

**Bear River Water Conservancy District  
Board Meeting  
Wednesday, April 26, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Bear River Water Conservancy District Conference Room  
102 West Forest Street, Brigham City, Utah**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Trustees: Chairman Roger Fridal, Vice Chairman David Forsgren, Financial Chairman Charles Holmgren, 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

Excused: Trustees, Tyler Vincent and Jay Capener  
Administrative Assistant, Cassee Harper

**Invocation:** Neil Capener

**Pledge of Allegiance led by:** Richard Day

**Adoption of the Agenda – Chairman Fridal**

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

**Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting held March 29, 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held March 29, 2017 were included with the packet that was mailed to the Board Members.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Forsgren to approve the minutes for the meeting held March 29, 2017, with corrections. The motion was seconded by Board Member Day. Chairman Fridal, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Day, Larson, N. Capener, Howe and Carter voted in favor of the motion.

## **Trustee Reports – Board Members**

**Jeff Scott** – No Report

**Jay Carter** – Things are good in Park Valley. We expect a pretty good run off but I don't think it will be anything like 1984. In 1984 on Memorial Day we still had snow down to the head gates in the mouth of the canyon. One other thing, the road is not officially open yet and they are still working on it but traffic is going on Highway 30 to Nevada now.

**Russ Howe** – I visited with Buster and Brett Marble this weekend and went to see the building they put up on the Chanshare Sod Farm. It is 350' long and 150' wide. It is being used to store their machines inside and it will allow them to be locked up and not leave them out in the weather. They built it on the old cement pad they had for the dairy. Everything else is good, we are good in Thatcher and hope that Bothwell is doing ok.

**Richard Day** – They are trying to get the canals filled and use as much water out of Pineview as possible and to get ready for the new secondary water system in South Willard. They are drawing Pineview Reservoir down as much as they can to catch the new wave of run off that is coming. Causey is full. There is still 4-6 feet of snow at Sourdough and that elevation is at 7000-8000 feet so there is plenty of snow still up there.

**Neil Capener** – No Report

**Mark Larson** – No Report

**Charles Holmgren** – The plan for the Canal Company is to put water in on May 8<sup>th</sup> but we could easily go to the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Last week was a Bear River Commission Meeting in Salt Lake and there is quite a bit going on with the Bear River this spring. The Bear River Commission is required to have public input every 20 years. 20 years ago, when we held the public meetings on the commission the water quality committee was created and public involvement committee was added to the records committee. This late summer early fall the commission will hold at least four public meetings to hear what people have to say about the commission. There will be a meeting in Evanston, Montpelier, Logan, and Salt Lake. The people in Caribou County are lobbying for a fifth meeting because they think it is too far to travel to Logan or Montpelier. The commission decided to do a tour, of what is called the Central Division, sometime in July. The Utah Division voted against having a tour in July because they feel there is already too much going. Wyoming and Idaho are having another tour.

The Bear Lake Preservation Advisory Committee meeting was held on April 12<sup>th</sup> and PacifiCorp has come up with a plan to develop approximately 200,000 AF of water on the Bear River. Their proposed plan is to raise the spill gates on Cutler by 3 feet and raise the spill gates on Alexander at Soda Springs. The elevation they currently like to hold at Bear Lake is 5918 feet above sea level and full pool is 5923.65. They want to move away from calling that a flood control cushion on the top of the lake and instead they want to call it added storage. There is a concern

that they are trying to circumvent the Bear River Development somehow. Essentially any of that water is allocated to the Bear River Water Users Association and is not available to other entities to use. The other interesting thing about this situation is that Idaho has first call on the first 70,000 AF of water on the river below Bear Lake. Another thing PacifiCorp would have to do is buy property rights along the river from Grace down through Thatcher to Oneida Reservoir because if they fill the lake they will have no way of managing flood control and will wipe out a lot of farm land down through Thatcher and that would have to be purchased. There is an open house on the Cutler Reservoir portion of this project on May 9<sup>th</sup> between 5-7 at the Riverwood Conference Center in Logan. I got notice today as a property owner. Todd Adams of Water Resources is extremely concerned about this proposal from PacifiCorp and the State of Idaho feels offended by PacifiCorp. This project is something that has happened within the past 2 weeks.

**Dave Forsgren** – Honeyville's springs are still up over 800 gpm. We have a water line project going on north of town but we are waiting on the railroad permit. When that comes in we will be ready to go. We are putting in a 10" water line starting where Lou Anderson had his honey place, and going west a mile then south ½ mile. The new waterline will go under the canal, the railroad, and the highway and will feed everything west of the tracks. We have some growth out there plus we need fire flow.

**Roger Fridal** – Tremonton is doing fine. There is a fair amount of growth going on in our town and Valley. Tremonton's new shopping center project is going well.

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

The Beaver Dam road that sustained all the damaging in the flooding has been completed. I want to protect our investment and the new road from this kind of damage from future flooding or high runoff events in the future and needed some recommendations what would be needed to keep the road base and repairs in place in case we have another flooding event. We talked to the contractor and others and the recommendation was that we put some pit run down that would keep the road base in place and then construct some waterways so they can direct the water off the road. It will cost little bit more but would give us a better protection and a better road. I talked with Mark Millet about the damage that was sustained on the Beaver Dam road and he has asked us to prepare a cost estimate on what it would cost us to repair that road in case there was mitigation. It looks like we might be able to get help from the federal government for those repairs.

The repair on the road and culvert to the lower springs has been completed, also, the road that gives us access to the pumphouse Bothwell has been finished. They have done an excellent job on those projects.

Comments have come in from the Board Members for the Master Plan. We have sent the draft to the newspaper and to the public water suppliers and stakeholders. We also sent out a letter to all the public water suppliers and gave them a technical analysis of their water system. We haven't heard back from any of them so we are assuming they agree with their analysis. It is a good document and if we don't get any more feedback we will move forward and approve it in our next board meeting. I appreciate the Board's support in reviewing it and giving us comments. It's been a challenging experience and is interesting to see all the projects that have been identified.

I have been reviewing our GRAMA Policy. It was last updated in 2009 and I have asked Mark Anderson, who is the attorney for the Utah Association of Special Districts, to read and update it. We will then bring it back for everyone to read, make comments and approve.

Each Board Member has been given a letter from the Deweyville City Council. This letter is in response to the Master Plan. We appreciate their comments and we will certainly take them into consideration. The District has a process when projects are constructed. We do our homework, have meetings, we meet with landowners and others involved in a fair and professional manner and I assured Nate Spackman that when the appropriate time came, we would have meetings with the citizens so they would be aware of this project. This project has been studied since the 1990's and the well sites in the Flat Canyon and Pine Canyon were selected through a hydrogeological well siting study by Dr. Bob Oaks from Utah State University. He chose those sites because of the potential water quantity and quality and we have purposely stayed away from the Collinston area because of the naturally occurring arsenic. General Manager Jorgensen asked the Board if they would like her to respond to the Deweyville City Council's letter. Vice Chairman Forsgren said that he read the letter and he spoke with the City Council the day they wrote the letter, he doesn't think the District needs to respond. Deweyville has been a little premature in their letter but at least we know what their feelings are. General Manager Jorgensen said the District hasn't acquired property to drill a well but we have the approved water right application with the points of diversion, so as we move forward we will take Deweyville City Councils concerns into consideration and we will work like we have with our other projects and will do things in a respectful manner. I do appreciate knowing what their feelings are because then we are able to address them.

The Weather Modification report was included in the Board Member packet. The median snowpack was 147% and the median precipitation was 166% on April 1. It was mentioned in the last board meeting that the project was suspended in the middle of February. The total cost of the program this year was \$19,163 to us and the state paid the same. Our contract was for \$25,550 and we only used the \$19,163 so this has been an unusual water year.

Our EFWCP is doing well and the goats are happy. In response to the concerns about our Drinking Water Source Protection around our well and our springs Bob and Robbie looked at the cost of buying fencing and the time to put up the fencing to keep the goats out of the 100-foot radius. Another idea they came up with was to have electric dog collars put on the goats to keep them in certain areas. We looked at the cost of those and it is reasonable and the wireless fence can be moved to different locations very easily.

I want to thank Mark Larson for joining us and helping us with our presentation on the Collinston Project at the Northern Utah Water Conference. It turned out very well and we received a lot of compliments. Bob Fotheringham has always included the District as a sponsor in the conference. He is now only employed as a consultant with Cache County. The new board is working on establishing and organizing their new water conservancy district. This is the last year Randy Julander will be participating in the conference as he is retiring at the end of the year.

It is that time of year that our insurances are renewing. The auto and liability, the health insurance, and the Utah Retirement Systems all come out with new rates as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. The URS rates have not changed. I will be looking at the auto and liability and the ULGT is interested in giving us a quote on those as well. We looked at a comparison with another company last year and Leavitt's was still the better value. Our health insurance is covered through PEHP had an 8% increase but when I met with our representative he was able to negotiate them down to 7%. We

have been happy with PEHP and it remains the best value. Chairman Fridal mentioned that Tremonton City's health insurance went up 18% this year. General Manager Jorgensen said they look at the loss ratio and the District's rates would be considerably higher if we went to another carrier because we are so small. Board Member Scott said there may be another option with the Utah Association of Counties. They have been working with the County and PEHP has been chosen as the provider based on their criteria and everything that they looked at. It would be a rated pool and it would strictly be counties that chose to affiliate and they may open it to districts within the county. The county is looking at that starting in January 2018. General Manager Jorgensen said that the District's program goes from July 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup> and is included as part of a large pool with many other governmental entities. She requested the board's approval to continue with their health care plan provided by PEHP and stated the increases have been included in the budget.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Forsgren to continue with PEHP as the health care provider for the District staff. The motion was seconded by Board Member Day. Chairman Fridal, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Day, Larson, N. Capener, Howe, Carter and Scott voted in favor of the motion.

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

The financial statements for March 2017 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 Day to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member N. Capener. Chairman Fridal, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Day, Larson, N. Capener, Howe, Carter and Scott voted in favor of the motion.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.