

**Bear River Water Conservancy District  
Board Meeting  
Wednesday, January 25, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Bear River Water Conservancy District Conference Room  
102 West Forest Street, Brigham City, Utah**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Trustees: Vice Chairman David Forsgren, Financial Chairman Charles Holmgren, Tyler Vincent, Roger Fridal, Jay Capener, Mark Larson, Neil Capener, Richard Day, Russell Howe, Jay Carter, and Jeff Scott

Staff: General Manager Voneene Jorgensen, System Operators Robert Phippen and Robert Thayne

Visitors: Bill Bigelow – Hansen, Allen & Luce  
Scott Clark – Barnett Intermountain Water Consulting  
Jared Holmgren – Hansel Valley  
Marla Young – Box Elder County Clerk

**Invocation:** Board Member Jay Carter

**Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Chairman Forsgren**

**Adoption of the Agenda – Vice Chairman Forsgren**

A motion was made by Board Member Fridal to adopt the agenda as presented. Board Member Jay Capener seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Vincent, Fridal, N. Capener, J. Capener, Larson, Day, Howe, Carter and Scott voted in favor of the motion.

**Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting held December 14, 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held December 14, 2016 were included with the packet that was mailed to the Board Members.

A motion was made by Financial Chairman Homgren to approve the minutes for the meeting held December 14, 2016. The motion was seconded by Board Member Fridal. Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Vincent, Fridal, N. Capener, J. Capener, Larson, Day, Howe, Carter and Scott voted in favor of the motion.

**Trustee Oaths – Marla Young, Box Elder County Clerk  
Richard Day – Mantua, Perry, Willard and South Willard  
Jay Capener – Bear River Canal Company  
Mark Larson – Independent Water Companies**

Box Elder County Clerk, Marla Young, administered the oath of office to re-appoint Board of Trustee Member Richard Day, and to appoint Jay Capener as the new representative for the Bear River Canal Company and Mark Larson to represent Independent Water Companies. They were appointed by the County Commission on December 1, 2016.

**Hydrogeology of Hansel Valley – Scott Clark, Barnett Intermountain Water Consulting**

The General Manager of the District requested Barnett Intermountain Water Consulting to look at the hydrogeology in Hansel Valley. This came about because of the proposal for the Franklin Hills Land Fill just north of I-15 in Box Elder County. There were comments and concerns by the residents in that area and by the District regarding the impact of the proposed landfill on the ground water resources. There had previously been a study done in 1971 by the US Geological Survey in cooperation with the State Engineers office and it was used as the framework for this study. Barnett Intermountain Water Consulting was asked to go through that data to get a better understanding and summarize what we do know about the groundwater resources in Hansel Valley.

Scott Clark presented a slide show summarizing the hydrogeology report. The highest quality groundwater in Hansel Valley is confined to a relatively small area of northern Hansel Valley. Total dissolved solid content of groundwater in this area ranges from 400 to 1,400 mg/L, with most of the area ranging between 500 – 800 mg/L TDS. Based on total dissolved solid content, groundwater in this area is classified as Class II or “Drinking Water Quality Groundwater.” This area corresponds to the alluvial aquifer north of a bedrock ridge dividing the basin in half. South of this ridge, total dissolved solids range from 2,500 to 94,000 mg/L. These high salinity values correlate with springs issuing from the fractured carbonate aquifer comprising the southern portion of the valley.

We considered the potential for water resources to be found or transported into the valley for domestic and irrigation purposes by the residents of the valley. We found that importation of water is not feasible and that there are no sources of water within the valley except groundwater. We find that the good quality groundwater in the northern Hansel Valley is the only source of water that can feasibly serve this area.

Board Member Day made a motion to accept the Hydrogeology Study of Hansel Valley by Barnett Intermountain Water Consulting. Board Member Scott seconded motion. Vice Chairman Forsgren,

Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Vincent, Fridal, N. Capener, J. Capener, Larson, Day, Howe, Carter and Scott voted in favor of the motion.

### **Master Plan Update – Bill Bigelow**

The Master Plan is going very well. The last master plan was done in 2005 so this is a 10-year update to that master plan. We are finding a lot of good information and looking as far out as 2060 with population projections. Next month we will have a more thorough presentation with maps and figures. We have taken the time to meet with many of you and the different water systems to find out when they might need additional supplies of water. We have planned Master Plan projects for the Districts five service areas; Bothwell M&I, Collinston, Beaver Dam, Harper Ward and South Willard, and some projects to help specific customer agencies who need it. We are looking at a water banking opportunity, so if you were to have a source of water that is not being used for part of the year you can store it underground or in a reservoir. We are looking at the possibility that the District might want to consider becoming a clearinghouse for water shares for irrigation that aren't being used, they could then be leased out. We are also looking at conservation and what ways the District can help the County to begin to conserve more water than they are now and into the future. Board member Scott mentioned that when the Master Plan has been completed the County would like to use the Master Plan in coordination with the County's Resource Management Plan that has been mandated by the legislature. There are several components in the Resource Management Plan that deal with water.

### **Trustee Reports – Board Members**

**Jeff Scott** – I went to a meeting last week, Representative Lee Perry mentioned he will fight to keep the pipeline corridor off Hwy 89 with the amount of development and the number of people that would impact. I also met with the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council and they are very concerned about the Great Salt Lake turning into a dustbowl. The breach did go through on the causeway and there has not been any flow from north to south yet, all the flow has been in the other direction so that means inflow to the lake is good.

**Jay Carter** – No Report

**Russ Howe** – Thatcher Penrose Water Company talked to Blaine Anderson of Sunset Park Subdivision about hooking onto our system. They are taking it to their shareholders next month to see if they will be able to do that or not. I thought it was a good deal but the shareholders will have the last say.

**Richard Day** – No Report

**Mark Larson** – No Report

**Jay Capener** – No report but very glad to be here.

**Neil Capener** – No report but very tired of the snow.

**Roger Fridal** – Tremonton is doing well. We are one of the cities that need water, we don't have enough. We have businesses that need water and if the Bear River Development is pushed further into the future it will be too late for us. Tremonton has had so much snow the plow drivers have had hardly any rest. A bigger issue is when it starts melting the storm drains are frozen. We have about 24-25 inches of snow and the bottom 4 inches are ice and if it melts there is no place for it to go.

**Tyler Vincent** – I love the snow, but we have run out of places to put it all. We have had to haul it out on west Forest Street. We definitely need the water. The state was talking about how good these storms are for the Great Salt Lake. We have a lot of good things going on, Love's Truck Stop and the water bottling company are right on track. Love's is scheduled to open in February.

**Charles Holmgren** – I got a letter from State Auditor's office asking me to certify the 2015 financial statements. It was a review of what Wood Richards had done for us.

This morning the Utah Association of Irrigation and Canal Companies had a board meeting and we are supporting legislation listed as SB 63 sponsored by Margaret Dayton. It provides a happy medium between canal companies and shareholder's rights within canal companies. We are hoping the legislation will go through and get signed without any amendments.

We had a meeting today of the Lower Bear River Distribution System. They hired a River Commissioner that works the Idaho State line at Preston down to the Bear River Bird Refuge. He oversees keeping records of distribution on the Bear River for both storage water use and natural flow water use. Jim Watterson has reached the age of 74 and state law requires that once you turn 75 you cannot give a River Commissioner a 4-year term anymore, it becomes a one year reappointment by the water users in that drainage system. He will now be required to apply every year. He was reappointed today. We had some discussion about potential legislation to reconcile some issues with the distribution systems. The people within the distribution system are the ones that fund the distribution system and what the State has decided is that those funds we can no longer be held separate from the General State Funds. They are talking about using General State Procurement requirements. Representative Scott Chew is drafting legislation to keep that outside the state procurement process.

Jay Capener and I both are interested in a process where the Canal Company is trying to expand the loan from last winter to get funding for some canal lining for our leaking canal in the Deweyville/Honeyville area.

**Dave Forsgren** – Honeyville has a couple of projects going. We are going to put in a mile and a half of waterline under Highway 13 and under the railroad and the canal. It is a big project for us. We are also redoing the impact fees and raising our water rates. It will be an interesting year.

### **General Manager's Report – Voneene Jorgensen**

You received a copy of my report in your packet. I think our weather modification contract is doing well, we have a lot of snow. In the 25 years the clouds have been seeded the enhancement of precipitation ranges between 13% and 18% for the Eastern part of Box Elder County. We feel cloud seeding is beneficial. The State of Wyoming went into an extensive analysis of cloud seeding in the last 5 years and determined it was very valuable.

We are starting our audit. The financial statements have been reviewed but haven't been adjusted for the end of the year by the auditors yet. Charles Holmgren and I attended the Bear River Development group meeting. The geo-technical information gathered from the borings and excavations in Whites Valley was discussed. They were looking for different indications of an active fault. They can only date the fault back 28,000 years so that is still considered an active fault but it doesn't necessarily rule out building a reservoir there. USGS is going to do a lidar fly over Whites Valley, this will help them see more clearly if there is an active fault there.

The legislature is starting and we must fight Senate Bill 94 sponsored by Representative Fillmore. This bill would mandate a directly elected board in order to go through truth in taxation. Having to have an elected board would hurt us because our rural areas would not have representation. The big four water conservancy district have paid lobbyist a lot of money to protect themselves and have been exempted out leaving the little districts to fight it on their own. UASD is opposing it.

Rural Water Conference is at the end of this month and Utah Water Users is in March. The Utah Water Law is on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The District annually sponsors the Northern Utah Water Conference on March 30<sup>th</sup> in Logan. We have gotten some good speakers. We like to get some speakers that present in St. George to come and I have been asked to do a presentation on our Collinston Project .

We have increased security upstairs, we have a new door in our hallway so people just can't walk into our offices. We have tempered glass ordered and it will be installed shortly. It makes us feel more secure. Nate Hammer at the county has contacted a security company to put in a panic button that will go straight to dispatch.

We are in the basement board room tonight because we have had some water leakage in the conference room on the north side and some of the tiles have come down. We have a contractor coming tomorrow to look at things. We will have him look at the roof.

We would like to welcome our new board members. We are so happy to have you join our board. We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you.

### **Financial Business – Charles Holmgren Approval of Financial Statements**

The financial statements for December 2016 were prepared and provided to the Board Members. Financial Chairman Holmgren asked for the Board to review the financial statements and approve them.

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

### **Chairman of the Board Elections**

Vice Chairman Forsgren opened nominations for a new chairman. Board Member Vincent nominated David Forsgren and Board Member Day seconded that nomination. Financial Chairman Holmgren nominated Roger Fridal, Board Member Carter seconded the nomination. Financial Chairman Holmgren made a motion to cease nominations, Board Member Carter seconded the motion. The election went to a ballot vote. Roger Fridal won the election by one vote.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.