

# Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees  
Board Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2023

Approved

**Conducting:** Chairman Quentin Johnson called the November 14, 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, Todd Thacker, and Greg Witbeck, Mitch Phillips. Shane Frost was excused.

**Others:** William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Marie Cook, UWCD Clerk; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Chris Brough, UWCD; Jordan Kennington, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Wyatt Olsen, Mike Cottle, BHI; Craig Neberker, CRS Engineering; Jeff McCarty, Sunrise Engineering; Kohl Warby, Public guest.

**Online:** Brittany White, USBR.

**Approval of Minutes:** Todd Thacker's MOTION to approve October 10, 2023, board meeting minutes was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and unanimously approved.

**Operations Updates:** Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5,503.18 with 41 CFS coming in. Compared to 2022, Steinaker Reservoir was at elevation 5,480.48. Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5,595.90 with 14 CFS coming in. In 2022, elevation of Red Fleet was 5,562.06. Cottonwood is at 5,258.92. Brough elevation is 5,102.94. Pelican is at 2.75 Feet of full.

**Green River Pumping Plant:** William Merkley report the completion of the channel clearing for the Green River Pumping Plant. Consideration was given to erosion patterns and landowner near the pumping plant. Approximately two thousand feet of channel was dredged.

**Two Bar X Ranch LLC Green River Water Request**

After discussion, Tyson Murray made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker to approve Jim and Shirley Slaugh's (Two Bar X Ranch, LLC) Green River water request in the amount of 340 Acre-feet contingent upon proof of successful land leases. The first-year water lease cost will include a one-time application fee of \$4,250 and annual lease fee of \$1,700.00. It was unanimously approved.

**Steinaker Service Canal:**

William reported most large items as complete with the exclusion of the repair section and associated structures. The access road and fencing are still ongoing. The Board raised some concerns regarding BHI's progress. Concerns were raised as to why dates for testing and repairs have been pushed back until 2024. BHI explained that in order to provide the best product possible, additional testing into the nature of the pipe failure must be completed before moving forward

**Fence Placement on Magee Farm:**

After discussing concerning Fence placement on the Magee Farm. A MOTION by Mitch Phillips and seconded by Greg Witbeck to install the fence in the original location and passed unanimously to approve.

**Farm Crossing on Strebel Property:**

After discussion concerning Cody & Cassidy Strebel's lack of access across the Reach I pipeline, Dean Baker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray for access to be built according to engineer specifications at the Strebel's expense. It passed unanimously to approve.

**Steinaker Feeder Canal Bridge Repair:**

After discussion a MOTION by Todd Thacker and SECONDED by Greg Witbeck to spend \$132,194.00 to reset the bridge. \$25,658 for bypassing the canal, For a total of \$157,852. Landowner will give access to area for repairs and fencing will be reinstalled after completion. It passed unanimously to approve.

**Uintah River Bifurcation Structure:**

Jordan Kennington reported 80-85% completion. The old structure is now torn down and gone. Concrete for footings, walls and floors is in place. Radial gates have been ordered and ready to install when the structure is ready. Tyson Murray made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker to approve a change order in the amount of \$81,310.00 for a secondary measurement structure. It passed unanimously to approve.

**Condon's Pond Water Delivery**

Quentin Johnson reported on a meeting with Wayne Jones concerning Condon's Pond. Wayne Jones agreed to purchase the needed water shares with his own funds. He agreed to close this matter.

**Review of Preliminary Budget**

The 2024 Preliminary Budget was submitted for review. William discussed with the board details in preparation for the budget hearing in December. A MOTION by Dean Baker to accept Preliminary budget as presented was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to approve.

**Financial Statements:**

A MOTION by Mitch Phillips was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the October financial statements.

**Legal, Engineering and Construction:**

Todd Thacker made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker to approve to pay BHI \$234,806.65, Bowen Collins & Associates \$10,203.75, Jones & DeMille Engineering \$39,889.15, and Maverick Contractors \$560,000.30, for a total of \$844,899.85. It passed unanimously to approve.

**2024 Schedule of  
Public Meetings**

Dean Baker made a MOTION and was SECONDED by Tyson Murray to approve Public Meetings as presented.

**2024 Golden  
Shovel Award  
Nominations**

Tyson Murray made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Todd Thacker to nominate Greg Witbeck as the Golden Shovel Award recipient for Uintah County for him many years of service. It passed unanimously to approve.

**Adjourn:**

A MOTION was made by Todd Thacker and SECONDED by Greg Witbeck to adjourn at 11:57.