



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2021

Minutes of a public meeting of the board of trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, held on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 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, Adam Bowler, Ken Neilson and Jon Pike. Also present was General Manager Zach Renstrom and Associate General Managers Corey Cram and Brie Thompson, and Secretary Roberta McMullin. 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 a *recognition of Howard Bracken and his many years of service on the board.*

The second item on the agenda was a presentation by Steve Meisner, Virgin River Program on *the consideration of an agreement to put Woundfin above Quail Creek Diversion.* Steve presented a PowerPoint outlining an experimental research permit to place Woundfin above Quail Creek Diversion and discussed the following points:

- The Virgin River Program is (VRP) is trying to find ways to increase populations of Woundfin while still meeting water needs of communities
- Goal is to assess if Woundfin can survive and reproduce above La Verkin Hot Springs
- Project benefits: Provide refuge area where Woundfin can survive with stable water flows and a seed source for downstream population where endangered Woundfin reproduce above diversion.
- Needs: Support from WCWCD (as major partner in VRP) and agreement between WCWCD, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and

others to insure protection of water and property rights despite presence of Woundfin

- Project will be conducted under statute 10(a)1(A), an experimental research permit from USFWS that allows Utah Division of Water Resources to place Woundfin above the Quail Creek Diversion with no expectation of endangered species status
- Plan period is up to 10 years, fish will be marked with VIE tags and monitored for persistence, health and reproduction
- Transplanted fish will be removed if the population fails to reproduce

Zach clarified that the board is not voting on this tonight, but he desires the board's input.

Ed Bowler expressed concern with private property owners and assuring they have input and involvement. Victor Iverson requested examples of where this procedure has been done successfully in other markets. Steve said he will provide examples.

Zach expressed appreciation to Steve for his excellent work as a biologist who understands the issues.

Appointment of Audit Committee Members:

Pursuant to our administrative policy, the chair appoints an audit committee consisting of two members of the Board and a financial expert. Ed proposed appointing himself and Kevin Tervort as board members and Kim Hafen as the financial expert. The board agreed with these appointments.

Board discussion on impact fees – Zach said every few years the district reviews impact fees and is undergoing that process now. The public is notified that this process is starting. Zach has already reached out to the homebuilder's association, so they are aware of this too. **Status reports by General Manager:**

Water year and use update – Zach showed the current water conditions at the various SnoTel sites and they are all well below average. Fortunately, the reservoirs are at good levels. Kolob has dropped quite a bit, Quail Creek is above 60% and Gunlock is above 50%. The Colorado Basin River Forecast from NOA shows we are looking at a very dry year with about half of average stream flows.

Consider approval of updated costs for Quail Creek Hydropower Plant transformer - At the last board meeting the board approved a bid for a spare transformer at the Quail Creek Hydroplant, but it was mentioned that staff were

following up on the seismic rating and other specifications. It will cost an additional \$20,000 to purchase a transformer with the seismic rating recommended by Dixie Power. Border States is still the low bidder.

Chris Hart made a motion to authorize the additional expenditure to Border States. The motion was seconded by Adam Bowler. All voted aye.

Review excess water surcharge – Discussion at the Regional Water Supply Technical committee meeting was very positive and city representatives were supportive of the surcharge. Discussion items included 1) a variable rate that changes seasonally, 2) information on irrigation audits and conservation tips be sent to those assessed with a surcharge, and 3) the billing cycle should be consistent for all municipalities, from July 1 to June 30.

Mayor Hart suggested a one-month grace period in the event of a leak. Ed requested more information on the largest users such as hospitals, university, schools, etc. Zach said he will have the engineers come back to the board with the information requested.

Discussion of Kolob Recreation – Victor Iverson reported the county had a meeting yesterday with the county attorney, Zach, Utah State Parks and the county sheriff regarding recreation at Kolob. They're proposing camping would be on a reservation only basis with designated camp sites monitored by camp hosts. There will be an enhanced presence of law enforcement. No campfires allowed. Additional porta potties will be added and maintained around the lake. The anticipated charge for camping would be \$20 to \$30 a night with a 14-day limit. It will be important to educate people on the rules of the reservoir. They will be meeting with the landowners as well.

Several private landowners were present at the meeting and offered their concerns about various issues relating to the recreation at the reservoir. Some of the problems mentioned by them were people breaking fences, feces, people staying for extended periods of time and large amounts of trash. Concern was also expressed that locals wouldn't be able to get camping reservations as people from surrounding states will take all the reservations. They wondered if it would be possible to reserve a certain number of reservations for Washington County residents.

Zach said their comments would be considered and they're working to improve conditions quickly. The Kolob landowners expressed appreciation to the county and the water district for working on this problem.

The *approval of the minutes of the January 6, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting* was next on the agenda. After review by board members, the following motion was made:

Ken Neilson moved to approve the January 6, 2021; Board of Trustees' meeting minutes as presented. Kevin Tervort seconded the motion. All voted aye, Chris Hart abstained.

There was no further business to come before the board, and the meeting was adjourned to a closed session to discuss pending litigation on the following motion:

Chris Hart moved to adjourn the public session of the meeting and move to a closed session to discuss pending litigation. Ken Neilson seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

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|-----------------------|---------------|
| <i>Ed Bowler</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Kevin Tervort</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Adam Bowler</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Jon Pike</i> | <i>Absent</i> |
| <i>Victor Iverson</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Chris Hart</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Ken Neilson</i> | <i>Yes</i> |

Chris Hart made a motion to adjourn the closed meeting and resume the public session of the meeting. Kevin Tervort seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

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|-----------------------|---------------|
| <i>Ed Bowler</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Kevin Tervort</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Adam Bowler</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Jon Pike</i> | <i>Absent</i> |
| <i>Victor Iverson</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Chris Hart</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Ken Neilson</i> | <i>Yes</i> |

Zach told the board that Jon Pike has agreed to stay on the board until the November elections and Mayor Randall has agreed to this.

Ed asked the board if there were any more comments or questions. There being none, the meeting was adjourned upon motion.

Secretary