

# WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees

October 13, 2015

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah. Those board members present for the meeting were: Chair Ed Bowler, Jim Ence, Howard Bracken, Zachary Renstrom, Jon Pike and Tom Hirschi. Ken Neilson was not present. Also present were General Manager Ron Thompson, Associate General Managers Barbara Hjelle and Corey Cram, and Julie Gillins, Brie Thompson, and Secretary Tina Esplin. Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed Rick Wheadon of Carollo as a guest in the audience for the meeting.

## **Report by Julie Gillins and Brie Thompson on water conservation plan.**

Julie said the seminar she attended last weekend in Las Vegas for water smart and EPA water smart program really focused on water conservation. A lot of the presenters were utilities that have programs such as a retro fit for a school and have the children change out the aerators and take packets home to do there. There was one where they retrofitted an existing controller that they had emailed to them. Also, social media is huge in conservation because you are not invading their home, but they are inviting you in and it is a great asset to change behaviors. There is new technology where GPS is actually used to adjust the flow of sprinklers.

Julie and Brie gave a PowerPoint presentation on the water conservation plan which included the following:

- The 12-member conservation workgroup is a subcommittee of CIRPAC, and has been meeting for the past year to offer their insight and help in updating the water conservation plan. The cities and the county, as well as community groups that have an interest in the plan, have advisors on the workgroup.

- The cost for various things are in the conservation plan because conservation isn't free.
- The plans are all planned to be coordinated: Conservation Plan, Water Needs Assessment, 50-Year Plan, Impact Fee Facilities Plan and the Statewide Infrastructure Plan.
- The committee selected conservation measures for evaluation.
- A preliminary evaluation was done by MWM, which was updated because of new population data and a test was run using their model which showed our existing plan wouldn't meet our goal which is 25% by 2015
- Collaboration with the District was done, data was updated (population, water usage, account types and numbers), assumptions were checked against measured results and new measure was added, and then Maddaus ran the final model.
- The governor started with the goal of 25% reduction by 2050 and we have already hit the 25% and are at 26% right now. The state goal is 25% by 2025. We added another 10% to our goal because we are in a desert.
- Our goal is 35% by 2060 so this plan allows the water needs assessment to show that the goals are achievable.
- A list of program measures was modelled. Program A is what we're currently offering. Program B adds another layer of measures. Program C offers all the measures under consideration. Program B is what the committee is most likely going to recommend be implemented to help meet our goals.
- Some programs can save a lot of water, but do not cost that much. When you exhaust those measures, you reach the point where water savings get costlier. Program B reaches our goals.
- Most of top water savers we are currently providing or they are coming with building codes. Some of the programs are feel-good programs to get people interested in conservation.
- Showed the best value of the programs.
- There is an average water savings and cost over the life of the program. The analysis identified a utility cost and a community cost for each measure. The utility cost included the expense to the utility to offer the measure and

the community cost included the consumer cost to participate in the program with the utility expense.

- Our next goal is to get the water conservation plan ready for a public hearing at the next November Board meeting and at the December Board meeting it will be on the agenda for the Board to vote on adoption of the plan.

There was some discussion and various questions were answered after which Ron thanked them for their presentation.

**Approval of Resolution to transfer to noncontributory retirement.** Ron explained that for years the district has been in the contributory retirement system which has cost the district financially. The legislature has opened up the option to switch from the contributory to the noncontributory system which will provide greater financial benefit to the district and our employees. The district has always picked up the employee match and paid two percent more of their salary than if in the noncontributory plan. The plan is the same except if an employee leaves before retirement, they cannot take out the share that the district contributed for them. The retirement pension payout is based on the three highest years of salary rather than the five highest years of salary which will benefit employees. Employees with 25 years of service qualify for retirement at any age, and the years are reduced to qualify for the death benefit at retirement from 25 to 15 years of service. The district had a meeting with all the employees and gave them an opportunity to participate. They have to opt in by December 31, 2015. They can choose to stay with the noncontributory plan, but it would not benefit them. A resolution with a roll call vote is needed authorizing the district to opt into this plan.

***Tom Hirschi made a motion to change to the public employees' noncontributory system, Jon Pike seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote as follows:***

<b><i>Ed Bowler</i></b>	<b><i>Yea</i></b>
<b><i>Jon Pike</i></b>	<b><i>Yea</i></b>
<b><i>Zach Renstrom</i></b>	<b><i>Yea</i></b>
<b><i>Howard Bracken</i></b>	<b><i>Yea</i></b>
<b><i>Jim Ence</i></b>	<b><i>Yea</i></b>
<b><i>Tom Hirschi</i></b>	<b><i>Yea</i></b>

**Approval of change order with Grimshaw Drilling on Sand Hollow wells.** Ron explained that the district has requested Grimshaw Drilling to drill two additional wells west of Sand Hollow reservoir. They were the low bidder of previous wells, and have agreed to use the same unit prices for these two wells and so we would like to move on getting these two wells and have them drilled as soon as possible.

***Jim Ence made a motion to approve the change order with Grimshaw Drilling on the two Sand Hollow wells, Tom Hirschi seconded the motion and all voted aye.***

Ron Thompson gave brief status reports on the following items:

**Lake Powell Pipeline Project** – Ron stated we are trying to wrap up the environmental and hope to have the preliminary documents prepared in the next 90-days to provide to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, who will take it to their consultants for final preparation of an environmental impact statement. They have given themselves a two-year timeframe to finish.

**Water Treatment Plant upgrades** – Ron said the upgrades are done and the next phase is dealing with disinfection upgrades and to take the plant out to an 80 MGD plant. We are looking at a John Deere plan that is used by several cities where they get a new backhoe every year. Tom Hirschi said it is a very good program, but you have to be very careful and not dent the equipment.

**Red Hills Desert Garden dedication** - Ron said the dedication went extremely well and Mayor Pike and Ed Bowler did a great job. It was well attended. About 600 people showed up after for the other activities and had a fantastic time.

**Other** – Ron said just in terms of water, last winter was one of the worst ever seen, but spring and summer were as good as he has ever seen. Experts are talking about a super El Nino, but they really cannot predict. Traditionally that means more moisture in the winter that sticks around in the spring. The snow is critical to slow runoff to fill the reservoirs.

**Manager's Report.** Ron said we are working on the district's comments to the BLM draft plans. We haven't seen anything yet, but have been told that they are going to extend the comment period for another 30 days.

Ron said he, Henry Maddux and Steve Meisner with the Virgin River Program and Corey Cram took a trip to Denver and met with the director and assistant director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and explained the partnerships and accomplishments and the commitments made by the Service that need to be honored. She was sympathetic. We need to bring her here and show her the issues we are dealing with. He feels like the decision makers get locked in and don't see what is happening on the ground.

**Approval of minutes of July 21, 2015 Board of Trustees Meeting.** The minutes of the July board meeting were reviewed by the board after which the following motion was made.

***Zach Renstrom moved to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2015 board of trustees meeting as presented. Jon Pike seconded the motion and all voted aye.***

**The meeting was adjourned.**

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Secretary