

**WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY  
DISTRICT**

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees

July 6, 2016

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah with a work meeting beginning at 3 pm and the regular board meeting at 6 pm. Those board members present for the meeting were: Chair Ed Bowler, Zachary Renstrom, Jon Pike, Tom Hirschi, Howard Bracken, Kim Neilson and Jim Ence. Also present were General Manager Ron Thompson, Associate General Managers Barbara Hjelle and Corey Cram, Secretary Roberta McMullin, Julie Gillins, Brie Thompson, Ryan White, Doug Wilson and Karry Rathje. Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present. Other guests at the meeting included Marv Wilson, Sunrise Engineering.

**WORK MEETING:**

**The first item on the agenda was a presentation on water conservation and the Localscapes program.** Julie Gillins and Ryan White gave the presentation. Ryan presented a PowerPoint presentation on Localscapes. This program is being spearheaded by Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. It is a rebranding of water conservation using this name Localscapes. Historically words like xeriscaping and xeriscaping have gotten a bad rap and have a perception problem. The presentation reviewed the seven principles of water wise landscaping which include:

Plan and design properly: improve the soil, hydrozone, practical turf areas, irrigate efficiently, use mulch, proper maintenance.

Ryan said that most of the presentation is based on northern Utah conditions and we will have to adjust it for this area and our climate.

Only 2% of people are fully satisfied with their landscapes and people do want their landscapes to be water efficient.

He showed pictures of Localscapes' range of a moderate approach in landscaping and showed a video about moderate landscaping which includes using less lawn, proper placement of trees and other plants outside of lawn area and drip irrigation.

Ryan indicated there was more information at [Localscapes.com](http://Localscapes.com)

Next the presentation showed the five steps in the moderate landscape: a central open space (lawn), a gathering area, activity zones, paths and plantings. There was a brief discussion on each of these areas of your landscape and examples were shown. On the planting area it pointed out that you should only use drip irrigation and the purpose of these plants is to provide screening, shade focal points and fragrance. Always try and incorporate some native plants into your planting beds because you know they grow well in your area.

Julie talked next about the plans to incorporate this Localscapes program in our area. She said this program is still developing. She said they have developed a work group locally and have their first meeting tomorrow. Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District is developing the course material for workshops. She reviewed a time frame beginning with workgroup meetings with local landscape architects to identify Southern Utah Localscapes. She reviewed the professional and promotional partnerships listed on the handout distributed to the board. She also covered the costs and deliverables and expected outcomes from the handout, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Ron said we should try and push new development this way. It is very hard and expensive to try and get people to tear out existing landscape and start over. The money may be best spent in encouraging and educating developers to do this on new development.

There was a discussion on the need to sell the water savings and ethics of conservation and the need to understand the consequences of what we are promoting.

Julie and Ryan also reported that Desert Garden visitation has slowed down somewhat over the last three weeks as the weather has gotten hotter. Before that they were seeing about 1200 a week and during spring and spring break they were having up to 2500 a week for month or so. It has stayed very busy until recently.

Julie told the Board that there is a Facebook page and Instagram page for the Red Hills Desert Garden on which Ryan posts pictures, activities, wildlife, etc.

Ron told the Board it has been a challenge to keep nonnative fish, like goldfish, out of the stream.

The next item on the agenda, was a presentation by Karry Rathje on public outreach efforts. Karry told the Board she will assist with the media and public outreach aspects of Localscapes. She said there will be a tremendous public outreach with advertising and promotion at workshops, conferences, etc.

Karry briefly discussed the statewide public outreach efforts and the success of the recent H2Oath statewide campaign.

The Utah Leagues of Cities and Towns has purchased a top spot on desertnews.com and we have been offered the opportunity to submit copy for that.

Prepare 60 status update.

Karry told the board that the district is having Jeremy Aquero request meetings with the economic professors who submitted a letter to some of our elected officials regarding the funding of the Lake Powell Pipeline project. He hopes to educate them in one on one meetings. Those are being scheduled for the first week of September.

Karry said she will be attending a Lake Powell Pipeline communication strategy meeting this next week where they will discuss and identify PR opportunities, partnerships and legislative outreach.

She reported they are also in process of launching two different workshop projects

In local outreach there has been 196 media stories through June – 40% opinion pieces – 82% Spectrum, 9% Salt Lake Tribune and 9% Deseret News

The press announcement that received the most attention involved our field crew and an effort to save a dog in a hole at Quail Creek Reservoir.

The district is currently doing some advertising with local movie theaters which kicked off Monday.

**Progress reports were given on the following items or projects:**

**Sand Hollow Wells** – Doug Wilson gave the board an update on the wells at Sand Hollow Reservoir. He showed a map of the Sand Hollow wells which showed wells that have been drilled or plan to be drilled. They grey color shows wells that

are drilled and in production. There are five wells that they are currently in the process of drilling.

Well #1 is up by the future Toquer Reservoir.

Wells 4, 5, 6 and 10 are the rest of the wells being drilled at Sand Hollow. There are plans to drill four more wells. Doug showed the board the basic plan for the wells being drilled (36" hold, 30" casing, etc.). Since they had a problem with sand getting into tanks and ruining pumps, the district staff has done some analysis and made a decision to go with a much finer silica sand which he showed samples of to the Board.

Doug showed some pictures of the wells being drilled by Toquer Reservoir and the logs for the wells.

There are five wells currently drilled and one is completed with test pumping. They are waiting to get the plans done for the building. All the wells but one have had screens and gravel installed. The test pumping will start on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> wells on July 21. By mid-August or the end of August they should have everything done.

**Ash Creek project** – Doug reported on this project and said that the environmental process is actually moving along well. Doug said Jodi Borgeson has jumped in and has really helped with this. They are making progress on the things that have been holding them up. Doug said their goal to get the environmental work done this year and then hopefully get a record of decision.

**West Dam Springs** - Brie reported on this. They have been doing piloting at the West Dam Springs looking at manganese and arsenic and some piloting on the filters. The collection system there is more of a screen type system. It has a trench that was dug and there is gravel and a collection line that is perforated. It collects water and it started having biological growth in the collection line. They started chlorinating and then started seeing more manganese. It also has arsenic and this has been offline. The goals are to remove the arsenic and manganese. The results to date are that arsenic has been removed. The manganese removal is more difficult. They will be running this pilot until the end of the week. There are some additional things they could look at.

**Sewer System at Dammeron** – They have reached the capacity of the wastewater system at Pinion Hills. In order to add more new connections, the district has had to get a new system designed. The Orenco system was selected which will allow for additional connections and also reduce nitrates up to 70%. The design for the new system was approved by the state. They were willing to use our data but wanted to design drain fields according to state standard but they are reaching a compromise on that. The equipment has been ordered and there is a nine week anticipated delivery but project completion is anticipated by the end of the year.

**Quail Creek Water Treatment Plant** – Brie reported that they are beginning a study with a grad student from USU, the Division of Drinking Water and Jess Brown, of Carollo Engineering. They are looking at biological filtration. There are four filters involved: 1 control, 2 no pre-chlorination; 3 no pre-chlorination/in backwash water so that the water will be unchlorinated and the 4<sup>th</sup> the same as 3 with nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) addition. The study begins this month and will end May 2017. The benefits: better water quality, organic removal, less biological activity in distribution lines and decreased disinfection byproducts. The risks are possible operational inefficiencies, may require more frequent backwashes and may increase backwash pressure.

**Water Treatment Plant tank** – Ron said they are starting to put the liner on the tank today. In a couple of weeks, they should have this 5mg tank back online. The grouting went well.

**Crystal Creek pipeline stability issue** – Corey distributed some handouts showing photos of the area he would be talking about. Corey said when this pipeline was put in, it went into the vertical rock face and they had to cut into the bank and put the pipeline in there where it is incredibly steep. He pointed out on the picture where it crosses the ravine and when there is a flood or a big spring melt the culverts can get plugged and then the water goes across this area and goes downslope.

Corey told the board it has been incredibly difficult to keep protection on the rip rap in this area to keep it from sluffing. The road isn't hazardous but the potential to lose the pipeline which would be a catastrophe and we would lose a lot of water. He said this is a difficult situation and they are looking at some different measures including rock bolts or soil anchors, or a combination of the two. They are going to get some more experts to look at it. Ron Thompson added that if we don't get it fixed now it will be compounded. There are two crossings and this one is the

worse. Ron said it is just the nature of this pipeline in this area but it does require maintenance every year and wet years make it worse.

**Toquerville Secondary Water System (TSWS) metering** – The Bureau of Reclamation has some water smart grants but they have different priorities every year. The district has been submitting grants for meters for TSWS. Ron said when a system isn't metered, it is hard to know what is going on and when you put meters in there is usually a 20 to 30% savings in water use. The TSWS system has been awarded a grant for \$300,000 to install a meter on every single 1" to 2" to 4" ag connections. The meters will tie into the base station and will by cell service bring it right to the water district building. The meters have leak detection and also have a customer portal so the customer can check their water use for the month or year. Ron said they are looking at the latest technology in meters. This will be a good thing for this system and we will be installing meters to have better remote reading all the way to Sky Ranch, Cliff Dwellers, Anderson Junction and Casa de Oro. Our staff can respond faster when there is a break and help customers to be more efficient.

***The board took a short break before the 6 pm portion of the meeting began.***

Chair Ed Bowler welcomed those present to the meeting.

**The first item on the agenda was a public hearing to levy the annual contract assessment within the Kolob Water Service area.**

A public hearing was opened. Ed Bowler turned the time over to Ron and reminded the Board that the district assesses the water assessment at Kolob through the property taxes and that requires a public hearing. He said they are not proposing to increase or change the assessment. It is \$320 if using the water and \$250 if on standby. The system generates a little over \$50,000 in gross income annually. There are 181 on the tax rolls with 108 of those on standby and 73 connected.

Ron said the system is operating well and they have a lot of it automated now. We usually don't see anybody at these public hearings because the rate is staying the same.

There were no comments from the public and so the following motions were made:

***Tom Hirschi moved to leave the assessment as it is. Ken Neilson seconded the motion and all voted aye.***

*Jim Ence made a motion to close the public hearing. Jon Pike seconded the motion and all voted aye.*

*Approval and adoption of Interlocal Agreements and Resolutions to create the Central Business District Project Area and the Millcreek Project Area at the request of St. George City* was the next item on the agenda. St. George City Manager, Gary Esplin was present and explained the two resolutions and interlocal agreements and gave a little background on each one. Ron Thompson said he would recommend approving these resolutions. The school district has already approved them. A copy of the resolutions and interlocal agreements are attached to these minutes.

*Tom Hirschi made a motion to the approve the interlocal agreement and resolution to create the Central Business District Project area and Jon Pike seconded the motion. All voted aye.*

*Jim Ence moved to approve the interlocal agreement and resolution to create the Millcreek Project Area. The motion as seconded by Ken Neilson and all voted aye.*

*Manager's Report by General Manager Ron Thompson:*

*Lake Powell Pipeline*– This project continues to move forward. Ron said they are having a lot of meetings internally and with the state about where we go from here and how do we get through this environmental process and finish it. The archaeology is the biggest problem as the requirements keep changing. Ron told the board that they will work through this with the consultants and do whatever we need to do to get through it. Ron said the district has been through this process before with archaeology and never had this problem with archaeologists before. On other projects they have been able to sit down and work the problems out. They will keep working on this and trying to solve these issues related to the archaeology.

Ron reported that they had a meeting with the Pipe Spring Kaibab Indians this last week and it went well. He said they are trying to maintain a good relationship with them.

Ron said he feels that the district has got to get more control of the project as far as costs, timetables, etc.

**Financial report** - Ron had a budget to actual for the first half of the year and then a register of every expense by category printed for each board member so they can see where the money is being spent. Ron suggested they take this home and review it.

**Water deliveries** - Ron reported that there has been 18,000 a.f. of water delivered through district system so far this year in secondary systems, ag water, water to cities, etc.

**Calendaring items** – There will be no board meeting held in August and September 7 is the board field trip instead of a regular board meeting.

Ed Bowler called for questions from the audience or the board. There being none and no further business to come before the board, the **meeting was adjourned.**

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