

WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY

DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
January 15, 2020

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah beginning at 6:00 p.m. Those board members present for the meeting were: Chair Ed Bowler, Kevin Tervort, Howard Bracken, Chris Hart, Jon Pike, Victor Iverson and Ken Neilson. Also present were General Manager Zach Renstrom and Associate General Managers Corey Cram and Brie Thompson. Roberta McMullin, secretary, and Karen Barnum, senior account, were also present. Other guests at the meeting are shown on the sign-in sheet attached to these minutes.

Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present. Ed said we would be covering the items on the agenda in a little different order than shown on the agenda and he requested to start the meeting with a closed session to discuss litigation and personnel evaluation.

Jon Pike made a motion to go into a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel evaluation. The motion was seconded by Ken Neilson and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Ed Bowler</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Howard Bracken</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Kevin Tervort</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Victor Iverson</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Jon Pike</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Chris Hart</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Kevin Neilson</i>	<i>Yes</i>

After the closed session the following motion was made:

Jon Pike moved to close the closed meeting and return to public session. Kevin Tervort seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Ed Bowler</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Howard Bracken</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Kevin Tervort *Yes*
Victor Iverson *Yes*
Jon Pike *Yes*
Chris Hart *Yes*
Kevin Neilson *Yes*

After review of an employment contract between the Washington County Water Conservancy District and General Manager Zach Renstrom by the board and some discussion, the following motion was made.

Ken Neilson made a motion to delete the word “consulting” out of Item # 3 on the agreement and then approve the Executive Employment Agreement between the Washington County Water Conservancy District and Zachary Renstrom. The motion was seconded by Victor Iverson and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ed Bowler *Yes*
Howard Bracken *Yes*
Kevin Tervort *Yes*
Victor Iverson *Yes*
Jon Pike *Yes*
Chris Hart *Yes*
Kevin Neilson *Yes*

Board member Chris Hart was excused at this point in the meeting.

Jodi Richins did *training on the Opening and Public Meetings Act* covering giving notice, emergency meetings, what constitutes open and closed meetings, public comment and enforcement. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of a *Resolution Authorizing Application for Water SMART Grants and committing matching funds in the amount of \$200,000 for Drought Contingency Planning (FY 2002) to develop a drought contingency plan.* Zach told the board that the resolution is required for this grant for drought contingency planning. The district is saying in the resolution they are willing to match grant funds up to \$ 200,000 for the grant period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.

Victor Iverson made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Application for Water SMART Grants and committing matching funds in the amount of \$200,000 for Drought Contingency Planning (FY 2002) to develop a drought contingency plan. Jon Pike seconded the motion and all voted aye.

The consideration of a Resolution Approving an Exclusive Option to Purchase Land from His Family Matters, LLC and Initiate a Land Exchange between the Washington County Water Conservancy District and Bureau of Land

Management was the next item on the agenda. Zach explained to the board that this has to do with Warner Valley and a three-way trade. This agreement would give the district the option to purchase land from Allan Carter (His Family Matters, LLC) in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. The district would purchase this non-Federal land to exchange it with the BLM for property in Warner Valley. A copy of the Exclusive Option to Purchase Agreement is attached to these minutes. After discussion and the answering of questions, the following motion was made:

Ken Neilson moved to approve the Consideration of a Resolution Approving an Exclusive Option to Purchase Land from His Family Matters, LLC and Initiate a Land Exchange between the Washington County Water Conservancy District and Bureau of Land Management. Howard Bracken seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Ed Bowler</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Howard Bracken</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Kevin Tervort</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Victor Iverson</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Jon Pike</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Chris Hart</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Kevin Neilson</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Status reports were given on the following projects:

Lake Powell Pipeline Project – Zach reported to the board that the open houses in Kanab, St. George and Salt Lake City went very well and were well attended. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) ran the meetings very professionally and people generally were very respectful. Zach said a diverse group of people came out and many of them support the project. The BOR takes all the comments and goes through them and makes sure their draft Environmental Impact Statement covers

things in those comments. The next public open house will be in June. The BOR will be coming out with their draft EIS at that time with the preferred alternatives.

Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline Project – Corey Cram updated the board on this project. He said it is all wrapped up. The contractor has finished the punch list of items. There is a little bit of asphalt that has some settlement on the far side of the underpass over in Washington. In working with Washington City, they would like to maintain a two-year bond and the contractor says they are willing to work with that. Corey said it sounds like the city has a contract in place with a company out of Cedar City to put pipeline in place from the airport that will tie into the corner of this project. Washington City thinks they will need some water within a year or two. They are also working with St. George City and that is going well. Corey said they are working on the three-million-gallon tank that will be up on the hill. There are six companies who qualified for building the tank and so they will be getting bids on that. That should take about a year to constructed. This will be tied together with the groundwater treatment plant at Sand Hollow.

Ashcreek Reservoir -Corey also reported on this project. He said this is moving forward. They will be meeting this week with the BLM. None of the comments received on the Environmental Assessment were substantive enough to have to change the Environmental Impact Statement which will really help move this along. Corey told the board they must have a right-of-way for all the pipelines and from the reservoir where it ties into the TSWS reservoir. The RMPP is going through 4a 5-day comment period and there is also a minerals report that looks at any mineral leases. They will go over all this when they meet with the BLM this week and look at the path forward. There is also a RFQ out for the dam design for this project.

Zach Renstrom gave his **Manager's Report**. Zach told the board that Barbara Hjelle's job position was been posted. She is wanting to retire. He will bring the name back to the board when they have selected a replacement. Zach said he also wanted to express appreciation to Ed Bowler and wanted the board to be aware of how much times he spends on behalf of the district in serving on the water task force, traveling to Salt Lak, attending conferences, meeting with people, etc. Several board members expressed appreciation and how critical this is with the Lake Powell Pipeline and the legislature. He also told the board as the district moves closer to implementing the computer software, Caselle, we will be changing to more of a fund balance budget and he wants to keep this very transparent with the board and the public.

Approval of November 13 and December 4, 2019, board of trustees meeting minutes- The minutes of the November 13 and December 4, 2019 board meetings were reviewed by the board and the following motion was made:

Victor Iverson moved to approve both sets of minutes for November 13 and December 4, 2019 board meetings as presented. Ken Neilson seconded the motion and all voted aye.

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

Secretary