

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2023

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Quentin Johnson called the October 10, 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, and Greg Witbeck. Mitch Phillips was excused.

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, Wyatt Carter, Bureau of Reclamation; Brooks Jones, Jordan Kennington, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Mike Cottle, Trent Fryling, BHI; Wayne Simper, Ashley Central Irrigation Company; Joe Magee, Water User.

Approval of Minutes: Dean Baker's MOTION to approve September 12, 2023, board meeting minutes was SECONDED by Shane Frost and unanimously approved.

Public Input: Dan Larsen of the Colorado River Authority of Utah provided an update on issues related to the Colorado River and Lake Powell.

Operations Updates: Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5,504.49 with 36 CFS coming in and 63 going out. Compared to 2022, Steinaker Reservoir was at elevation 5,476.07. Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5,594.54 with 15 CFS coming in and releasing 26. In 2022, elevation of Red Fleet was 5,559.90. Cottonwood is at 5260.01. Brough elevation is 5,098.41.

Green River Pumping Plant: The Board discussed tentative estimates for plans to change the direction of the river concerning the sand bars and erosion patterns with regards to land owners and our pump station. A MOTION by Shane Frost to spend up to \$30,000 was SECONDED by Greg Wibeck and passed unanimously to approve.

Steinaker Service Canal: Jordan Oyler reported crews are making progress on electrical, fencing and grading. They plan to have fencing completed by the end of November.

Fence Placement on Magee Farm: The board discussed with Joe Magee concerning fence replacement and dirt to put the fence on a level similar to before the project. A MOTION by Shane Frost to table discussion until November to gather input from the Bureau of Reclamation on the fence, and the length and depth of dirt required, was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to approve.

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**Farm Crossing
on Strebel
Property:**

After discussion concerning Cody & Cassidy Strebel's lack of access across the Reach I pipeline, the Board requested estimates and will re-evaluate for November Board Meeting

**Review of
Project
Expenditures
and Budget:**

William Merkley reported on budget reports and expenditures for the Steinaker Service Canal Enclosure Project. After discussion, a MOTION was made by Shane Frost for William to write to ISCO requesting more information and clarification in regards to letter we received. In this letter the Board request we want repairs to the pipeline to take place by the spring, but testing should wait until Fall 2024. This motion was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously.

**Steinaker Feeder
Canal Bridge
Repair:**

After discussion concerning options for canal bridge repair, the Board tabled the issue until November giving an opportunity to gather estimates.

**Uintah River
Bifurcation
Structure:**

Jordan Kennington reported crews are making good progress. The old structure is now torn down and gone. Footings are being poured and excavation is going well. Radial gates have been ordered.

**Financial
Statements:**

A MOTION by Shane Frost was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the September statements.

**Legal,
Engineering and
Construction:**

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Todd Thacker to approve Bowen Collins & Associates \$7,261.50 and BHI \$344,026.04 for a total of \$351,287.54.

**Participation in
2023-2024 Cloud
Seeding:**

After discussion, Shane Frost made a MOTION and was SECONDED by Todd Thacker that, for political purposes only, the District contribute a not-to-exceed amount of \$12,000 into funding cloud seeding. The motion was unanimously approved.

**The CUP and
Water
Exportation:**

After discussion on the book "Water Agriculture and Urban Growth: A History of the Central Utah Project" by Craig W. Fuller, Robert E Parson and F. Ross Peterson, the Board agreed to table discussion until November giving everyone a chance to read the book.

Closed Session:

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed by Quentin Johnson, Tyson Murray, Todd Thacker, and Greg Witbeck to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation.

Adjourn:

A MOTION was made by Todd Thacker and SECONDED by Dean Baker to adjourn at 12:06