

WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
November 13, 2019

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah beginning at 6:30 p.m. 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, Corey Cram and Brie Thompson. Roberta McMullin, secretary, was also present. There were no other guests present at this meeting.

Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present,

The first item on the agenda was *the award of the bid for the Quail Creek Water Treatment Plant Fuel Storage Tank and Filling Station* - Brie Thompson reminded the board this will be a 20,000-gallon tank and a backup tank which was discussed at the last board meeting. There will also be a filling station so field operators can fuel their trucks. Brie said three people showed up to the pre-bid meeting, but they only ended up with one bid at the bid opening which was Interstate Rock for \$381,798.32. She said they have done some checking on the price and the consultant doesn't feel like it was too far off. Given the market conditions, it may be a little higher but with projects going out now it is hard to find contractors with time and availability. Brie told the board the staff recommendation was to approve the bid from Interstate Rock Products.

Chris Hart moved to approve the bid for the Quail Creek Water Treatment Plant Fuel Storage Tank and Filling Station to Interstate Rock Products for \$381,798.32. Kevin Tervort seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

Status reports were given on the following projects:

Lake Powell Pipeline – Barbara said there hadn't been much change since the last meeting other than we have a schedule from Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) of when they expect to get Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) done. They have comment periods they have to honor. There will be a 45-day comment period after

the issuance of NOI. If all goes according to plan, there would be a draft EIS for public review by April 2020 and other work finalized toward the end of 2020, but the final would probably be out in January 2021. There is a BLM plan amendment which requires a 90-day review period which they only allowed 45 days for. She told the board there is a night and day difference between the FERC process and BOR process.

Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline – Corey reported that they have made some progress. They cleaned up a lot of things on the section through Sand Hollow and through Warner Valley. They have cleaned up a lot of garbage. They have pressure tested it, found a leak and fixed it. They then refilled it and found that it was taking water and they haven't been able to find where the 2nd leak is or where the water is coming to the surface at about 40 gallons a minute. They are checking different locations for wet spots and still working on that. In Phase B in Washington City they are still going through and buttoning up things on the three vaults. They are working on the landscaping and cleaning up around the Stucki Farm area. Corey said the district is holding on to the contractor's retainage and some additional money until they complete these things.

Ashcreek Reservoir – Corey told the board there will be a public open house at the Toquerville Town Hall on Monday from 6 to 8 pm on this project. They will have exhibits and talk about the project. It is a pretty straight forward project and makes a lot of sense for the county. He said they are still working on other small things related to the project -- they still need the Army Corp permit for the project and are working on the final design.

Manager's report by Ron Thompson – Ron said it is looking like we might get some storm next week.

Ron said next month we will have the public hearing on our budget and property tax increase at the December 4 meeting. The tax rate dropped to .00054 and we will get it up to .00059. Ron told the board we received a letter from Conserve Southwest Utah (CSU) of how we should change our rates. Ron said he will make sure and send a copy to the board members.

Zach added that the people who would benefit the most from CSU's suggestions are the oil and gas companies and the very rich. The smaller and lower income homes would get hit really hard. Smaller lower income homes would get hit hard.

Ron also told the board that the district continues to have two issues out there. One is the problem of getting schools, universities and even IHC to pay their impact fees. Our contract with the cities says if they don't get our impact fees collected, then they have to pay it, but we have not enforced that. One of the biggest problems is that the institutions that don't require a building permit from the city. We need the cities to back us up and tell them they won't hook up their utilities for their building until they pay their impact fees to the district. Ron said it is hard to go back to the cities and try and collect the money if we don't get it at the start. If they don't pay it, in the end somebody else must pay it.

Ron said we need to have the cities be partners with us and help police this. Mayor Pike indicated he thinks the cities should help in this regard and it needs to be fair to everybody. Ron said there are a few new schools right now that we haven't collected any impact fees on.

Review of upcoming calendar items:

Nov. 19 – at 4 pm commission meeting regarding tax increase – need board members to come to that

Dec 2 – Christmas party at Abbey Inn at 6 pm

Dec. 4 – Board Meeting and public hearing on budget at 6 pm

Dec 11-13 - Colorado River Water Users Conference in Las Vegas at Bally's.

Ed gave a brief report on the State Task Force Meeting he attended earlier today.

Ron discussed the state elasticity report. He told the board they had a meeting this morning and reiterated they don't feel good about this and this report is not done well.

Approval of October 16, 2019 board of trustees meeting minutes- The minutes of the October board meeting were reviewed by the board and the following motion was made:

Jon Pike moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2019 board meeting as presented. Chris Hart seconded the motion and all voted aye.

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