

# Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2023

Approved

**Conducting:** Chairman Quentin Johnson called the February 14, 2023, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office and welcomed everyone.

**Present:** **Trustees:** Quentin Johnson, Tyson Murray, Dean Baker, Shane Frost, Todd Thacker, Greg Witbeck and Mitch Phillips.  
**Others:** William Merkley, UWCD General Manager, attended remotely; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Dan Larsen, Colorado River Authority of Utah; Jordan Oyler, Bowen Collins & Associates; Craig Nebeker, CRS Engineers; Bart Jensen, Jones & DeMille; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering; Steve Hanberg, Green River Pumping Expansion.

**Approval of Minutes** Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Todd Thacker and passed unanimously to approve the January 10, 2023, Board Meeting minutes.

**System Conservation Pilot Program** Dan Larsen reported the seven Basin States had until the end of January to come up with a plan. Everyone except California agreed on a plan—California came up with it's own plan. They are planning to fix Lake Powell to 3500, Lake Mead at 1000. Lower Basin states have not taken evaporation or seepage loss ever which amounts to 1.5 million acre-feet. The biggest change for our area would be the draw out of Flaming Gorge. That would curtail immediately as of March 1. All water released out of Flaming Gorge would be restored. It is in Federal hands which is not where we want it. The SCPP program has been extended to March 1 for sign-up. We will see what the Feds are willing to do with their Supplemental EIS.

**Operations Updates** Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5490.76 with an active capacity of 14,812 active acre-feet and 25 CFS coming in. Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5568.14 with an active capacity of 10,054 acre-feet with 10 feet coming in. Brough is at elevation 5,108.73 with an active capacity of 2,749 acre feet with 5 CFS coming in and 12 going down to fill the Poor Pond and Pelican. Cottonwood is at elevation 5260.4 with an active capacity of 5,084 acre feet.

**Service Canal Enclosure Project** Jordan Oyler reported they had a good month considering the snow and cold. One Talon has been down for a month but they replaced a part. They are installing 150-175 linear feet of pipe per day. About 80% of the pipe is installed. The pipe is across 1500 South. They are starting to get ready to put in a short section under Hwy 40. They are fusing saddles in mainline pipe for vents and access. They have started raising farm bridges and turnouts upstream.

There is a structure on each side of US 40 to keep water off the bottom of that bridge. There has been quite a bit of trench stabilization. They used pieces of concrete instead of expensive rip-rap rock.

**Uintah County**  
**Efficiency**  
**Project**

Bart Jensen submitted a waiver memo of economic benefit/cost ratio for the Watershed Plan EA to NRCS Utah. We do not meet 1.0 or greater unless they consider how the Service Canal benefits the entire Ashley Valley. The funding program is meant to bring partners together.

**Uinta River**  
**Bifurcation**

Bart Jensen reported that Eric Major has been meeting with the shareholders. Title searches need to be done for the right-of-way. We have preliminary design lay-outs for both structures sent to Fish and Wildlife. They have started on the Ute Lady Tresses coordination. They will meet with the river commissioner and the steering committee. The design is moving forward and we are looking forward to getting bids out in late Spring or Summer and start construction early fall to be completed before winter.

**Green River**  
**Expansion**  
**Project**

Steve Hanberg stated that he leases and operates the Parrish Farm that is currently operated out of Cottonwood and the District has proposed to change and pump water up from the Green River. That would change the point of diversion. They need agreements so that everybody understands how this moves forward. He is asking the District to assume risk with this project. Water that is going to have to be brought up from Green River would not have any pressure. The District would install a pump that would create the pressure needed. The point is to develop additional water. After much discussion, Tyson Murray made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to have William contact the District Attorney before any action is taken on this project.

**Financial**  
**Statements**

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the January 2023 financial statements.

**Invoices**

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve paying BHI \$1,731,497.74; Bowen Collins \$11,252.27 for a total of 1,742,275.001.

**Strata Network**

Strata Networks was invited to prepare a quote to update our phone system. They would replace the outdated phone system and provide business services and training. That would add IT staff and services to our company without adding an employee. We would enter into a type of service contract. The phone system would be through the internet. They would still have to maintain two lines coming in for the FAX machine and for the computer. Our system is so old that it cannot be serviced properly. Monthly service costs would go down. Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Mitch Phillips and passed unanimously to accept the proposal by Strata Networks but to also look into adding the cell phone service to the bundle.

**Farm Field Day**

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to send John Hunting as a presenter to Farm Field Day and also donate \$200.

**2024 Basin  
Water Summit**

Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to set January 11, 2024 for the Uinta Basin Water Summit.

**Hydrology  
Report**

King's Cabin is at 209%, Mosby Mtn 183%, Trout Creek 183%, Chepeta 132%. There is a lot of water set to come down. The Green River drainage is at 111%, Lower Green 102%, White River 139%. Runoff reports are all over 100% of average. Ground moistures are all up so runoff looks good. Steinaker is limited to one foot per day raise in elevation so it will take 20 days of runoff.

**Manager Report**

We have been invited to host one session in March water workshop. It will be the first day right after lunch. William and Jordan will prepare for that session. Those attending the workshop are Dean, Greg, William and John. William and Dean will attend the Water Law Conference.

**Adjourn**

Shane Frost made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Mitch Phillips and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.