

# Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2023

Approved

**Conducting:** Chairman Quentin Johnson called the January 10, 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; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Dan Larsen, Colorado River Authority of Utah; Rexford Carpenter, SEI; Bill Lehman, Bureau of Reclamation; Bart Jensen, Jones & DeMille; Wayne Simper, Central Canal.

**Approval of Minutes** Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the December 12, 2022, Board Meeting minutes.

**System Conservation Pilot Program** Dan Larsen reported there are three plans to deal with water shortages: (1) Measurement of hydrology—states are not accounting for all their water, they need to get measurements out to prove what everyone is using; (2) Commissioner Touton said that between two and four million acre-feet of additional conservation is needed to protect critical elevations in Lakes Mead and Powell in 2023.. We have until the end of this month to get a plan together in the 7 Basin States. The Upper Basin states came up with a 5-step plan to make sure water gets down the river that is not being used. The Lower Basin states have not accounted for system losses, such as evaporation from Lake Mead, which would amount to 1.2-1.5 million acre-feet. They are going to be forced to take that loss. Flaming Gorge pull of 500,000 acre-feet will finish in April. There were 625,000 acre-feet pulled in the last two years. There is \$125 million to spend toward water conservation programs for farmers. They would be compensated \$150 per acre-foot and would need to draw up their own plan and send it in. The proposal must be in by February 1. The water has to be beneficially used to qualify for the program. The Upper states have delivered over and above what is required by the 1922 Compact.

**Operations Updates** Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5487.44 with an active capacity of 13,078 acre feet. Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5566.10 with an active capacity of 9,465 acre-feet. Brough is at elevation 5,105.62 with an active capacity of 2,305 acre feet with 5 feet coming in from Cottonwood. Cottonwood is at elevation 5247.12 with an active capacity of 2,769 acre feet. Pelican is about 6 inches down from full with 30 feet coming in.

**Service Canal  
Enclosure  
Project**

Bill Lehman reported on the progress made in December. There is 7,600 linear feet of pipe installed with 600 feet of pipe fused ahead of that. They completed two undershots and are now across 2500 South. They are about 78% complete of Reach II and about 70% of the total budget. They anticipate Nash Draw being a wet area. Value Engineering of the contractor has saved budget in trenching stabilization. 1500 West will be pot-holed this week. The snow slows them down but they are still averaging 1000-1100 linear feet per week. They were off for the holidays so that also slowed things down a little. They have only had to bring in a little trench fill material. FY 2022 ARPA Water Optimization Grant was awarded: (1) Additional \$500,000 for the Steinaker Service Canal and (2) \$200,000 for the Automation Project. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to accept the grant for the Service Canal project.

**Ashley Central  
Encroachment  
Request**

The Ashley Central Irrigation Company has asked us to see if the Bureau of Reclamation will allow them to encroach upon the Service Canal easement with their new pipeline. They are trying to move their pipeline from Righteous Lane to inside our easement. Todd Thacker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to work with the Central on this encroachment as long as the District is protected. Central must be responsible for any damage to their pipe and we will get dirt from the airport.

**Uintah County  
Efficiency  
Project**

Bart Jensen gave a summary of the Watershed Plan. They are looking at finalizing the plan. We have requested a waiver from the NRCS.

**Uinta River  
Bifurcation**

Additional services need to be provided by Jones & DeMille to complete the changes required by modification of the design of the structures and additional mapping of easements. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to approve the amended contract in the amount of \$260,000. They still need to finalize contracts with the owners of the property affected by the right-of-way. They should be able to go to construction on the lower structure this year.

**Financial  
Statements**

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the December 2022 financial statements.

**Invoices**

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Mitch Phillips and passed unanimously to approve paying Basin Irrigation \$2,742.57; BHI \$1,315,201.98; Bowen Collins \$22,838.52; PdM \$1,260 for a total of \$1,342,043.07.

**Fraud Risk  
Assessment**

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Mitch Phillips and passed unanimously to approve the Fraud Risk Assessment and authorize Quentin Johnson and William Merkley to sign it.

**BOR Water Mgt  
Workshop**

Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to approve sending William Merkley, Dustin Nebeker and Heath Penrod to a Bureau of Reclamation Water Management Workshop in Denver and to pay for their travel expenses.

**Hydrology  
Report**

William Merkley showed the Snotel reports on the District website as well as the drought report.

**Manager Report**

William reported on the ice and water damage that happened to the shop this winter. Insurance will cover anything that will return the shop to pre-damage condition. Different roofing material with a greater slope was recommended.

The Canal Companies are going to re-build the Thornburg Diversion Extension to go along with the piping of the Central Canal. We are looking at options for automating delivery gates during irrigation season. Engineers did a survey and are looking at design. The Bureau of Reclamation will donate their labor but we will have to pay for construction costs.

Everyone is signed up for the Uinta Basin Water Summit January 12 in Roosevelt.

We will have Open and Public Meeting Training for the Board after the regular board meeting in February.

**Adjourn**

Shane Frost made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Todd Thacker and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.