

**WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT**

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees

January 4, 2017

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Wednesday, January 4, 2016, at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah beginning at 6 pm. Those board members present for the meeting were: Chair Ed Bowler, Zachary Renstrom, Howard Bracken, Kevin Tervort, Jon Pike, Ken Neilson and Chris Hart. Also present were General Manager Ron Thompson, Associate General Manager Corey Cram and Secretary Roberta McMullin. Other guests at the meeting included Jeremy Williams from Carollo Engineering and Steve Meisner from the Virgin River Program. Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present.

Ed welcomed the new board members and asked them to introduce themselves. Kevin Tervort from the Hurricane City Council and Chris Hart, Mayor of Ivins were introduced as the new board members and both gave a short introduction of themselves.

The first item on the agenda was a **Critical Policy Review Presentation by General Manager** . Ron said he wanted to show this to board before it is presented to the staff.

The presentation reviewed our mission, vision and values. It discussed avoiding fraud and abuse as part of our integrity value. The presentation then discussed what fraud and abuse are and gave examples of each and how to report them. The presentation also discussed sexual harassment and what that is and how to avoid it and report it.

The gifts policy was included in the presentation and what is not acceptable and what is and how to report a gift or turn over a gift to the general manager within two days if it has a value of more than \$50.

A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes.

The next item on the agenda was the **Consideration of Resolution Adopting Policy Regarding Early Retirement Health Insurance Coverage** – Ron reminded the Board that he had talked to them last month about an` employee that wants to retire before they will be eligible for Medicare. Water district staff has gone through this with PEHP and they said we need to have a policy in place for this early retirement.

The policy states that the district will pay the insurance premium for employees (and their qualifying dependents) who are retiring early, who have attained the age of 62 or older, who have worked 30 qualifying years under the Utah State Retirement System and who are covered under the group medical insurance plan. It also states that upon retirement an employee may elect to apply the pre-tax dollar value of his or her accrued unused leave time toward the cost of premiums under the District’s group medical insurance plan for insurance, or supplemental Medicare coverage if applicable. The remainder of the policy is set forth in the attached copy of the resolution.

Ron told the board we need an approved resolution to move forward with this.

Jon Pike made a motion to approve the resolution policy regarding early retirement health insurance coverage. Ken Neilson seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Discussion of special service district training – Ron explained to the new board members that they are supposed to get training for special service districts each year and get certified. They can do this either online or at the special service district conference which is usually in November of each year. The new board members will need to have this done within a year. Roberta will send a link out to all the board members for the online site for training.

Ron Thompson gave status reports on the following:

Sand Hollow well pump stations – Ron updated the board on this project. The equipment has been ordered and is on schedule and this is moving forward.

The Ashcreek project is moving through the environmental process. Ron said they hope to see something in the new few weeks that can go out for final public comment on this.

Sand Hollow Regional pipeline – This project is also in the environmental process and moving along well.

Ron explained this project for the new board members. Water from Sand Hollow Reservoir will be piped around Sand Hollow Reservoir and drop down around the proposed Warner Valley Reservoir and deliver to a tank site near the existing Washington City tank, ultimately connecting to St. George City system. It will also provide connections to the Washington City and Hurricane City systems.

Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) – Ron told the board he is optimistic that we are moving this project down the right path. There have been meetings between the State, BLM and the district. He said he believes all the documentation for the archaeology study is into them now for review. There has been a tremendous effort at MWH level to get the reports done right. Barbara has been in two days of meetings with the state and the BLM. Ron said they have asked Zach Renstrom to come to some of the management meetings and take a bigger role and spend more time on this project. Ron said any other board members that would like to spend this additional time are also welcome to do that.

As the board has already been made aware, the district has hired an attorney and project manager, John Fredell, who just retired and finished a project in Colorado Springs that is quite similar to LPP. Ron said we have hired him on an hourly basis to get this permitting process finished. There are three phases to the project: permits, design and finance and then the building of the project. Ron said there has been negotiation with MWH about getting their best people on this project to get it through the permitting phase.

There are meetings next Tuesday and Wednesday here at the district offices with the project teams.

Water conditions - Ron said due to some very nice storms, some of the SnoTel sites are at 200% of normal. There is another storm that is supposed to be coming over the next week that will be very wet per state weather reports. If we get water on soft snow it can come down very quickly. There is a lot of shortage in Gunlock Reservoir but it can fill up quickly. Ron said they are moving Kolob excess water into Sand Hollow and continuing to put water in the other reservoirs. We should be fine as far as storage in those reservoirs.

Approval of minutes of December 7, 2016 board meeting – After review by the board of the minutes of the December board meeting the following motion as made.

A motion to approve the December 7, 2016, board of trustees meeting minutes was made by Zach Renstrom and seconded by Ken Neilson. All voted aye.

There was no further business to come before the board and the meeting was adjourned.
