to do in the future to meet our goals. They are building this from our District Master Plan. Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed by everyone except Shane Frost to approve the completion of this analysis with funding not to exceed \$25,000.

**Financial  
Statements**

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Mitch Phillips and passed unanimously to approve the April 2023 financial statements.

**Invoices**

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve paying BHI \$1,077,253.05; Bowen Collins \$18,803.50; J-U-B \$3,500; Jones & DeMille \$42,453.07 for a total of \$1,142,009.62.

**USU Snotel  
Enhancements**

USU is wanting to partner with the District on a proposal to improve Snotel sites with new sensor innovations so the information coming from those sites will be more meaningful. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Todd Thacker and passed unanimously to send a letter of support for this project.

**Hydrology  
Report**

As requested by the Board in the last meeting, William check into leasing a dozer. Due to the problem with insuring the machine and getting operators, we have obtained a verbal confirmation that BHI will stage the machine as well as providing operators for \$20,000. The machine will be available on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May for thirty days. There will be an hourly charge for operators. The District will front the cost and then bill the canal companies who have agreed to help.

**Manager Report**

The Board suggested that we sponsor Jimmy Slauch for the Golden Shovel award at the 2024 Uinta Basin Water Summit

**Adjourn**

Shane Frost made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.