

WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees

February 17, 2015

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, beginning 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, Tom Hirschi, Howard Bracken, and Jon Pike. Ken Neilson was not present. Also present were General Manager Ron Thompson, Associate General Managers, Barbara Hjelle and Corey Cram and Secretary Roberta McMullin. Former board members Dennis Iverson, Dan McArthur and Jim Lemmon were present for part of the meeting. Legal intern Alan Ayala was also present at the meeting and Craig Ashcroft from Carollo Engineering.

Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation to the three former board members Dennis Iverson, Dan McArthur and Jim Lemmon of a gift of appreciation from the water district. Ron thanked them for their contributions to the water district and expressed appreciation to them for their many years of service.

The first item on the agenda was status reports:

Lake Powell Pipeline – This project continues to move forward. Ron said they are finally starting to resolve lots of the antiquities issues. The water needs assessment is nearing completion. He explained that some of the issues between the BLM and FERC have been worked out and now we just need to keep things moving forward.

Water Conservation Reports - Ron told the board in the near future he would like to have a work meeting on the water conservation plan. There is a committee working on that now with water managers and city representatives from throughout the county. They are trying to make it broad based and the board will have some

input on the proposed water conservation practices recommended. Ron said the costs need to be evaluated on some of the water conservation practices recommended.

Water treatment plant upgrades – Ron told the board a lot of things are going on at the water treatment plant (WTP). They have been dealing with the issue of some of the hypochlorite tanks which failed and have now been replaced. The staff is working also on upgrading filters to take the WTP up to a 60 mgd plant. They are also having the roof replaced of the building that is now 30 years old and has leaks. Ron reminded the board that this building is 30 years old now and is requiring some updating. The filter upgrades should be done by this fall.

Legislative Actions – In the water arena at the legislature there are lots of legislative issues going on. Ron said the bill they have worked all summer with the cities and the Farm Bureau is now out of committee. Ron said he believes it will pass. It came out of committee without any opposition and has the support of the League of Cities and Towns, the Farm Bureau, the Mining Association, the Engineering Association, Special Districts and others so there is broad based support. There are some other water related bills that are getting in a juggernaut like Kay McIff's bill dealing with shareholder issues. This isn't a big issue in our county but has been highly contentious. There are several other smaller house cleaning bills that are moving through the system.

Ron said they continue to work on the issue that there has to be long term critical water infrastructure. This has had a fairly high priority in the senate but he doesn't know yet what will happen. The four biggest water districts have hired a lobbying team to work on this and put the effort together. In the house they have appointed two legislators in leadership to put together a proposed critical infrastructure bill. The senate is doing this too. The senate is adamant about increasing revenues and the house wants to keep revenue neutral. The senate wants to change the gas tax and the house wants to change from a per-gallon to a sales tax that is revenue neutral.

BLM Staffing – Jimmy Tyree is leaving to go to Oregon to work with the Forest Service. We also have a new district manager in Cedar City – Heather Whitman.

They are still having a hard time keeping this local office staffed which affects our ability to keep our projects moving through.

Upcoming calendaring items:

The March board meeting is March 10 which is a week earlier than normal.

The dinner hosted by district during the Utah Water Users Conference is March 16 at Dixie State University, Gardner Ballroom.

March 17-18 is the Utah Water Users Conference at the Dixie Center and all board members have been registered for this.

Manager's report –

Water year – Ron showed the Board a picture of the water situation at Kolob. If this pattern continues, there will be no runoff. The irrigators will want to turn on earlier with this weather. Ron said they are about done filling Quail Creek and Sand Hollow Reservoirs. He said they need to get Quail Creek another 3 ½ or 4 ft. higher and that gives us enough water to handle the treatment plant the rest of the year and then whatever we get in Sand Hollow ends up being a back up to that and continues the groundwater recharge.

We are okay this year and probably next year, although some of the ag users may get hurt again. However, if we get this pattern stuck in here for a long time it could be a problem since this is the fourth year we've stayed this dry. Ron said he thinks the best thing we can do is get that pipeline out to the south block of Washington and St. George since that gives us a lot more flexibility in the system.

As far as reservoir storage there is about 30,000 A.F. in Sand Hollow and about 26,000 A.F. in Quail Creek and about 120,000 A.F. in the ground water aquifer

Current reservoir levels:

Gunlock 42.1%

Kolob 52.2%

Ivins 12.4%

Sand Hollow 64.7%

Quail Creek 70.6%

Ron reported that three water lines broke in Santa Clara. It is right where the pipeline comes off the hill near the maintenance building. This doesn't appear to be a fusion problem, something has torqued the pipeline. The district staff is getting right out there to fix the problem.

Toquerville Secondary Water System (TSWS) – Ron said some problems started developing on the TSWS west pond. After analysis the decision was made to put a liner in the pond. They took the rip rap off and some of bedding material off of it. A PVC liner is being put in this week and then they will put bedding material on top of it and then rip rap back and this should make it impervious. They also rebuilt the motor at the pump station. It hasn't been producing the water it was designed to produce. They pulled the can out and put a new can in and it should meet the spec. They have gone through the pump and replaced it and rebuilt the motor. It should be finished by end of the week so can get it back on line. The TSWS board members are insistent that we should go on a strict water schedule now and not wait because we are not going to have the water on Ash Creek drainage we had. Some TSWS users got used to watering every day because they could, but now they are going to limit them to 3 days for 3 hours to see if we can keep up with the demand.

Ron told the board there may be another curtailment of junior water right users this year as there was last year. Hurricanes, LaVerkin & Washington Fields have the highest priority on this system so they have to share shortages.

Bond closing – Ron said they priced our bonds for the Sand Hollow bond refunding that we talked about at the last meeting. We kept our AA rating and financed those with a net savings well over 3 million dollars. We were able to get ½% better than Weber Basin got on their bond refunding.

Natural gas vehicles - Ron told the board a year ago the district converted the fleet trucks to natural gas vehicles and this has turned out to not be a good decision on our part. Right now they are in negotiations with GM to buy those trucks back because they have problems with some of the programming on the switches. This involves seven vehicles. There is something going wrong almost every day with service engine lights coming on and forcing them out of using the natural gas. They don't seem to have a fix and just say to go ahead and run it on gas. The

dealership is telling us they don't know how to fix it. There was significant fuel savings but we can't have trucks that keep having problems. We need to wait on these natural gas trucks until they get some of these issues worked out. Ron said they would either replace with diesel or gas trucks.

Approval of minutes of January 2015 meeting –

Tom Hirschi moved to approve the minutes of the January 2015 Board of Trustees Meeting. Jon Pike seconded the motion and all voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary