

WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY

DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
March 4, 2020

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 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 and Ken Neilson. Victor Iverson was excused as he is in Washington D.C. for county business. Also present were General Manager Zach Renstrom and Associate General Managers Corey Cram and Brie Thompson. Jodi Richins, WCWCD legal counsel, and Roberta McMullin, secretary, were also present. The other guests at this meeting are shown on the attached Attendee List.

Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present.

The first item on the agenda was **Consideration of a Resolution Approving Interlocal Agreement for Governor’s Water Conservation Team Media Campaign.** Zach explained that this is the slow the flow campaign resolution that the four large water districts participate in for our water conservation promotion efforts. It is a media campaign, and this will continue the program for another year.

Kevin Tervort made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Interlocal Agreement for Governor’s Water Conservation Team Media Campaign. Howard Bracken seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

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| <i>Ed Bowler</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Kevin Tervort</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Howard Bracken</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Jon Pike</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Ken Neilson</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Chris Hart</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Victor Iverson</i> | <i>Absent (Excused)</i> |

The second item on the agenda was **Consider approval of bids for the La Verkin Pipeline Replacement Project -Trail Ridge Estates.** Brie Thompson told the

board that there had been pipeline failures in Trail Ridge Estates in Toquerville. The district did a preliminary phase so we could get everything online with the irrigation systems so all customers could have water. The second phase of the project is from the diversion to the TSWS system where we are replacing a lower pressure pipe with ductile iron pipe. This pipe has broken several times and the road also had to be replaced where the pipe was under. It was getting bad enough that Brie said there was some concern about it breaking and causing damage to a vehicle. The pipe was built with one intention and then was interconnected with the Trail Ridge System and so it has a higher pressure and was really borderline adequate. The existing 15" pipe also had bedding problems. Brie said they are going with an 18" pipe and there are two bid sheets – one for construction and one for materials. On the construction bid the low bid was Johnansen Construction at \$116,996.30 There were two other bidders, Royal T. Enterprises and Interstate Rock. The staff recommends awarding the construction bid to the low bidder, Johnansen construction. On the second bid for pipe there were three bidders, Scholzen Products, Ferguson Enterprises and Mountainland Supply. The low bidder was Scholzen Products at \$107,332.48. The staff also recommends awarding the pipe bid to the low bidder, Scholzen Products.

Jon Pike moved to award the bid on construction to the low bidder, Johansen Construction for \$116,996.30 for La Verkin Pipeline Replacement Project Trail Ridge Estates. Ken Neilson seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Chris Hart moved to award the bid on the pipeline to the low bidder, Scholzen Products for \$107,332.48 for the La Verkin Pipeline Replacement Project Trail Ridge Estates Materials Supply. Kevin Tervort seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Homespun Village water system was the next item on the agenda. Zach explained to the board that this is a little subdivision north of Leeds with about 20 connections and their water system is failing. The state has told them they are going to close down their water system and they asked the district for help. Because their system is failing, we are going to make a few improvements so they are willing to deed over to us the funds they have, and we will make the needed repairs. They will also turn over the water rights they have, and we have some extra capacity in the Cottam wells so we can put those water rights there. We have a pipeline next to their subdivision. Zach said they are to the point where the

state will shut them down and they would have no drinking water. We might have to invest some money into the project, so Jodi has prepared an agreement

Mayor Hart asked about how much the improvements would cost. Brie indicated a small booster pump is going to have to be put in (\$60,000) and they are going to give us about \$30,000. They are giving us all their assets (wells, pipes, storage tank, water system, water rights, funds etc.) Zach said they pay property taxes and the district feels obligated to help them, so it is not a money-making operation for the district. After further discussion, the following motion was made:

Jon Pike moved to approve the Hometown Village Water System agreement with the district with the change of the general manager's name to Zachary Renstrom. The motion was seconded by Ken Neilson and all voted aye.

The next item on the agenda was a **discussion of preparations for potential pandemics including COVID-19**. Zach says COVID-19 is not a waterborne illness and even if somebody happened to sneeze into the water, the chlorine and other chemicals would clean it. He said the district has an action plan for a pandemic and they will continue to plan and work on that. He told the board we are considered "critical infrastructure" by the federal government because we treat and distribute water.

The following **status reports** were given:

Lake Powell Pipeline - Zach said this is moving very rapidly. He said the Bureau of Reclamation is doing a thorough and excellent job and we are still on track to get the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) draft released the first part of June. Open houses are scheduled for the end of June on the EIS. Zach said they will invite the board to the open house here in St. George.

Mayor Hart asked if everything is on track on the project. Zach said yes, they are on track for a record of decision next January which would be in time to go before the legislature. They will have to have a little more design work done before they go to the legislature. Zach said the record of decision will show the pipeline and then we can start doing much more detailed design and value engineering. He told the board that right now the project is about 25 to 30% designed. He would like to see it bumped up to about 60% designed, which will probably take about a year and then we can get better idea of costs and then we would be ready to go the legislature. After the record of decision there will be 60 days to file litigation. We

are expecting that. The litigation would probably be against the BOR and we would join the lawsuit and be a third party and probably invite the cities to join the litigation also.

Ashcreek Project- Corey reported that they had an open house which went very well. BLM said everything looks good, but they said they wanted us to do more work. Corey explained that they want the tribe to come out and look at the reservoir again and do a biological opinion and refresh that study. We will hopefully get a record of decision by mid-summer and then go out for design bids on the pipeline and the construction of the dam itself at that point too.

Warner Valley Reservoir – Zach said this is a multi-generational project. This project was talked about during the Great Depression, brought back up in the 1960's as part of the Dixie Project, but it was never funded or built during that time. The district is pursuing land acquisitions now because we are starting to get land encroachment on it. It is a good site and we want to try to preserve that land for the future and keep it from getting developed because it is one of the last good places in the county where we could build a reservoir.

Manager's report – Zach gave his manager's report and told the board things are going very smoothly at the district. Brock Belnap is on board and doing a great job. Barbara Hjelle will be retiring in a few weeks. Her retirement open house is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, between 1 and 4 pm here at the district offices.

Zach also reminded the board about the Utah Water Users Conference and the dinner held annually in conjunction with that conference which will be Monday, March 16 at 6 pm at the Courtyard Marriott.

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

Secretary