

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2023

Approved

- Conducting:** Vice-Chairman Tyson Murray called the March 14, 2023, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office and welcomed everyone.
- Present:**
- Trustees:** Tyson Murray, Dean Baker, Shane Frost, Todd Thacker, and Mitch Phillips. Greg Witbeck attended electronically. Quentin Johnson was excused.
- Others:** William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; Jordan Oyler, Bowen Collins & Associates; Bart Jensen, Jones & DeMille; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering; Brittany White, Bureau of Reclamation; Wayne Simper, Ashley Central Canal Company.
- Approval of Minutes** Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Mitch Phillips and passed unanimously to approve the February 14, 2023, Board Meeting minutes.
- Operations Updates** Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5493.2 with an active capacity of 16,146 acre-feet. Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5569.78 with a total capacity of 10,541 acre-feet. Brough is at elevation 5,110.53 with an active capacity of 3,027 acre-feet. Cottonwood is at elevation 5257.38 with an active capacity of 4,482 acre-feet.
- Service Canal Enclosure Project** Jordan Oyler reported all the pipe was fused and most was installed. The section under US Hwy 40 needs to be backfilled. The concrete contractor has been mobilized and the structure on US Hwy 40 will be poured today. They are raising the canal embankments and bridges. The mud has been a challenge. The turn-out piping needs to be done. There are three big concrete structures. BHI has done a great job on the project even with all the snow and cold. They have made a good effort to try to meet deadlines.
- Uintah County Efficiency Project** Bart Jensen met with the economist and the NRCS last week. The economist said every option had been looked at. They could not come up with a way to increase the benefit cost ratio. They have prepared a close-out memo.
- Uinta River Bifurcation** All parties have now signed the MOU with the landowners for the right-of-way so now we have access to the property as well as a right-of-way for construction of the second structure. The landowners want the four corners surveyed. The ROW was in place for them to access their property so we will use that ROW and improve it. Jones and Demille is getting the structures designed. They met with the environmental people of the Bureau of Reclamation. Since they are

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funding, they need to go through the EA process for the existing structure. They will issue a categorical exclusion and will issue a separate notice to proceed. There are some channel improvements to be done. Those locations are on tribal property. Portions of those have not been surveyed for Ute Lady Tresses. We will need to get cultural clearance; but that can't be done until the snow is gone. The survey will not happen until the snow is gone. The existing structure should be replaced this summer. We are trying to get it out for bid within the next month or by the first of June, then start construction in August. The second structure needs more permitting.

**Ashley Central
Canal
Rehabilitation
Project**

Wayne Simper talked about the 3.7 intake where Ashley Central Canal receives water from the Steinaker Service Canal. The Central pipe needs to be kept full. They looked at lining the canal at that point but it would not be much less expensive than piping the whole thing. They would tie directly into the canal pipe then that section would be done when that section of the Service Canal is piped. They kept the estimate at \$210,000, 25% of that could come from match funding. The final design has to be in by April 1. They will need a Bureau of Reclamation encroachment agreement. The District has already earmarked \$400,000 to participate in this project. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to have them move forward with this and when the final numbers are reached, the District will decide how much to contribute.

**Financial
Statements**

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

Invoices

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve paying BHI \$1,684,417.74; Bowen Collins \$16,483.75; J-U-B \$14,000; Jones & DeMille \$3,590 for a total of 1,718,491.49.

**Hydrology
Report**

All the Colorado River drainage looks good. Duchesne is at 163% and Northeastern Utah is at 150%. Many sites are approaching record numbers.

Manager Report

Uintah County has reached out to put together a flood mitigation group. The District has purchased 500 sandbags and we will get a load of sand to have on hand if needed.

Dean Baker, Greg Witbeck, William Merkley and John Hunting are planning to attend the Utah Water Users Workshop in St. George.

Adjourn

Shane Frost made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Todd Thacker and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.