

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2023

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Quentin Johnson called the June 13, 2023, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office and welcomed guests.

Present:

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

Others: William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Jordan Oyler, Bowen Collins & Associates; Brittany White, Bureau of Reclamation; Bart Jensen and Jordan Kennington, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering; Dan Larsen, Colorado River Authority; Wayne Simper, Ashley Central Irrigation Company; Shaun Labrum, Water User.

Approval of Minutes Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Mitch Phillips and passed unanimously to approve the May 9, 2023, Board Meeting minutes.

Colorado River Authority Dan Larsen reported that Lake Powell has raised about 30 feet. Lake Mead has raised a little bit. They will pull water out of Lake Powell to equalize the two lakes. A letter was sent to the Bureau of Reclamation from seven states regarding system loss. The Bureau came up with a draft SEIS but did not want any mention of system loss. The Upper Basin States are not supporting the draft SEIS but have not contested the plan. The final SEIS should be out in December. They will not be taking water out of Flaming Gorge this year. The water that has been taken out of Flaming Gorge will need to be recovered.

Operations Updates Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5520.35 with 113.46 CFS coming in and 92.91 going out. Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5606.14 with 197 CFS coming in and releasing 89. West Side reservoirs are full. Razorback sucker larva were discovered which triggered additional releases from Flaming Gorge.

Service Canal Enclosure Project Jordan Oyler reported that water deliveries began on June 2nd. The Contractor is finishing the vaults. They are doing a lot of grading so they can get the fences back in. They may need to put up temporary fencing in some spots for livestock. There is still a lot of concrete work to be done. The canal has been doing its job but the easement needs to be put back together. There are quite a few issues with getting it up and running. Shaun Labrum stated that the water is not coming out of the pipeline and there is not enough pressure at his turn out (5.8). He has not been able to run his system as he wishes. Jordan addressed his issues.

Uinta River Eric Major and Jordan Kennington reported that a partial Notice to Proceed has

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Bifurcation

been issued for the original structure allowing us to move ahead with what is ready. The ROW easement is ready to sign and record. We are not starting the west structure until the Ute Lady Tresses issue is resolved. Coyote Tanks was low bid on the radial gates. The design of the gate will be done by Jones & DeMille instead of Coyote. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Todd Thacker and passed unanimously to award the bid to Coyote Tanks and send them down-payment in the amount of \$107,750.

The results of the bid opening were about \$250,000 above what we anticipated. We are going to work with the contractor design changes that may reduce costs. Tyson Murray made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Shane Frost and passed unanimously to award the bid to Maverick Contractors in the amount of \$1,015,100.00

Certified Tax Rate

After discussion, Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to accept the Certified Tax Rate of .000431.

Financial Statements

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the May 2023 financial statements.

Invoices

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve paying BHI \$1,207,934.92; Bowen Collins \$19,170.69; Coyote Tanks \$107,750; Jones & DeMille \$56,961.13 for a total of \$1,391,816.74.

Hydrology Report

Due to gradual run-off, the dozer was in the creek for only two days at the upper canal diversion.

Manager Report

Bureau of Reclamation will do dam inspections next week. There will be a tour of Flaming Gorge Dam on Thursday for the Colorado River Authority's central advisory council.

Brett Woods said there is problem on the 1400 West siphon. We need to take a look at now to be prepared for next year.

We need to work with the contractor working at Red Fleet to get some water to support the State Park Renovations.

Closed Session

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed by Quentin Johnson, Tyson Murray, Dean Baker, Todd Thacker, Shane Frost, Mitch Phillips and Greg Witbeck to go into and out of Closed Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Adjourn

Shane Frost made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.