

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2023

Approved

Conducting: Vice-chairman Tyson Murray called the December 11, 2023, Board Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the District Office and welcomed guests.

Present:

Trustees: Tyson Murray, Dean Baker, and Mitch Phillips. Quentin Johnson, Shane Frost, Greg Witbeck, and Todd Thacker joined the meeting via telephone.

Others: William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Marie Cook, UWCD Clerk; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Jordan Oyler, Bowen Collins & Associates; Jeff DeMarco, Bureau of Reclamation; Bart Jensen, Jordan Kennington, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Mike Cottle, Trent Fryhling, BHI; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering; Tony George, Leon Kidd, Rock Point Canal; Brittany White, Bureau of Reclamation via Microsoft Teams.

Approval of Minutes: Mitch Phillips' MOTION to approve the November 14, 2023, Board Meeting minutes was SECONDED by Dean Baker and unanimously approved.

SCPP: Shane Frost expressed concern that participation in the System Conservation Pilot Program (SCPP) could potentially harm District-held water rights. After discussion, Shane made a MOTION that the District withhold support from, but not actively protest, SCPP applications seeking to use District-held water rights. The motion was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously.

Operations Update: Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5505.93 with current inflows of 32 CFS. By comparison, in 2022, Steinaker Reservoir was at elevation 5483.93. Red Fleet Reservoir is at elevation 5597.42 with current inflows of 15 CFS. In 2022, Red Fleet Reservoir was at elevation 5563.94. Cottonwood Reservoir is currently 72% full at elevation 5257.50. Brough Reservoir is currently 74% full at elevation 5104.67. Pelican Lake is approximately 18 inches from full.

Rock Point Canal: Directors from the Rock Point Canal and Irrigation Company had previously requested and received a pledge from the District of funds, up to \$15,000, for engineering services required to install a pressure reducing

station on their main pipeline. Because the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has assisted with the design of individual lateral valves, the directors requested that the funds be re-pledged for construction or materials. After confirming with Sunrise Engineering that no expenses had been incurred, Quentin Johnson made a MOTION which was SECONDED by Shane Frost to approve the request. It passed unanimously.

**Steinaker Service
Canal Project:**

Jordan Oyler reported on progress as well as efforts to determine the cause of the pipeline failure. The Board expressed frustration that all project items, excepting those associated with the final repair, were not completed prior to the November 15th contract expiration date. BHI acknowledged that because the pipeline was capable of delivering water, less attention than necessary was given to completing the project over the summer. The Board conveyed their disappointment to BHI that they had not been approached to approve a contract extension. Concern was also raised about continuing to make project payments without solid completion deadlines. After discussion, Shane Frost made a MOTION that no project payments be approved, whether to the contractor, engineer, or pipe supplier, until a special board meeting is convened to review an updated schedule to be provided by BHI. The date of the special board meeting was suggested as Monday, December 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. The motion was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed by a margin of 6-1 with Mitch Phillips as the dissenting vote. District staff were also directed to approve a contract with Bryan Hauger Consulting with costs to be retained from future contractor payments. Bryan Hauger is being hired to provide 3rd-party consulting on the cause of the pipeline failure. At this time, Shane Frost requested to be excused from the remainder of the meeting.

**Budget Hearing
2023 Revised:**

At 6:00 p.m., Dean Baker made a MOTION to temporarily suspend the regular board meeting and enter into a hearing for consideration of the 2023 Revised Budget. The motion was SECONDED by Mitch Phillips and approved unanimously. William reported that interest income had been greatly underestimated. He also reported that the District had done well operating within the approved budget. Dean Baker made a MOTION, SECONDED by Mitch Phillips, and approved unanimously, to accept the 2023 Revised Budget of \$17,291,426.

**Budget Hearing
2024 Proposed:**

Dean Baker made a MOTION, SECONDED by Greg Witbeck, and passed unanimously, to close the previous hearing and open a new hearing for consideration of the 2024 Proposed Budget. After review, Dean Baker's MOTION to approve the 2024 Proposed Budget in the amount of \$9,353,414 was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and approved unanimously. Dean Baker then made a MOTION to close the hearing and

re-enter the regular board meeting. The motion was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously.

**Uinta River
Bifurcation
Structure:**

Jordan Kennington reported that the radial gates are being installed. Gate actuators are delayed until April. He confirmed that temporary methods could be used to raise and lower the gates, if necessary, until the actuators are installed. The final walk-through is scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2023.

**Financial
Statements:**

Mitch Phillip's MOTION was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the November financial statements.

**Legal, Engineering,
and Construction
Invoices:**

Quentin Johnson made a MOTION to approve payments to Jones & DeMille (\$17,535.32), Maverick Contractors (\$206,334.30), and Snow Christensen and Martineau (\$2,433.50) in the total amount of \$226,303.12. The motion was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and unanimously approved.

**Employee
Christmas Bonus:**

Dean Baker made a MOTION to approve Christmas bonuses for the District's employees in the take-home amount of \$500 each. The motion was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and unanimously approved.

Adjourn:

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Todd Thacker, SECONDED by Dean Baker, and unanimously approved.