

**WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT**

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees

December 8, 2015

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah. Those board members present for the meeting were: Chair Ed Bowler, Jim Ence, Howard Bracken, Zachary Renstrom, Tom Hirschi and Jon Pike. Ken Neilson was not present. Also present were General Manager Ron Thompson, Associate General Manager Corey Cram, Brie Thompson and Secretary Roberta McMullin. Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present

The first item on the agenda was a public hearing on the 2016 budget.

Tom Hirschi moved to go into public hearing on the 2016 budget. Howard Bracken seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The board members voted as follows:

Ed Bowler	Aye
Jim Ence	Aye
Howard Bracken	Aye
Zachary Renstrom	Aye
Tom Hirschi	Aye
Jon Pike	Aye

Ron **reviewed the proposed 2016 budget** which is attached to these minutes and also presented some graphs to review the budget.

Tom Hirschi asked about employees and raises or increases. Ron said he has budgeted in 2% for cost of living increases. He has also budgeted for three new employee positions as discussed at last month's work meeting which are hiring a full time IT intern Austin Flint, hiring a new staff attorney and hiring the Desert Hills Garden manager who has been a temporary employee, Ryan White.

Ed called for questions or comments from the public regarding the 2016 budget. There being none, the following motion was made:

*Jon Pike moved to approve the 2016 budget as presented.
Tom Hirschi seconded the motion and all voted aye.*

Zach Renstrom moved to close the public hearing on the budget. Tom Hirschi seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Ron said that as done in previous years, 2015 budget surpluses will be allocated to the capital projects fund but he needs a board motion to do that.

Jim Ence moved that the 2015 budget surpluses be allocated to the capital projects fund. Tom Hirschi seconded the motion. All voted aye.

The next item on the agenda was to ratify repair and replacement expenditures for 2015. Ron told the board there were approximately \$1.6 million expenditures for 2015. He reviewed those costs by project. He said he would like to have those ratified for the minutes.

*Jim Ence moved to ratify these repair and replacement expenditures.
Zach Renstrom seconded the motion and all voted aye.*

Approval of the 2016 meeting schedule was the next item of discussion. A proposed copy of meetings for 2016 was distributed to the board for their review. Ron said that rather than the January 6 meeting he would like to take the board and some legislators, mayors and county commissioners and go to Colorado Springs to go over a project that is very similar in many ways to our Lake Powell Pipeline project. They have done a lot as a utility to manage it and save costs. They have agreed to host our group for a tour on January 5 and 6. He said he believes we can learn from their wisdom as far as techniques used, how they handled PR and maybe even learn from some of their mistakes.

Tom Hirschi moved to approve the meeting schedule as presented with changes discussed. Jon Pike seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Resolution authorizing an employer pick-up of employee retirement contributions – Ron explained that this resolution authorizes an employer pick up of required employee contributions in the amount of 100% for those district employees participating in the Utah State Retirement system. The board has been passing a similar resolution every year.

Tom Hirschi moved to pass the resolution authorizing an employer pick-up of employee retirement contributions. Jon Pike seconded and all voted aye.

Water Conservation Plan – Ron said he would like to have the board approve the water conservation plan which was presented, discussed and a public hearing held at last month's board meeting, subject to Ron's editorial review and minor editorial revisions.

Jon Pike thanked Julie for coming to their council meeting recently and briefing their city council.

We were the first district in Utah to adopt a conservation plan. It has been 20 years since that plan.

Tom Butine was introduced who was in the audience. He served on the committee that worked on the conservation plan. The board expressed appreciation to him for his service on the committee and he expressed appreciation for the district and the good job they are doing.

Ron said they are very pleased with the high use the new Red Hills Desert Garden is getting. It had approximately 3,000 visitors (according to counter) on Thanksgiving weekend. He also said the cities are working very well together on water related issues. After answering a few questions and some discussion, the following motion was made:

Jon Pike moved to approve the district's water conservation plan. Howard Bracken seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Approval of sale of property in Virgin to Solid Waste Special Service District – Ron told the Board the solid waste special service district wants to buy three acres in Virgin from the district to use for a garbage collection area. They agreed to take over the garbage service and pickup at Kolob Reservoir. They came back and said that they would like to buy the property from us and so there was an appraisal done. The appraisal came back at \$25,000 for the three acres. Ron said the district would still be able to develop or use the upper area that we own. In the sales agreement they are agreeing to commit in perpetuity taking care of garbage collection at the Kolob Reservoir area. The dumpster at the reservoir is just supposed to be for recreational use but it appears some of the Kolob residents are dumping their trash there too. Ed Bowler said if this new garbage collection area

in Virgin is taken care of and manned like the Central garbage collection area, it should be fine. Ron said they have indicated they will put a fence around it.

Jim Ence moved to approve the sale of three acres in Virgin to the Wash. Co. Solid Waste Special Service District for a garbage collection site contingent upon them agreeing to pickup of garbage at Kolob Reservoir. Tom Hirschi seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Ratify contracts with Dixie Deer Special Service District – Ron reminded the Board that the district was approached a couple of years ago by Dixie Deer Special Service District (DDSSD). They had built a new well and upgraded their system and got into litigation with a landowner. They were asking for the district’s help. After some research and investigation into the problem, it appeared the wisest choice was for the district to buy 80 acres from Bivins Brothers, LLC, and get rid of the lawsuit. We picked up some water with the purchase. Bivins assigned all interest in litigation to the district. We entered into a settlement agreement with DDSSD to ensure that water service will be available without payment of impact fees in exchange for land deeded to the SSD for the well site and any water rights we may convey to the SSD. The SSD confirmed the district’s right to an existing water connection at the old lodge. We released back to the SSD a bond that had been posted by the SSD to obtain immediate occupancy. Ultimately we can sell this property and get our money or more back out of it and we will hopefully be helping them to get back on their feet and get financially viable. Ron said he would like the board to ratify this agreement with DDSSD. Jim Ence said he feels like it is a good use of our shared property tax we collect up there to help solve a problem they couldn’t solve.

Jim Ence moved to ratify the contract with Dixie Deer Special Service District. Jon Pike seconded motion and all voted aye.

Managers’ report and status report – Ron reported that since the board last met they have pigged the pipeline, fixed a repair that had to be taken care of and the system, as a whole, is running very well.

He also told the board the staff is putting water in Sand Hollow Reservoir now. They have started to drain Kolob since it was full and they are bringing that water down and putting about 100 af per day in Sand Hollow.

Tom Hirschi asked about the progress of Anderson Junction (Toquer) reservoir. Ron said they are still working with the BLM and have a meeting tomorrow. It is slowly moving forward.

Approval of Minutes of November 2015 board meeting – The board reviewed the minutes of the November 2015 Board of Trustees meeting after which the following motion was offered:

Tom Hirschi moved to approve the minutes of the November 2015 Board of Trustees Meeting as presented. Zach Renstrom seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Ed Bowler asked for any comments from audience. Clint Rogers from Carollo Engineering was present and asked a question about FEMA maps and flood insurance.

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

Secretary