

# Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2024

Approved

**Conducting:** Chairman Quentin Johnson called the March 12, 2024, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office and welcomed guests.

**Present:** **Trustees:** Quentin Johnson, Shane Frost, Dean Baker, Mitch Phillips, and Shad Jackson. Todd Thacker and Tyson Murray were excused.

**Others:** William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Marie Cook, UWCD Clerk; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Jeff DeMarco, Kelly Kaye, Bureau of Reclamation; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering; Craig Nebeker, CRS Engineering; Bart Jensen, Eric Major, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Jordan Oyler, Bowen Collins & Associates; Keith Despain, Vernal City; Matt Cazier, Micheal Cook, Uintah County; Wayne Simper, Central Canal.

**Approval of Minutes:** Shane Frost made a MOTION to approve the February 13, 2024, Board Meeting minutes, SECONDED by Mitch Phillips, and passed unanimously to approve.

**Operations Update:** Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5512.62 with an inflow of 26 CFS. Compared to 2023, Steinaker Reservoir was at elevation 5493.03. Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5601.34 with 12 CFS coming in and 3 going out. Compared to 2023, Red Fleet was at 5569.94. Cottonwood is at 5259.78. Brough is at elevation 5110.32 with 3 CFS coming in. Pelican is full.

**Allotments for Vernal and Jensen Units 2024:** Shane Frost made a MOTION, was SECONDED by Dean Baker, to allot 1 acre-foot per share plus shrinkage totaling 1.1 acre-feet. The MOTION passed unanimously to approve.

**Steinaker Service Canal Enclosure Project:** Shane Frost made a MOTION, SECONDED by Dean Baker, to hold off hiring a team to ultrasound the Service Canal pipeline at the point of failure. Members of the Board expressed concerns about cost, the limited scope of work, and ISCO's hesitation to accept the scan results. The MOTION passed with Mitch Phillips and Shad Jackson voting against and Dean Baker, Shane Frost, and Quentin Johnson voting in favor. Jordan Oyler gave a progress update. Crews are working turnouts, drains, and fencing. Crews are working on Feeder Canal bridge and are planning to pull the by-pass later in the week if weather holds.

**Screening  
Structure for  
Ashley Central  
Canal Lateral 6:**

Shane Frost made a MOTION, Shad Jackson SECONDED, to approve to pay cost of \$7,500.00 to assist in Screening Structure improvements. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

**Steinaker Service  
Canal Trail:**

Representatives from Sunrise Engineering and Uintah County presented a proposal to construct a walking trail on or near the Steinaker Service Canal right-of-way from 500 North to Highway 40. The Board expressed several concerns including potential liability for persons recreating near an open canal. Shane Frost made a MOTION, was SECONDED by Dean Baker, to table discussion for a letter of support on current proposal. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

**Uinta River  
Bifurcation  
Structure:**

Bart Jensen reported that Jones & DeMille's application to the Agricultural Water Optimization Program has been submitted. Plans are still in line to begin this fall for phase II. Plans will give special consideration for the Ute Lady Tresses and their blooming cycle.

**Financial  
Statements:**

A MOTION by Shane frost, SECONDED by Shad Jackson, to approve February Financial Statements, passed unanimously.

**Legal,  
Engineering and  
Construction:**

A MOTION by Shane Frost, SECONDED by Mitch Phillips, passed unanimously to approve to pay Snow, Christensen & Martineau \$471.00, Bowen Collins & Associates \$4,547.42, Jones, BHI \$65,369.40, for a total of \$70,387.82.

**Colorado River  
Basin Salinity  
Control Forum:**

Due to his river commissioner duties, Dan Larsen is occasionally unable to attend meetings of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum. A process exists whereby an alternate may attend in his place. The question was raised whether or not the Board would support William serving as Dan's alternate. Shane Frost made a MOTION, SECONDED by Shad Jackson, to support William's selection. The MOTION passed unanimously, but Shane expressed a desire to work with the other Uinta River stakeholders to free-up Dan's schedule.

**Adjourn:**

A MOTION by Shane Frost and SECONDED by Dean Baker to adjourn at 12:07 was unanimously approved.