

# **WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees

April 21, 2015

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, beginning at 3:00 p.m. for a work meeting with the regular meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah. Those board members present for the 3:00 p.m. work meeting were: Chair Ed Bowler, Ken Neilson, Jim Ence, Jim Eardley and Jon Pike. Tom Hirschi and Howard Bracken were not present. Those board members present at the 6:00 p.m. meeting were: Chair Ed Bowler, Jim Eardley, Jon Pike and Jim Ence. Kenny Neilson, Howard Bracken and Tom Hirschi were not present.

Also present were General Manager Ron Thompson, Associate General Managers, Barbara Hjelle and Corey Cram and Secretary Roberta McMullin. Also present at the meeting were WCWCD staff Brie Thompson, Karry Rathje and Julie Gillins. Judie Brailsford was also present.

Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present.

The first item on the agenda at the work meeting was a presentation by Julie Gillins regarding the water conservation plan and proposed water conservation practices. Julie distributed handouts and explained that the conservation working group has been studying the program scenarios and she will share with us the ones the committee is recommending with the costs. The conservation work group made these recommendations prior to knowing the costs associated with them. The water conservation plan update is due this year and this 15 member committee started this process last year of meeting and discussing the conservation plan and what recommendations they will make in updating this plan. There are representatives from municipalities in the regional water supply agreement on the committee.

The following is a list of the measures recommended by the committee at this point:

- Measure 1 Financial incentives for irrigation upgrades
- Measure 2 Smart Irrigation Controller rebates –
- Measure 3 Distribute retrofit kits –
- Measure 4 Toilet Leak Detection
- Measure 5 High Efficiency (HET) rebates
- Measure 6 Single family water surveys
- Measure 7 Multifamily washer rebate
- Measure 8 Public Information Program
- Measure 9 Conservation pricing
- Measure 10 Rotating Sprinkler Nozzle rebate
- Measure 11 Commercial & Industrial rebate to replace inefficient equipment
- Measure 12 Replace spray nozzles
- Measure 13 High efficiency urinal rebate
- Measure 14 Irrigation Water surveys
- Measure 15 Xeriscape Demonstration Garden
- Measure 16 Train Landscape Maintenance Workers
- Measure 17 Real Water Loss Reduction (Audit and Loss Control)
- Measure 18 Turf Removal
- Measure 19 Washer Rebates for High Efficiency
- Measure 20 Commercial & Industrial surveys
- Measure 21 School building retrofit
- Measure 22 Billing report education tool
- Measure 23 Mobile Home Park & Multi-family sub metering
- Measure 24 Install High Efficiency Fixtures in Government Buildings
- Measure 25 Install ore rebate high efficiency faucets

There will be a recommendation from this committee after further reievew. They haven't seen the costs yet identified for each of these measures. Ron can put this together with capital project costs so the board can weigh the acre foot costs with projects. There was some discussion among the board about how to get the public to fully understand this issue of conservation costs.

**Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline** – Ron gave an update on where we are with this project. The cultural resource inventory of the alignment is done. The biological survey report of the alignment is also done. They looked at several alignments and the final alignment was chosen. This project provides the ability to move a lot of

the Sand Hollow water in different directions and gives us more transmission power. Ron said one of the biggest impediments right now is just getting more staff at the BLM to help get this project moving through the system. The Revised Plan of Development (POD) has been submitted to BLM. The project doesn't have controversial issues. They will be advertising soon for firms to submit Statement of Qualifications for doing the environmental work.

**Ash Creek Project** – Ron told the board this project continues to move along and they are now working on the final environmental documents. The environmental work is essentially done (90%). This project has also been slowed down by the staff turnover at BLM.

**Quail Creek Water Treatment Plant expansion and remodeling** – Ron turned the time over to Corey to give the board a report on the expansion and remodeling at the water treatment plant.

Corey told the board they are going from a 48 mgpd capacity to 60 mgpd. This involves the piping system and removal and replacement of existing filter media. This project is expected to be completed by May 15, 2015.

They have also been reroofing the filter building and remodeling the office, lab and conference room. The reroofing was completed on April 15, 2015. The remodeling work of the office, lab and conference room includes painting, flooring, lighting and furnishings and should be completed by May 31, 2015. The cost of the roofing was approximately \$70,000 and the remodeling will be \$80,000 to \$90,000 and they are staying well within their budget.

Ron said they will soon have to deal with replacing the mass spec machine as this is becoming obsolete and harder to maintain. This will cost \$100,000+, but it is very important for us to know the quality of the water we are dealing with.

**Update of capital facilities plan** - Ron Thompson gave a status report on the update of the capital facilities plan. Ron told the board if we stay with the level of service we are at right now our impact fee is roughly \$6700 and it will take us up to about a \$12,000 impact fee. How do we split this out or do we want it to go all to new growth? The question is whether the Board is willing to offer an option for a lower level of service that isn't what we historically have had and have the

impact fee reflect that. There was discussion of going from .89 a.f. to .6 a.f. Ron said the only way to get there would be to have a very aggressive rate if the user went over to provide a big incentive for them to stay under. Ed Bowler said he feels like impact fees are a huge issue and if we make changes it has got to be a big enough savings to make it work. If there is no change made in the level of service the .89 a.f. will become a \$12,000 impact fee. Ed said he is worried about users picking the lower impact fee, the .6 a.f., for example, instead of .89 a.f. and then if they go over and get an enormous water bill they will be upset and the water district will be the “bad guy.” Ron said the rate payers benefit from the more diverse supply. If we stay in the weather pattern of the last 15 years there are going to be more shortages and the net effect will be significant municipal restrictions. We need to build some of that into the rates to give us redundant water supplies.

**Status report on PREP 60 efforts** – Ron reminded the board that Prepare 60 is the center established by the four largest water conservancy districts to protect the water we have, use it wisely and provide for the future. The governor wants to make sure we have enough water by 2060 as population growth continues. Ron said the water districts wanted to make sure they became the voice for the future of water. Ron reviewed some of the key accomplishments of PREP 60 such as public outreach, the state water infrastructure plan and the accomplishments of water development funding and resolution of other critical water issues during the 2015 legislative session. Their goal is to get a permanent funding source. The four water districts have each contributed about \$75,000 to \$100,000 to this effort.

- **PR effort update** – Karry Rathje gave an update on the PR efforts for the district. She showed a list of some of the creative materials and PR efforts including messaging, media and public outreach, negotiating rates and placing all ads, presentations, and work on the new district website. Some of the creative materials include educational resources, advertisements, Water Line newsletter and other events and programs. She said she is trying to use graphics more than words because people will look at it more. As far as media coverage, there have been 145 news stories to date this year regarding the district. That is an average of 1.3 times a day the district gets mentioned. 26% is opinion and 74% is editorial. Karry also told the board that she renegotiated the ad rates with The Spectrum with a contracted package buy. She added weekly print ads and online advertising and

“advertorials”. She showed a couple of ads that are running online at the present time to the board and showed the new webpage and some of the improvements that will be made with that.

**Ivins Reservoir Work Plan** – Ron showed the board the plan for Ivins with the trails, benches, picnic area, sanded beach area, etc. The City of Ivins has agreed to police it and maintain it.

**Sand Hollow Reservoir groundwater issues** – Ron told the board there are lots of issues to maintain the groundwater at Sand Hollow. We started to create some wetlands and we have to come up with a better remediation plan. There have been some very early discussions with SITLA but haven’t decided yet what to do.

**Quail Creek Water Treatment Plant (QCWTP) maintenance building** - Ron said the District got some bids for a maintenance building out at QCWTP. They came in a little higher than expected. The budgeted amount was \$150,000 and the low bid came in at \$207,455. It is a 60 x160 s.f. metal building.

Mayor Neilson said it is usually around \$23 a square foot for metal buildings so that may not be too high. After discussion among the board, it was agreed that this was a fair price and the District should move ahead with this maintenance building at the low bid price. Ron said Watts Construction was the low bidder at \$207,455.

**Miscellaneous other items** – Ron reported that the District was able to pick up a piece of property above the Washington Fields Diversion. The District has tried over the years to acquire floodplain property like this when it becomes available.

Ron reported that the Red Hills Desert Garden is near completion. The restrooms are open now and there is an opening for the press planned on May 20. A large public grand opening will be held in the fall.

Ron told the board that the NWRA summer meetings will be held August 5-7 in Monterey, California. Any board members who are interested in attending this conference should let Roberta know as soon as possible.

Ron reported that he and Corey recently went to the NWRA Federal Water Seminar in Washington DC. Ron said they had an excellent meeting with all of

our delegation and the natural resources staff at a luncheon at Marcus Faust's office. Central Utah Water Conservancy District and Weber Basin Water Conservancy District were also there and the meeting was very effective.

**6:00 p.m. meeting**

Chair Ed Bowler welcomed Lloyd Austin who was in attendance.

**QCWTP Maintenance Building** - Ron said the bids came in on the QCWTP maintenance building. The low bid was Watts construction for \$207,455. The next low bid was JMI for \$230,000. Ron said he would recommend awarding the bid to the low bidder Watts Construction.

***Jim Ence made a motion to award the bid on the maintenance building at the Quail Creek Water Treatment Plant to Watts Construction for \$207,455. Jim Eardley seconded the motion and all voted aye.***

**Water year** - Ron said the water year allocation on the Santa Clara River was 23% of normal. The District is working with St. George to turn on some wells that are not being used, reuse water and four supplemental wells in Gunlock that will help alleviate some of this shortage. Ron said it has been interesting to watch as dry as it has been that some users have still used 50 to 60% of their allocation by April. He said it is clear we will see some irrigation curtailments on the Washington Fields in the next few weeks. The river is down to 70 cfs. Normally, we would be seeing about 500 cfs this time of year. There is 65,000 a.f. of storage in the two big reservoirs. Quail Creek is dropping faster than any water that is being put in to fill it. Ron said it will definitely be an interesting year with the water year fairly closely mirroring 2002 which was the driest year in record in 100 years. Two of the wettest years were in the last 15 years and the other 13 years were some of the driest in our history.

**Lake Powell Pipeline** - Lake Powell Pipeline continues to move forward. Ron said he thinks we are on schedule to have final documentation in early next year for the FERC permit.

Ron said he didn't have anything else to report since other items were covered in the work meeting.

**Approval of minutes of February 2015 meeting –**

***Jim Ence moved to approve the minutes of the February 2015 Board of Trustees Meeting. Jon Pike seconded the motion and all voted aye***

The meeting was adjourned.

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Secretary