



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2021

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah beginning at 6:00 pm. Board members present for the meeting were: Chair Ed Bowler, Kevin Tervort, Jon Pike, Chris Hart, Ken Neilson, Victor Iverson and Adam Bowler. Also present was General Manager Zach Renstrom; Associate General Managers Corey Cram and Brie Thompson; Attorney, Jodi Richins; Communications and Government Affairs Manager, Karry Rathje; and Secretary, Roberta McMullin.

Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present.

The first item on the agenda was a **discussion of the time-of-day watering ordinance**. Karry Rathje discussed the benefits of having all municipalities on the same time frame to increase public awareness and compliance. After meeting and reviewing the proposed ordinance with the city water managers on Monday, it was agreed that the time frame should be no watering from 8 pm to 10 am. for potable water. The district gets calls from individuals reporting that some of our parks, golf courses, etc. are watering all hours of the day not understanding that they use untreated secondary water. The district has added language to the ordinance that explains that using secondary water to irrigate public facilities extends our potable water supply and saves residents millions in annual treatment costs. The municipalities were asked to present this to their city councils in their May meetings with an effective date of no later than June 1. **Consideration/approval of A Resolution Appointing Zachary Renstrom to the Colorado River Authority of Utah** – During the 2021 legislative session, the Colorado River Water Authority of Utah was created to allow for more collaboration on river issues. The role of the authority is to preserve, protect and develop Utah's Colorado River water rights. It will have six members with two of the positions appointed by the governor's office, which will be Brian Steed and Todd Adams. Gene Shawcroft will chair the

authority. The Virgin River basin has one appointment, and the legislation specifies that individual is to be appointed by WCWCD's Board of Trustees.

Victor Iverson moved to approve a resolution to appoint Zach Renstrom to serve on the Colorado River Authority for the Washington County Water Conservancy District. The motion was seconded by Jon Pike. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ed Bowler	Yes
Kevin Tervort	Yes
Adam Bowler	Yes
Jon Pike	Yes
Victor Iverson	Yes
Chris Hart	Yes
Ken Neilson	Yes

Consideration/approval of a Resolution Accepting a Quitclaim Deed Conveying St. George City's interest in Water Treatment Facilities – The Quail Creek Water Treatment Plant was constructed by St. George City many years ago. When the water district took it over, the state constitution prevented the city from deeding the city's interest in the treatment plant to the water district. With a change in the Utah State Constitution, the city is now able to deed its interest to the district. The city has asked for a resolution from our board accepting a quitclaim deed approved by the city council deed the city's interest to the district.

Ken Neilson made a motion to approve the resolution accepting a quit claim deed to the water district conveying St. City's interest in water treatment facilities. The motion was seconded by Chris Hart and a roll call vote was taken.

Ed Bowler	Yes
Kevin Tervort	Yes
Adam Bowler	Yes
Jon Pike	Yes
Victor Iverson	Yes
Chris Hart	Yes
Ken Neilson	Yes

4. Consideration of approval of Toquerville Road Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)— Keen Ellsworth, Toquerville City Council, was present for the meeting. Zach explained that the district owns property by Anderson Junction that it will use during the construction of the reservoir. Once the reservoir is constructed, the district won't need that land anymore. Keen said Toquerville is in the process of working with UDOT to realign the road at a nearby freeway exit and needs to reroute a highway access road in order to do so. The MOU outlines that the district will provide an easement for realignment of the road. UDOT won't begin the revisions on Exit 27 until Toquerville has this MOU in place. Zach said this land will eventually be valuable with this off ramp in place.

Jon Pike moved to approve the road MOU with Toquerville City. Kevin Tervort seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

Statute reports on projects were given as follows:

Ash Creek Project – Corey said they have had a good working relationship with the BLM and the project should be published in the Federal Register by April 9. Keith Rigtrup, BLM, was very helpful in getting it to this point. The BLM is wrapping up other work on the project including historic property studies and archaeology. Engineering to relocate the sewer lift station in Anderson Junction is underway. Work on the final design will commence after they get the permit.

Sand Hollow Groundwater Treatment Plant – There will be a ribbon cutting within the next month and a press announcement when that happens.

Update on water year - Zach shared with the board various USDA and NRCS reports showing what is going on as far as snow water equivalent, soil moisture, etc. We are not even at average now for snow water equivalent and our soils are at historical lows as far as dryness. The snow is soaking in the soil and it may be a historically low runoff this year.

Our reservoirs are not as high as last year with Sand Hollow at 90% and Quail Creek at 75%, but that storage is going to help save us this year.

Runoff peak is usually April 1 to July 1. Only 50% of usual flow at the Virgin River at Virgin gauge and the Santa Clara River is going to get hit even harder. It will be a tough, dry year.

Surcharge on excess water use – Zach said the board asked him to reach out to high end water users like the school district. He said they were actually very good about the surcharge idea. They want to be good stewards of the water and they understand the necessity and importance of water conservation. A resolution is anticipated next month.

Kolob Reservoir camping update – Zach reported that the District signed an agreement with the organization that runs the State's park reservation system to obtain online camping reservation services for Kolob Reservoir. The district is making signs to designate camp spots. The district also has a Request for Proposals for sewer management; additional porta potties will be added and need to be maintained/supplied. State Parks has been helping the county and the district move forward with these changes. Zach said they want people to be able to recreate around the reservoir, but the increase in visitation has caused some safety and water quality concerns that need to be addressed. The county and district have a meeting tomorrow with some of the Kolob property owners.

Approval of Minutes from March 3, 2021 Board of Trustees' Meeting

After review of the minutes the following motion was made:

Ken Neilson moved to approve the March 3, 2021 Board of Trustees' Meeting minutes. Jon Pike seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Chair Ed Bowler called for questions from the audience.

Ed Andrechak asked if we were doing things right now to try and save water for the dry year ahead. Zach explained that the district has a drought buffer plan that it can implement when necessary and each city has drought buffer programs. Ed Bowler suggested we advertise the time-of-day ordinance as much as possible. Zach said we will put it on billboards, social media, etc. as soon as the cities adopt the uniform time-of-day watering ordinance.

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

Secretary