

**WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY  
DISTRICT**

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees

July 10, 2019

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah beginning at 6 pm. The 3 pm work meeting was cancelled. 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 Barbara Hjelle and Corey Cram. Other staff included Secretary Roberta McMullin. John Fredell, LPP consultant was also present. Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present.

The first item on the agenda was *consideration of a Resolution Updating Personnel Policy Regarding Information Technology*. Ron Thompson told the board there were more minor changes on cell phones in this resolution. He said they would like to have employees pay a minimal stipend of \$10 per month for their cell phones which would allow them to use their phone for personal use. Also, this includes that the general manager, at his discretion, could provide a stipend to some employees who want to use their personal phones for district work also. Ron said one additional item that they wanted to include in this resolution is because every employees has their own password to get into the district system, they wanted it made clear that if, for example, Ron wants to give Roberta his password to log onto his computer to do something for him, that they can do this. Ron said these changes get the district where we need to be in complying with the new state statute regarding personal use of district property.

Zach added that there is a benefit to having district staff carry district owned phones rather than carrying two phones. It is easier to get ahold of them when needed. There was some further discussion and then the following motion was made:

*Jon Pike moved to approve the Resolution Updating Personnel Policy regarding Information Technology. Chris Hart seconded the motion, and all voted aye. A roll call vote was taken as follows:*

<i>Ed Bowler</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Jon Pike</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Chris Hart</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Howard Bracken</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Kevin Tervort</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Victor Iverson</i>	<i>Not present</i>
<i>Ken Neilson</i>	<i>Not present</i>

*Discussion of district being a sponsor of the Washington County Fair* – Zach explained that the County would like the water district to be a sponsor of the county fair for \$5,000. The district’s name would be on the tickets, program, etc. There was discussion among the board members and some concerns about the possible negative impact from the public of spending that amount of money as a sponsor. Chris Hart said he feels like if the district’s name is all over things we will be criticized. Jon Pike asked what it would cost the district to have a booth and distribute materials. Zach said he can go back and talk to Pam about that and find out what the cost of a booth is. Mayor Pike said he is just concerned about perception.

Ron said he doesn’t oppose doing it and said in the interface between the county and the district if they ask for help, do we want to do that, or would the money be spent better in our education budget. He said if the district is a sponsor this year the county may expect us to be a sponsor every year.

Various board members expressed that they felt there would be a better perception with a booth for education than with a sponsorship. Ron and Zach will talk to Karry about this and where we could get the most bang for the buck.

The next item on the agenda was the *approval of the bid for the Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline OHV staging area.* Ron told the board that in the mitigation on the regional pipeline, we agreed to enhance an off-road vehicle staging area which

had been designed and approved by the BLM and they agreed to maintain it. The low bid was Royal T Enterprises for \$147,418.40. There were five bids and the high bid was Nichols Building, LLC for \$285,548. Ron said the staff recommends accepting the low bid from Royal T. Enterprises.

***Chris Hart moved for approval of the low bid for the OHV staging area on the Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline for \$147,418.40. Kevin Tervort seconded the motion, and all voted aye.***

**Review and status of capital projects in planning or under construction –**

Ron reported to the board that the Lake Powell Pipeline projects continues to move along. He said they had a productive meeting today with the Kaibab Paiute Band and they are making headway there. All the environmental information is in the hands of the preparers of the documents. They expect the draft EIS out this fall sometime. Ron said when you are dealing with a lot of federal agencies it is very difficult.

**Ashcreek Project** – The BLM wants a month to work on the EIS and that is moving forward.

**Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline** -Corey said this moving along well. Phase A is half done. They have already gone through some of the more difficult areas. Corey showed pictures of the work being done on the screen. He showed the rocky area they are passing through that has required a lot of excavation.

Corey said there are two crews working – one excavating and laying pipe and one doing backfilling which goes a little slower. The backfilling gets a little behind and so they work on Saturdays to catch that up. He said the phase in Washington City is going a little slower. They are working through a lot of utilities.

The Warner Valley phase is a little farther ahead. Corey told the Board that Feller Enterprises has been good to work with and they have been operating safely with all the OHV work. The boring under the freeway is scheduled for the first of August.

**Miscellaneous items:**

**Scheduling issues** – Ron said there is no meeting scheduled in August and the September meeting will be a field trip on Wednesday, September 4.

Ron told the board that staff that they would be meeting with the Arizona people on issues later this month on issues affecting the Lake Powell Pipeline project.

Still some high water going on right now –

**Discussion of Ivins Reservoir dam** –Ron told the board that they have a drain problem in the Ivins Reservoir right abutment. This is reducing the storage in the reservoir. Ron said they are working on this and intend to come up with a long-term fix very quickly.

**Approval of Minutes** Ed Bowler said there are two sets of minutes to approve from the two June meetings, June 5 and June 18.

***Jon Pike moved to approve the minutes of June 5 and June 18, 2019.***

***Kevin Tervort seconded the motion, and all voted aye.***

Ed Bowler asked John Fredell if he would like to report anything. He told the board is he is optimistic as the project is moving forward. There are lots of balls in the air, but they are going to see a draft EIS before too long which will put us on a real good path. He said they are also working with the Army Corp of Engineers on options for the 404 permit and that is moving along well, and they are making some headway on this.

Ed Bowler asked for any more questions or comments from the board.

Jon Pike asked about the plan some months ago to engage a lobbying firm for the Utah State Legislature. He wondered how that was going and what they are doing. Ron said the lobbyists are working very hard on several things including llaying the support in both the house and the senate on the Lake Powell Pipeline project.

Ron said they are also meeting with Senator Adams next Tuesday. He said they are working on some regional conservation goals and there are some very strong feelings on that process and what is being proposed. There was discussion among the board and staff regarding this process.

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

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Secretary

