

**WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT**

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees

March 6, 2019

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah beginning at 6 pm. Those board members present for the meeting were: Chair Ed Bowler, Kevin Tervort, Howard Bracken, Chris Hart and Jon Pike. Victor Iverson and Ken Neilson were not present. Also present were General Manager Ron Thompson, Deputy General Manager Zach Renstrom and Associate General Managers Corey Cram, Brie Thompson and Barbara Hjelle. Other staff included Secretary Roberta McMullin. Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present.

The first item on the agenda was *Consideration of A Resolution Updating Personnel Policy Regarding Travel for District Business.* Ron said this resolution is proposing a change to the district's travel reimbursement policy to adopt the GSA guidelines. Ron said this is what the state auditor is recommending, and they have tried to put the district in line with what the county is doing and the state auditor's recommendations This will mean paying a little more in per diem. Zach has been working on this for the district. The GSA rate is different for different locations and adjusts for inflation. The main only exception between federal government policy and our policy is due to the distance to Salt Lake County, some prefer to drive up and back in the same day and we will handle that different. This is called a travel day and instead of a hotel room they receive two days of per diem. A copy of the resolution is included in the board notebooks under handouts. Ron said this will make it more uniform, even though it will cost a little more. The district's policy has always been if you can fly cheaper than driving the district will pay the lesser amount if you choose to drive. There was some discussion among the board after which the following motion was made:

John Pike made a motion to approve the Resolution Updating Personnel Policy Regarding Travel for District Business. Chris Hart seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

John Pike Yes

Chris Hart	Yes
Ed Bowler	Yes
Howard Bracken	Yes
Kevin Tervort	Yes

The second item on the agenda was **Consideration of A Resolution Updating Personnel Policy Regarding Important Notice.** Ron told the board there is another item on the personnel policy that needed updating and clarification. Right now there is language in the personnel policy that makes it clear that employees are employees at will. The Employer's Council has recommended cleanup of the language which ensures that employees realize that they are in fact employees at will and those policies can change from time to time. The board was able to review a copy of the proposed resolution updating this language.

Kevin Tervort made a motion to approve the Resolution Updating Personnel Policy Regarding Important Notice and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

John Pike	Yes
Chris Hart	Yes
Ed Bowler	Yes
Howard Bracken	Yes
Kevin Tervort	Yes

The next item on the agenda was **Status Reports on various projects and items:**

Lake Powell Pipeline – Barbara Hjelle reported that the main thing happening is that the comment period has been extended but not very much more has come in. She said it looks like FERC is proceeding. They have had a meeting and a long phone call with the resource agencies to come up with an issue matrix which starts them with the NEPA drafting process. All indicators are that FERC is trying to make this happen. Barbara told the board she heard today that the current schedule shows a draft out by August of this year. It appears that the efforts that DOI Secretary Zinke initiated have reached fruition. The Bureau of Reclamation is going to be the lead Department of Interior agency and is going to shepherd all the other agencies through the FERC EIS process. She said they met this week and

will be meeting soon to work on the cultural resources section which will be a long process. They are also working hard to keep their efforts in working with the Kaibab Indians informative and collaborative in the hope that they can reach a favorable conclusion with them.

Sand Hollow regional pipeline – Corey reported to the board that they had their final walk through on the pad construction for the project. They did a very good job and put in some nice water controls. This work was done by Brown Brothers Construction. They also awarded the contract for Phases A & B to Feller Enterprises. Corey said they had an initial meeting with them and a pre-construction meeting and did mandatory tortoise training. The pipe is being manufactured in Birmingham, Alabama. There are scheduled pipe deliveries the last week of this month. They want to work uphill on both segments. They plan on doing 500' a day but may be able to do more than that. They appear committed to the project. The pipeline manufacture has also been attending the meetings and is very committed, so things are moving forward. The contract end date will be in August. Corey told the board they were able to save a lot of money by doing this the way they have done it. They made it a good package for contractors to bid on.

Ashcreek Project – Corey said they regrouped recently on this project. They are revising the hydrology reports to better characterize the Ashcreek system and the way it will function. They are still revising the EA and some maps and are revisiting the yield on the Ashcreek Reservoir. They hope to have this to the BLM in a couple of weeks.

Water Year – Ron showed the numbers on Kolob which showed the water in the snow pack at 26" at midnight last night and 29.5" this afternoon. This shows the amount of rain even at this 8000 ft. elevation – getting 3 ½ inches in less than 24 hours. Ron said there is water running all over. There is 7500 cfs in the Virgin River. Pine Valley got some rain on the snowpack at Gardner Peak and Little Valley got some rain on the snowpack. The Santa Clara River is at 3500 cfs upstream from Gunlock Reservoir.

Ed Bowler added that he thinks Gunlock Reservoir will spill sometime later tonight or in the early morning hours. Howard Bracken said at Enterprise the big reservoir is about half full and the small one will probably spill in a day or two.

Ron said Kolob Reservoir will fill quickly and that every reservoir should be full or as full as we want it to be.

Manager's report – Ron Thompson gave his Manager's Report. He told the board the district doing well. The operations crew is fixing everything from winter that needed fixing and getting ready for the summer run. All the staff is working hard.

Celeste Muloy is leaving the district to go to work for Congressmen Stewart in Washington DC which is a loss for us, but we will have a voice that knows our project back there.

Ron said as far as the legislative process there are still a couple of bills that they are watching pretty close. There is one bill that puts a sales tax on water. They are also watching two bills particularly close, both by Senator Fillmore, one would strip property tax from Weber Basin WCD, Jordan Valley WCD and our district, not Central Utah WCD, but they will still join the fight. His other bill says when an entity is proposing to raise property tax at a meeting, there can be no other business on the agenda. So, this guarantees you will have an extra meeting and you also must allow people an unlimited time to speak. There was some discussion among the board and staff about these bills. Ron said they will continue to monitor them.

Upcoming Calendar Items were reviewed as follows: reviewed items

April board meeting cancelled	
May Board Meeting	May 1 – (work meeting beginning at 3 pm)
Dinner during UWU	March 18 -- DSU 6:00 pm
Utah Water Users Conf.	March 19-20 -- Dixie Center

Approval of board meeting minutes – The minutes of the meeting of February 6, 2019 were reviewed and moved for approval with the following motion:

Jon Pike moved to approve the minute of the February 6, 2019, meeting of the Board of Trustees. Kevin Tervort seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

There was no further business and upon motion, the meeting was adjourned.

