



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2020

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at 533 East Waterworks Drive, St. George, Utah beginning at 6:00 pm. Board members present for the meeting were: Chair Ed Bowler, Kevin Tervort, Chris Hart, Victor Iverson, and Ken Neilson. Jon Pike joined the meeting virtually and Howard Bracken was excused. Also present was General Manager Zach Renstrom and Associate General Managers Corey Cram and Brie Thompson. Attorney Jodi Richins, Senior Accountant Karen Barnum and Secretary Roberta McMullin were also present. Other guests at the meeting are included on the roll attached to these minutes.

Ed Bowler conducted the meeting and welcomed those present.

The first item on the agenda was *employee recognition*. General Manager Zach Renstrom recognized staff including Trevor Brown, Sean Farnsworth, Brad Fuller and Tyler Excell who recently went beyond the call of duty to provide medical assistance to a woman in Kolob. A summary of the service was provided by David Jessop. The employees received a standing ovation and certificates for their outstanding and dedicated service.

The next item on the agenda was *consideration of approval of four resolutions* updating policy pursuant to the fraud risk assessment. Ed Bowler indicated he had read these resolutions and wanted to further consider some of the definitions and suggested tabling these resolutions for further discussion. The board members reviewed the various resolutions and suggested some revisions to the language. Part of the fraud risk assessment included an Ethics Pledge Form for board members. Board members are required to comply with conflicts of interest and ethics requirements by law so some board members wanted clarification regarding this form. Jodi will work on some modified language for board review. The following resolutions were tabled:

A Resolution updating Personnel Policy & Procedures regarding Employee Conduct Policies

A Resolution updating Personnel Policy & Procedures regarding Employee Conduct Policies (2)

A Resolution updating Administrative Policy & Procedures regarding Conflicts of Interest and Ethical Behavior

A Resolution updating Administrative Policy & Procedures regarding Standing Committees

The next item on the agenda was consideration of approval of an MOU among BLM, Washington County and the District regarding an exchange of real property. Zach explained that the MOU facilitates the land exchange for Warner Valley from the BLM to the district. He reminded the board they have already approved one agreement with Allan Carter for an option to purchase land for the exchange. This agreement is between the BLM, the county and the district. When it gets signed, the BLM will finish all the studies and send it to Washington DC for approval. Then we'll have to come back with an agreement to initiate the exchange and agree on the amount – this should take about a year.

Ken Neilson moved to approve the MOU between the BLM, Washington County and the Washington County Water Conservancy District regarding a land exchange at Warner Valley. The motion was seconded by Kevin Tervort and all voted aye.

Status Reports:

Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP)- Zach had the engineers from Stantec that were at the meeting introduce themselves. Steve Weber is a vice president who has been involved with LPP for about 10 years. Clint Rogers said he manages water projects in the state for Stantec. Zach told the board that the DWRe, Stantec and district are continuing to work collaboratively to address comments received on the DEIS, including ongoing discussions with the other basin states. Zach said it has been very interesting and intense, but we have a good team in place working hard on these issues.

Sand Hollow Water Treatment Plant - Corey reported the treatment plant is progressing well. They are working on the pump, underground piping, electrical panels and wiring. They are also working on SCADA programming. The plant should be ready for use by the end of February next year.

Ashcreek Reservoir - Corey explained the process for securing a recreational public purpose permit for Toquer Reservoir: signatures are required from the BLM's local, state and national offices. Once it has been signed, there is a notice of actions for real estate transactions that go into the National Register for 45 days. The review process with the Army Corp of Engineers is underway. At the last meeting the board approved several engineering contracts and they have given notice of awards.

Manager's Report - Zach asked Brie to update the board on the current work on the **water conservation plan update**, which is due at the end of 2021. A list of stakeholders have been chosen to participate in this update process. Julie, the district's conservation manager, applied for and received a grant to hire a national water conservation expert, Maddaus Water Management, to evaluate conservation measures and costs. Maddaus presented the various measures for stakeholder consideration at their first meeting yesterday. The team is analyzing the measures, costs, data, etc. to determine how much water conservation could be achieved and the associated costs.

They are also looking at the DWRe's regional water conservation goals and will use that as a guide or starting point, but for actual conservation goals they will look at the overall costs to achieve the different measures and then present it to the board.

Zach told the board they are working with the state to determine how water use should be measured. Other states have criticized Utah's method. Zach said it needs to be broken down by commercial, industrial, residential, etc.

Zach reported that **Red Hills Desert Garden** had 20,000 visitors in October for the Scarecrow Walk and Haunted Canyon. Preparations are now underway for the annual Holiday Lights, which also brings a lot of visitors to the garden.

Zach informed the board that residents living near Quail Creek Reservoir were complaining about the district's storing of pipes, meters, valves, etc. on district land. The district has used this land to store materials for more than 35 years. The board opted to keep the materials stored at this site to avoid the cost and inconvenience of relocating the materials.

Ed called for questions from the audience or board

Approval of October 14, 2020, Board of Trustees' meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Ken Neilson to approve the October 14, 2020, Board of Trustees' meeting minutes. Ken Neilson seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion.

Secretary