

**WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT**

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees

April 5, 2017

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah beginning with a work meeting at 3 pm. Those board members present for the meeting were: Chair Ed Bowler, Zachary Renstrom, Howard Bracken, Kevin Tervort and Chris Hart. Jon Pike and Ken Neilson were not present and were excused for the Utah League of Cities and Towns. Also present were General Manager Ron Thompson, Associate General Managers Barbara Hjelle, Corey Cram and Brie Thompson, Karry Rathje and Secretary Roberta McMullin. Other guests at the meeting are set forth on the attached sign in sheet. Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present.

The **first item on the work meeting agenda was a discussion led by General Manager Ron Thompson on the district's potable water supply:**

- County currently using 85% of its total potable water supply
- Current surplus is approximately 15%
- Water supply from wells, springs, surface water
- Board needs to decide how much risk to take
- 7,000 developed & platted lots that could be built on – number could go up
- About 3% growth rate
- Showed graph of new ERU's that have occurred
- 5 year average – 1,593 ERU's
- By 2026 we would use every available water source, including local projects
- Washington Co. currently under its 15-year water supply buffer

Next was a **discussion of the capital projects** that will get us where we need to be. Ron turned the time over to Brie Thompson and she discussed the following projects:

- ***Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline*** – 11.5-mile culinary water transmission - brings water from SH wells to southern part of St. George & Wash. \$16.2 m
- ***Ash Creek Pipeline and Toquer Reservoir*** – 17-mile pipeline & 3,640 a.f. reservoir stores water getting lost through ditch and reservoir seepage – increases water availability by approx. 3,000 a.f. -\$34 m. Hope to start this fall
- ***Warner Valley Reservoir*** – 55,000 a.f. reservoir -allows collection & storage of Virgin River water rights currently flowing downstream, stores water produced by Saint George water reuse plant during winter months and excess Santa Clara project water, improves water quality, drought protection and maintains a more consistent pressurized system - \$99 million
- ***Well Development*** – 12 new wells – many near Sand Hollow Reservoir, some currently under construction and more in planning - \$19 million
- ***Water Treatment Plant (WTP)*** – Future Expansion – expanding from 60 to an 80 million gallon per day plant and adding ozone treatment - \$68 million
- ***Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP)*** – 132-138-mile pipeline, pump stations, hydropower plants, will deliver up to 82,249 af to Washington County annually – Estimated \$1.1 to \$1.8 billion
- ***Planned future water sources with LPP***
 - LPP reuse 17%
 - Conservation 15%
 - Reuse 4%
 - Well Development 5%
 - Ag Conversion 6%
 - Ash Creek Pipeline 2%
 - SH Recharge & Recovery 2%
 - LPP 49%

Ron had a discussion with the board members using the whiteboard and the various “tools in the toolbox” including impact fees, level of service, annual increase, property tax and water fees. Each of these items was discussed. On the level of

service Barbara Hjelle suggested the changing of level of service has some other factors that would have to be dealt with and make this one not immediately available. Ron suggested the board start thinking about these tools and how we want to use them. Mayor Hart said he thinks the solution is to include all of these five tools in some form.

Ron gave an update on water conditions. Ron told the board that David Jessop from the district staff had been up to Crystal Creek by helicopter this morning and flew over that area. The upper areas still have snow and water to come off and the snow is mostly off in the lower area. We should see runoff from this through May. Ron said Quail Creek is pretty much where we want it in terms of being full and Kolob is full and starting to spill. Sand Hollow isn't full yet but will fill. Enterprise is not full and Ron said he does not think it will come close to filling. He also doesn't think Gunlock will fill. It has been a good water year and it will be interesting to see how it goes from here. There is supposed to be some rain again this Saturday.

Budget to actual financial report. Ron asked the board to take the report home and review it and call with any questions.

Barbara Hjelle gave an update on the Lake Powell Pipeline Project Barbara reported that John Fredell is moving aggressively on all fronts and is achieving good results on the current slate of tasks.

Corey Cram gave a report on the Sand Hollow well development - Corey said the district is actively working on four new wells right now in this well development. Well # 4 is the redrilling and equipping of a well on the southeast side of the reservoir. Corey showed a picture of the building at well #6 being close to completion. There are four wells in the works: #4, 5, 6 and 10. And, there are four more coming in this budget year: 7, 11, 12 and 13. Corey told the board that well #10 is the one being drilled north of the entrance station. He showed the board a map showing the location of these various wells. He also showed the individual and collective capacity for the wells. Corey explained that 3d computer models are used to find the best locations for the wells. He showed a ground water flow model and explained how this helps them. He further explained that we don't need to run all the wells but if we need them, then we will have them. USGS

suggests we could accumulate 300,000 to 500,000 af of storage in the aquifer. Corey said the district is getting a very good well network in place.

Corey also gave an update on the Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline This pipeline is about 10 miles long and up to 48” in diameter. It extends from the Sand Hollow wells to south St. George and Washington and provides needed redundancy. They are now completing the last outstanding environmental assessment items and should be on track to start this project in the fall or winter.

6:00 p.m. Board Meeting

Chair Ed Bowler welcomed those present for this part of the meeting.

Recognition of former board members Jim Ence and Tom Hirschi – Ron said the district and the board would like to honor and recognize Jim and Tom for their service on the Board of Trustees. Jim served for about 12 years and Tom Hirschi for eight years. Ron, Ed and others expressed their thanks and how much they enjoyed having them on the board. Ron said we all appreciate their service to the county. They were each presented with a watch. They both expressed appreciation for the opportunity they had to serve and for how much they learned while serving on the board.

NWRA Federal Water Seminar in Washington DC – Ron gave a report on he and Commissioner Renstrom’s meetings and the NWRA conference in Washington D.C. Ron said they were able to meet with staff from all of the Utah delegation. The Utah delegation has prepared and submitted a letter to President Trump asking him to help expedite the environmental process on the LPP. It is signed by the entire Utah delegation

Miscellaneous items – Ron Thompson reported that the state thinks they have settled the Navajo Indian water issue but it is subject to getting through Congress. Mike Styler, Executive Director of Department of Natural Resources, thinks our District should pay \$50,000 towards this but Ron indicated he is going to sit down with Mike Styler to try and understand his thinking on this.

Ron said the district staff have been going back and forth with the special service district on the area in Virgin they are using for their dumpsters. They would like the district to put an additional \$30,000 into the waterline here. Ron said he doesn’t see us doing much in that area for a long time so he is hesitant to put that much money into a waterline there.

Approval of metering proposals for Toquerville Secondary Water System (TSWS)

Brie Thompson reported that the district had received a water smart grant for metering this secondary water system. They put out a request for proposals and received six proposals

The highest score and lowest cost proposal for advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) at TSWS was submitted by Hydro Specialties Company for the Badger AMI system at \$88,316.94. For the 1” meters Mountainland Supply submitted the highest score and lowest cost proposal at \$49,175.00.

They would like authorization to approve those two proposals.

Chris Hart moved to approve these two proposals for metering on the Tocqueville Secondary Water System. Zach Renstrom seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Approval of Minutes of the March 2017 board of trustees meeting – The board members, having reviewed these minutes, made the following motion:

Chris Hart moved to approve the March 1, 2017, Board of Trustees minutes as presented. Zach Renstrom seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye.

Adjournment of Meeting - After asking for any questions or comments from the board or audience, the meeting was adjourned.
