

**Bear River Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 27, 2016 7:00 p.m.
Bear River Water Conservancy District Conference Room
102 West Forest Street, Brigham City, Utah**

Minutes

Present: Trustees: Chairman Clinton Burt, Vice Chairman David Forsgren, Financial Chairman Charles Holmgren, Tyler Vincent, Roger Fridal, Neil Capener, Richard Day, Jay Carter and Jeff Scott

Staff: General Manager Voneene Jorgensen, System Operators Robert Phippen and Robert Thayne and Administrative Assistant Cassee Harper

Visitors: Bill Bigelow, Hansen Allen and Luce

Excused: Russell Howe

Invocation: Vice Chairman Forsgren

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Chairman Burt

Adoption of the Agenda – Chairman Clinton Burt

A motion was made by Financial Chairman Holmgren to approve the agenda with an amendment to include the financial report. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Forsgren. Chairman Burt, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Day, Capener and Fridal voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting held December 16, 2015.

The minutes of the Board Meeting held December 16, 2015 were included with the packet that was provided to the Board Members.

A motion was made by Board Member Day to approve the minutes for the meeting held December 16, 2015. The motion was seconded by Board Member Capener. Chairman Burt, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Day, Capener and Fridal voted in favor of the motion.

**Trustee Oaths – Marla Young, Box Elder County Clerk
David Forsgren – Honeyville, Deweyville
Roger Fridal – Tremonton, Garland, Elwood
Charles Holmgren – Bear River, Corinne**

Box Elder County Clerk, Marla Young, administered the oath of office to re-appoint Board of Trustee Members David Forsgren, Roger Fridal and to appoint Charles Holmgren as the new representative of Bear River, Corinne. They were appointed by the County Commission on December 2, 2015.

Board Member Vincent arrived at this time.

Project Updates – Robert Thayne

Rob presented a slide show of the installation of the pump at the South Willard well. This project has taken 17 months and the well has been deepened 200 feet.

Bill Bigelow

The South Willard well was deepened by 200 feet and we couldn't pump nearly as much water before it was deepened as we can now, so we believe we have more water and we are more prepared for drought conditions since the pump has been placed 70 feet deeper than before. Prior to deepening the well we were pumping so much sand it had completely destroyed the pump. Now, in 15 minutes we are only pumping 1.7 ppm of sand and the next 15 minutes is much less than that. The well is almost sand free after 50-20 minutes pumping at 300 gpm. With the standard maximum at 5 ppm we believe the sanding issue is gone. We are having some programming done with the SCADA so that the pump will come on slowly and turn off slowly so that we don't push the water down or pull it up too fast because we don't want to surge the well at all. The plan is to run the well regularly so we can keep the well healthy. We are now able to measure how much is pumped to waste and we can program it so it won't pump more to the pond than it does to the tank. We are only a couple of weeks away from getting our operating permit from the State.

Trustees Reports

Dave Forsgren – Honeyville has retired the diesel motor at the south well. We will use our 150 HP electric motor when there is power and when there is no power we will turn on the diesel as a backup. The public works director says you can now go in the well house and carry on a conversation and can actually hear each other now without yelling. It was about \$150,000 to upgrade.

Charles Holmgren – The Bear River Canal Company has gone through with application process with Board of Water Resources for projects in Collinston, Deweyville and Honeyville to line or pipe the canal. The engineers' estimate was at \$729,000 plus we are adding a measuring device

with telemetry on the west canal and that will add another \$40,000 to the total loan. When you do a cost benefit ratio for irrigation projects you want it close to a 1 to 1 cost benefit ratio. If you go below that the Board of Water Resources can deem your project not feasible and won't loan you money. Also, if you are going to make a lot of money on the improvements then you are going to be required to pay the money back very quickly. The Staff report is that we will be required to pay the loan back in 10 years. The Canal Company Annual Board meeting to get shareholder approval will be about 2 weeks after we meet with the Board of Water Resources. The shareholders could vote against it, but the Board will strongly advise to go ahead with the projects.

There was a meeting today on the Lower Bear River Distribution System to verify the water use from the previous year for water rights records and to either endorse or find a new River Commissioner. We chose to keep Jim Watterson who has been the River Commissioner for a number of years.

We were told today that Bear Lake is at 5,911.52 feet which is 1.5 feet lower than it was a year ago. They anticipate the allocation could be less this year than it was last year.

As far as Bear River City business, I had a visit with the Acme Water Company president and he told me that they have finally gone to radio read meters. They have also made some policy changes and they are going to read the meters year round, not just in the summer time. People are using water year all year and running the pump all year so they will need to pay all year. Vice Chairman Forsgren added that one benefit about reading meters monthly is that you can check for leaks better. Bear River City will be 150 years old this year. I have been assigned the task to find photos of water projects.

The Bear River Commission meeting in November had a report from the State of Wyoming on how effective the cloud seeding has been. A copy of Wyoming's report has been given to the General Manager and she will make that available to all who are interested.

Tyler Vincent – Brigham City is looking good, our drainage has a good amount of snowpack but I would like to see more. I spent the day at the legislature with the youth and that was a good experience.

Roger Fridal – I attended the Water and Energy Nexus in Layton last week. It was very educational. I have been looking at SNOTEL sites and nothing is making me feel good about the snowpack this year so far.

Neil Capener – Rocky Mountain Power had us put in a generator at the dairy and we have run that generator a lot more that you would think. Since we milk around the clock it is advantageous for us to have that generator.

Richard Day – The snow pack at Pineview is at three feet which it is better than last year but not great. Pineview water is moving down Hwy 89 with secondary water and they have 2 crews working to put that in. The line will run from Grammy's Fruit Stand to the north and go south to 8000 South, just north of the LDS Stake Center. They are only hooking onto the canal at one place and they have one collection pond at this point in time. Later, as the Ward place develops they will put another pond on the south end and then one eventually near Willard City as it grows to the north. The lines run on the west side of the road with a 12" line. They are putting in 8" or

6" line going into subdivisions on the west side of highway. Everything is running pretty smoothly. They are getting ready to hook the well to the system so they will have well water in addition to Pineview water. The plan is to run Pettingill's and The Farm off the well and if they need to they can switch over to Pineview water. The cost is high for a secondary water system but it is much better than using culinary water.

Jay Carter – I met with the Water Resources Board in Logan on a personal matter. There has been a moratorium for irrigation wells in Park valley for years and they may relax that a little bit. There isn't a whole lot of water to be found. I can't even get a permit for a stock well. I wanted to drill a well and put a small pivot in for 30 acres to supplement what I already have but they told me I couldn't do it.

Jeff Scott – In 2000, a bill passed the legislature that changed the revenue sharing on the sales tax. A full 1/8% of the sales tax was supposed to go to water but in order to get that bill passed they split the sales tax with 1/16% to go to water and 1/16% to go to transportation. Representative Perry is co-sponsoring a bill this year to give the 1/16% sales tax back to water so they have the full 1/8%. The money will go into a revolving Water Conservation and Development Fund so if any major water projects come up you can borrow from that fund and the revenue generated from the project would go to make the fund whole again. He is hoping that bill will pass with the gas tax passing last year and more money coming in for roads.

Clint Burt – I'm not sure how the mountains are doing but the ground water in my area is extremely well. The last 2 years I've had to use culinary water to water about 150 head of cattle but this year I have an extra foot running in the drains.

General Manager's Report – Voneene Jorgensen

General Manger Jorgensen talked to the Board about SB 80 which would take that 1/16% sales tax back from transportation and put it into a new fund, the Water Infrastructure Restricted Account, to be used for State water projects. She asked the board if they would support the bill. The 1/16 % sales tax they have now for water is shared with Water Resources, the Division of Drinking Water and the Division of Water Rights which helps with the \$150,000 to the State Weather Modification Program. If there is any money left over it goes into the Water Resources Conservation and Development Fund.

A motion was made by Board Member Scott for the Board of Trustees to sign a letter in support of SB80. The motion was seconded by Financial Chairman Holmgren. Chairman Burt, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Day, Capener, Fridal and Vincent voted in favor of the motion.

General Manager Jorgensen is very excited about the South Willard well. All indications show it is going to be a good well. She appreciates all the work that has been done by Bob, Rob and Bill.

The Truth in Taxation process is complete and a copy of the resolution was sent to the Utah State Tax Commission.

Mr. Kent Yates wrote a nice letter to the editor in the Box Elder News Journal about the District and we really appreciate that.

I have sent a water availability letter to the County for Sierra Homes for seven new homes in the Deweyville area. That water will come from our Collinston Water System.

The Conservation Plan has been completed and submitted to the State. We are in compliance. I have certified and sent in 2016 Budget to the State Auditor also.

We have started the 2015 Audit. Wood Richards is going to do it for the same price they did last year.

The Jensen case is completed and the case is closed.

Bill and I went to the Division of Drinking Water Board and they gave us a \$100,000 grant and a \$100,000 loan at 0% interest for ten years to fund the District's Master Plan.

I attended the Bear River Development Work Group meeting on January 14th. HDR Engineering has done a preliminary design of each of the 6 potential reservoir sites. Whites Valley looks good even though some parts will need to be lined. It will be a rock filled and concrete dam and will be very sturdy. Fielding would be an abutment dam. That dam would be very difficult to construct but it can be done. It would have to be constructed very slowly and there isn't a lot of room for a spillway. The Temple Fork site would be great except for negotiating with the Forest Service. The dam above Cutler isn't being recommended for further study. I feel like it is a good time to have another meeting with the Mayor's Association to bring them up to speed on what is happening with the Bear River Development. I will talk with Marissa Egbert and see if we can do a presentation at the next Mayor's Association Meeting on April 20th.

I have attended the UASD Legislative Update meeting at the Capitol. There has been a lot of water bills for the Task Force to review that have come out as committee bills. They have been going out pretty quickly. There is a bill being sponsored by Kraig Powell cutting the certified tax rate for Special Districts in the Colorado Drainage in half from 0.0004 to 0.0002 which would be very devastating.

2016 IRS Mileage rate went down to 54¢.

The Rural Water Association of Utah and the Utah Water Users Workshop conference information was included with your packets. RWAU is February 29–March 4 and UWU is March 14–16, both are in St. George. Early registration needs to be done for those two conferences.

The North American Weather Consultants cloud seeding report was sent to you. There were four storms seeded in December with 182.75 generator hours used. As of January 1st, the Bear River Basin had 97% of the median snowpack and 88% of the mean precipitation.

Financial Business – Financial Chairman Charles Holmgren Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements for December 2015 were prepared and provided to the Board Members. Financial Chairman Holmgren asked for the Board to review the financial statements and approve them.

General Manager Jorgensen mentioned that the financial statements have not been adjusted for year end and to expect adjustments after the 2015 audit is completed.

A motion was made by Financial Chairman Holmgren to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Forsgren. Chairman Burt, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Day, Capener, Fridal and Vincent voted in favor of the motion.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Financial Chairman Holmgren. The motion was seconded by Board Member Day. Chairman Burt, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Day, Capener, Fridal and Vincent voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.