

**Bear River Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 28, 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, Jay Capener, Tyler Vincent, Mark Larson, Richard Day, Russell Howe and Jay Carter

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

Visitors: Bill Bigelow – Hansen, Allen & Luce

Excused: Trustees, Jeff Scott and Neil Capener
System Operator, Robert Thayne

Invocation: Board Member Jay Capener

Pledge of Allegiance Music led by: Chairman Roger Fridal

Adoption of the Agenda – Chairman Fridal

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

Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting held April 26, 2017

The minutes of the meeting held April 26, 2017 were included with the packet that was mailed to the Board Members.

A motion was made by Board Member Vincent to approve the minutes for the meeting held April 26, 2017. The motion was seconded by Board Member Day. Chairman Fridal, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Day, J. Capener, Larson, Howe, Vincent and Carter voted in favor of the motion.

Trustee Reports – Board Members

Jay Carter – I don't have much to report. We had a good spring and a pretty good run off, not as heavy as I thought it might be because we had a couple cold snaps but the crops look good. The water has really cut down the last couple of weeks. It's been a good year. We could use more rain but we've had more lightning than rain.

We had 2 fires yesterday, one by the interstate and one below Cedar Hill and Wildcat. The south fire has burned 8,100 acres. I don't think we are done with the fires because everything is so dry.

Russ Howe – No Report

Richard Day – Willard had a fire and it was intense for a few days. It only burned 150 acres but if the wind had continued to blow south then Pleasant View would have been in trouble. It looks like the state has put out information on no burn areas.

They have started building the C-store in South Willard. It is going to be interesting because of where it is, it will be dangerous to access because most cars will have to cross double lanes.

Mark Larson – Ukon's springs are holding up well. He asked about Deweyville Springs, Bob Phippen and Bill Bigelow said they are holding up very well. Deweyville's South Springs were 5gpm last year and now they are 100gpm. Those springs were also redevelopment last year.

Cedar Hills is concerned about a hole right where they access the highway. It needs to be filled in.

I talked to Kip Heiner of Marble Hills Subdivision and he wants to replace some meters. He was wondering if there is money available to update to electronic meters. Chairman Roger Fridal suggested to get in touch with the Drinking Water Board to see if they have any money available for that because they occasionally do that.

Tyler Vincent – With the wet winter and early wet spring we now have tall yellow grass all over the foothills. Brigham has a fire restriction on some areas.

The water bottling plant is coming along, they will provide 80 jobs and they be open in September.

Brigham's water is doing very well, we have plenty of water and the reservoir is full. We had a great event Saturday with the wakeboarding competition in Mantua, it was a huge event and there were tons of people up there.

Brigham City's Fire Department spent a lot of time out west with those fires last week. One of our firemen fell off the truck and got injured. Brigham City has a full-time fire department it has been costly but Brigham City's call volume for the ambulance has gone up this year.

Jay Capener – The canals are full. We have a situation by the boy scout camp with some sloughing of the bank under the canal that has been moving for several years. Other than that, things are good with the Canal Company.

Charles Holmgren – The state keeps moving forward with the Bear River Comprehensive Management Plan. The Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands has responsibility for the Bear River from the Great Salt Lake to the Idaho border, that is considered State Sovereign Land. They have had 4 public meetings since we first met. They are trying to identify anything and everything that touches the river primarily for identification for liabilities issues for the State of Utah. Several years ago, there were 2 deaths on the Jordan River and the State of Utah lost \$5M in a law suit. They are going to go up the Bear River and identify everything across it including bridges, waterlines, irrigation pumps, fences for cattle, spillways on canals, field drain discharge points, etc., and for the next 2 years starting, July 1st, there will be a discount on the fees charged by the State of Utah to get people involved in identifying their structure(s) that touch the ordinary high bank of the Bear River which is considered State sovereign land. The Bear River Water Users are trying to get some language changed in the document to specifically deal with agricultural pumps as this will affect pumpers in Box Elder County. At some point, they will float the river to identify where there are crossings or structures along the river and they will assess a fee that will be about \$100-\$150 for most people and will probably only be paid every 10 years. There were a few conspiracy theorists in last night's meeting that think this plan is to take northern Utah water to the Wasatch front, but personally I think the issue is the liability to the State of Utah. You can study the website at bearrivercmp.com.

Last night at the meeting, Don Barnett from the Bear River Commission, indicated that despite the moisture there is a call on the Little Bear River. The Bureau of Reclamation took too much water out of Hyrum Reservoir for flood control so now they are calling their water back to fill the reservoir. Also, they were saying PacifiCorp is still filling Bear Lake. Whether it fills completely remains to be seen. They are sending some water down the river because there is a shortage of water in the area from Preston to Trenton. July 1st or August 1st PacifiCorp is going to start releasing water from the Bear Lake to make room for next year's flood. Bear Lake is at 5,922' and 5,923.65 is full.

Last week I went to the Water Resources Board Meeting and we went on a tour of the Great Salt Lake pumps. The Division of Water Resources goes out once a month to service those pumps. They have to turn the pump a few turns, but they don't turn on the engines. The engines are filled with nitrogen gas to keep them from corroding and special grease. They haven't been started since 1989. The pumps are powered by natural gas and so there is a gas line across the salt flats that run a generator. Every month when they go out there they haul bottles of nitrogen gas to recharge the heads on the engines.

Dave Forsgren – No report

Roger Fridal – Life in Tremonton is very good. Our springs are doing well, they are up from last year. We have the attention of many people in Tremonton. Because of the legislature we have adopted a conservation rate this year so, the more water people use the more money they spend. I will be paying about \$250 more this year than last year.

General Manager's Report – Voneene Jorgensen

Resolution to adopt the Certified Tax Rate and 2017 Budget –

This Resolution reads: It is hereby resolved that the governing body of the Bear River Water Conservancy District approves the property tax rate and revenue for the year 2017. The certified tax rate is 0.000281 with the revenue being \$1,080,896.00 for 2017. Last year our certified tax rate was 0.000290 and we had a budget of \$1,059,466.00, so we are getting a little bit more this year but the tax rate has gone down.

A motion was made by Financial Chairman Holmgren to approve the certified tax rate of 0.000281 and the revenue of \$1,080,896.00 for 2017. The motion was seconded by Board Member Carter, Chairman Fridal, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Day, J. Capener, Larson, Howe, Vincent and Carter voted in favor of the motion.

GRAMA Policy Update –

The GRAMA Policy was on the agenda. Mark Anderson from the Utah Association of Special Districts has been working on the update to that policy but we haven't received it yet.

Master Plan –

We have had some responses in regard to our Master Plan for 2017, we had a good discussion with Mitch Zundel from the County and Zac Covington from BRAG we have received some other written comments but we have also still need to talk to the people at the State Division of Water Resources. We will continue to work on the Master Plan and hopefully get it approved and to the Board for approval for next month. We would like to make an appointment with Brigham City and visit with them.

Review of Limited Purpose Entities –

I have received a copy of the results of an audit done by the Legislative Audit Subcommittee of the Legislative Auditor General's office on limited purpose entities which are governmental entities or districts that provide one or two public services such as sewer, water, or fire protection. These include special service districts, interlocal entities, local districts, and independent entities. In Utah, there are nearly 500 such entities that together collect taxes and fees of roughly about \$3.5 million. They reviewed 27 entities and the results were interesting. Out of those 27 entities 16 had missing or weak internal controls; 13 had board or staff lacking the qualifications and training necessary to protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and 17 had an organizational culture that doesn't support good governance and accountability. I have sent the checklist for best practices for limited purpose entities that were included in the audit in your packets. I feel we are doing well and we have made some improvements in our governance with our procedures.

Other Business –

We need to replace the meter at the Booster Station, the original one was put installed in 1996. The way the system has operated with Ukon Water Company, Riverside/North Garland and Tremonton and the way they have been managing their systems has changed through the years. We are having Bill Bigelow work with each of them to figure out the best way to manage that system.

We had a good meeting with Ukon Water Company and we will hopefully get that contract signed. The contract I'm referring to is a first amendment to the original contract that incorporates the memo of understanding to purchase more water through the Collinston System.

This morning I went to a Governor's Water Advisory Strategy Group meeting at the Capitol for the purpose of reviewing the final draft document. This has been a very diverse group with some that think we don't need to develop any more water sources, we only need water conservation. The final document will be presented to the Governor on July 19th. This has been a really long process; it started in 2013 when I was part of the Gang of 6 that traveled around the State attending public meetings. It has been a huge commitment for a lot of people and has been a huge effort.

We had a meeting with Dr. Oaks regarding the Collinston well site. He did a report for the District in 2000 and he chose 2 sites because of the geology. We had Lance Nielsen of Hansen, Allen & Luce do some hydrogeology to try to decide which site will have the most water. The north site is on Forest Service land and is designated wilderness area. Bill Bigelow visited with Chris Rosier in the Salt Lake Forest Service office. He didn't offer much hope of drilling on forest service land but said they could start looking into it for us. He was mostly concerned about disturbance in the area. It looks like the area has already been dug up as if someone tried to start a gravel pit in the area. Mr. Rosier wanted to know how many four wheelers and pick-up trucks are currently driving in and out of there. A designated wilderness area means no motorized traffic but I think it will be easier to get approved since the area has already been disturbed. His first suggestion was to set up a site visit with them. In our discussion with Dr. Oaks we talked about moving that site onto private property which would require negotiations with private property owners. We needed to get some initial information to see what the District needed to do and to know what the procedures are.

Summer BBQ –

The board decided on a date and time for the Summer Barbecue, it will be on Wednesday, July 26th at Roger's house at 58 North 570 East in Tremonton. We will have a short board meeting at 6:30 and dinner at 7:00.

Financial Business – Charles Holmgren Approval of Financial Statements

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

Public Comment

There is no public comment.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.