

**Bear River Water Conservancy District  
Board Meeting  
Wednesday, August 29, 2018 7:00 p.m.  
Bear River Water Conservancy District Conference Room  
102 West Forest Street, Brigham City, Utah**

**Minutes**

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

Absent: Jay Capener, Russ Howe

Staff: General Manager Voneene Jorgensen, System Operators Robert Thayne, Andrew Beecher, Richard Williams and Administrative Assistant Jill Jeppsen

Others: Bill Bigelow, Hansen Allen & Luce

Absent: Trustees: Jay Capener, Russ Howe

Welcome: Chairman Roger Fridal  
General Manger Voneene Jorgensen

**Invocation:** Neil Capener  
**Pledge of Allegiance:** Dave Forsgren

**Adoption of the Agenda – Chairman Fridal**

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

Introduction of new operators Richard Williams and Andrew Beecher. Introduction of new Administrative Assistant Jill Jeppsen.

**Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting held June 27, 2018.**

**Approved**

The minutes of the Board Meeting held June 27, 2018 were included with the packet that was provided to the Board Members.

Financial Chairman Charles Holmgren made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held June 27, 2018. The motion was seconded by Board Member Mark Larson. Chairman Fridal, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Carter, Day, Larson, Vincent and N. Capener voted in favor of the motion.

**Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

### **Trustees Reports**

**Jay Carter** reported that it is dry in the western part of the County.

There was a discussion about some irrigation wells in Grouse Creek that pump 2000 gpm from 58 feet deep. The quality of water from the well was also discussed, it was noted the water is used for irrigation. It was also mentioned how much a shallow well can save in power consumption.

**Richard Day** reported that the water from BRWCD that has been provided to South Willard Water Company has been very helpful and appreciated. South Willard is making progress on the repairs, but the work is slow. BRWCD is pleased to be able to be a backup source.

**Neil Capener** – No report.

**Mark Larson** stated he is surprised there aren't more issues and shortages as dry as it has been. The Independent Water companies he represents are grateful to BRWCD for the water they supply.

**Charles Holmgren** reports that as far as Bear River City and Corinne are concerned, things are going alright. The Canal Company has gone through applications for a new General Manager. There were 28 applicants. There are so many good people that applied, it will be a hard decision.

The Canal Company and Procter & Gamble (P&G) are working in league with problems that Union Pacific has generated. They want to close 3 railroad crossings along Waukegan Road which parallels the railroad track from 4800 North to 6400 North on the east of the P&G plant. Union Pacific wants to close a crossing at 4800 N, and two crossings at 5600 N. P&G holds the opinion that Brigham City Corporation, who supplies water and takes care of waste water would not be able to access their facilities rapidly enough if the closure took place. Dominion Energy would be impaired with their work as would Rocky Mountain Power, and greatly the Canal Company would be impaired. P&G is spending most of the money for the issue. They hired a title search company out of Salt Lake that

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specializes in railroad issues and found the canal had been there 15 or 20 years before the railroad track. We have a meeting with the Union Pacific the last week of September. There was a discussion regarding the ownership of the roads. It was noted that Union Pacific wants to close all the crossings they can, apparently so they can upgrade the track and increase the speed limit from 10 mph to 35 mph in that area. It's a big deal for the Canal Company and P&G.

Bear River Canal Company is still drawing about 900 CFS of water out of Cutler. The general demand on the Bear River has dropped down quite a bit so they are not pumping as much water out of Bear Lake down the river. There are days of the week where there is high demand and so we are keeping the canals pretty full. As of the 23<sup>rd</sup> (of August) 71,000 acre feet of water has been drawn from Bear Lake and have about 39,000 acre feet left for the rest of the year.

There was a discussion about the amount of water in the canal running down to Harper Ward.

The Canal Company is doing better than a year ago before they did the lining in the canal but are still looking at making improvements on the Hammond East canal.

There was a discussion regarding the dry conditions in our county. It was noted that at the Holmgren Farm in West Corinne there has only been 1.5 inches of rain recorded from April 30 through August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Charles concluded his report with stating there is a lot of interest in the proposed legislation regarding Water Banking.

**Dave Forsgren** reported the springs in Honeyville are running at about 350 gpm. It's been that way since last winter, they never came up this Spring like they usually do. There was a short discussion on how it will take time to charge the aquifers due to the lack of water this year.

**Jeff Scott** informed us that the County had a meeting with Congressman Bishop yesterday. There was a Congressional hearing in Ogden to push from the Department of the Interior (DOI) to streamline and consolidate some of the divisions and to get the decision making closer to where the land is. There's a big push from the State of Utah to get BLM Headquarters moved from (Washington) D.C. to Utah. Ogden is putting on a full-court press to get it. It was noted that this doesn't have much to do with water, but Ag is involved in water and BLM is involved in AG and so is DOI. The County is hopeful that this move would take place. The County is also praying for rain.

**Tyler Vincent** reported spending time with the Governor yesterday and looking forward to the commencement of 150 years of the railroad. Brigham City is doing well as far as water is concerned but recognizes we do need rain. He talked about having had our share of fires this year. We are concerned about folks in the northwest part of the county and what they are going to do for feed for the rest of the year, and for the winter due the fires. Brigham City and the County are trying to get them some financial help.

Jeff Scott added there is a special County Commission meeting tomorrow to renew the Drought Declaration for the county. This will help if anyone needs to apply for assistance from the Feds. Cory

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Barton had reported to the commission that there have been 73-75 fires so far this year and burned approximately 99,250 acres. There was a discussion on if smaller towns could apply if they needed help, it was noted that it is for individuals. After the County makes the Declaration the individuals are eligible to receive the funding. The funds are approved and released on a case-by-case basis.

There was a discussion about the work going on in Mantua. Mayor Vincent explained that Brigham City is relocating some of their distribution pipeline that has been running under the reservoir so that if there is any kind of leak the reservoir water will not get in the drinking water system.

**Roger Fridal** reports Tremonton is doing quite well. Tremonton is using a lot of BRWCD water, as of yesterday 950 gpm, which is significant. Areas of Tremonton are expanding, and they need more water and will continue to work on the secondary water project. He shared the song, What a Wonderful World because we have a great county and a great country that we live in. It's a beautiful world we have and sometimes we neglect to think about the many good things that we have in life. He then talked about the Conservancy District and the help they give to the citizens of Box Elder County. He said "We do what we are supposed to be doing. Sometimes we don't make everybody happy, but that's impossible to do. I appreciate all you do for the Conservancy District and Box Elder County."

Charles Holmgren added that West Corinne is appreciative to the Conservancy District along with Tremonton and Brigham City suppling water to them when they were out. Someone mentioned how we work together as a team in this county; we all collaborate and make things work. This sentiment was shared with the Governor, yesterday.

### **Project Updates –**

#### **Collinston Tank Project – Bill Bigelow, Engineer**

We have been working with a land owner that is very good to work with and we are also working with the power company, Rocky Mountain Power, to generate a site plan where we be able to drill a test well that would be 6 to 8 inches. We have been putting together easements.

There was a discussion regarding the advantages of drilling a test well first saving \$50,000 to \$100,000.

The discussion continued regarding the easements along the east side of the Hammond East canal. The Canal Company is waiting for more information on their easements before they would consider granting easements to the District.

The District has received the title reports, and they are being reviewed. There was discussion of similar operations between Weber Basin Water Conservancy and Davis-Weber Canal Company along the canal just west of Hill AFB. There were some points of that easement that should be consider in this situation.

Further discussion included how the Power Company likes their lines along the highway, so they can inspect them, but want them on the private land owner side of the fence. That way if the Highway

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Department decided to change something then they would have to pay to move them. If its on the State right of way, then the Power Company would have to pay to move it.

**Robbie Thayne** gave a report on what's happening in the field: The District is delivering water to Tremonton which has been successful. It's about 960 gpm most of the time.

We are delivering about 75 gpm to Bothwell and have been all summer. We also spent about 2 days giving water to West Corinne at about 200 gpm. They were grateful for that. It was a good thing that worked out well for everyone.

We are also delivering to South Willard. We've delivered 180 gpm all summer until just a day ago, yesterday, we dropped it down to 140 gpm, today we went to 130 gpm. So, the usage is going down. Told project would be done by end of September.

We have also been giving Early Park some water from Beaver Dam. Rather than let it go to waste we have been giving it to the missionaries to water the grass. It has been a fun project and they are very appreciative of it, they have been able to keep Early Park greener this year than they ever have. There's about 5 acres of grass and it's a beautiful place.

Robbie reported on several maintenance projects in the works, or in the planning stages. Some highlights are: replacing meters in the UDOT vault for Tremonton, going through the PRV's to insure they are working properly, identifying all meters, valves, vaults and air vacs on all the systems. There is a long list of small maintenance items to work on. Robbie is happy to have two new operators, Andrew and Richard, who are willing to help.

There was a discussion about using GPS to locate each piece of equipment. Richard Day mentioned South Willard has done this, and the upfront expense has been well worth it. The District has had discussions in the past with our engineers. We will look at it again.

Robbie continued his report noting the walkway at Early Park was raised up. There were no roots, it was dry and clean throughout the entire length. The walkway is working very well.

A redundant sump pump has been installed at the lower springs to capture the ground water that runs through where the booster pumps are.

Dave Forsgren asked about a couple projects that had been mentioned to him 1) Well house around the backup well. It was noted if the building was over the backup well, it could be used all winter and save money, especially in power bills. And 2) the SCADA on the Newman well needs to be upgraded. SCADA also needs to be added to the backup well to access it remotely. There have been previous discussions between the operators and the General Manager about adding this to the maintenance list. Voneene Jorgensen mentioned we would also like to have SCADA attached to the oiler on the Newman well. This would be done by having it set up to measure flow and if the oil quits passing the sensor it will send out an alarm. Cost estimates have not been given yet but will be looked at during the upcoming budget preparation in October.

It was noted that with the new operators, a general maintenance plan for each well is being developed.

# Approved

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

Appreciation for the new employees was expressed.

It was noted there is a copy of the Supplement Protest from our Attorney in the Board Member packet, for review. With the presentation that was given at the Water Rights Hearing we should be in good standing with our water right filings.

For the Collinston water source project we are working on a pre-qualification list of well drillers, so we can go out to bid for the test well.

With service to the South Willard Water Company, we were able to gather data on our well as to the capacity in gallons per minute and depth of the water. We have been able to serve South Willard Water Company with their 450 connections and keep our tanks full. This information is helpful in meeting with developers in the Willard area. We have about 100 connection left in the capacity of this well. The South Willard developers have over 550 homes planned in several phases. There would need to be a new well drilled to service these homes. They are outside of the South Willard Water Companies service area, so they have come to us. We are in the early stages of negotiating a Reserve Agreement with the developers. This is a complicated process, and we will continue to work with them. We do not have a distribution line in place, so they would need to put this in as part of their infrastructure. The Board recommended that talks continue.

There is a standing motion to participate in the weather modification program if Cache County also participates. The State has requested confirmation that we will participate in the 2018-2019 season. It was noted that Cache County and the District pay 50% of the cost of this area and the State sponsors 50%. The cost to us is between \$22,000 and \$25,000 per season. A summary of the 2017-2018 Winter Clouding program was included in the board meeting packet. In the summary it is stated that the Northern Utah project gives us about 56,000 acre feet more water for a cost of \$1.55 an acre foot. When we have drought conditions in our county we need to do everything we can to help. The Board gave a recommendation to continue our participation.

The District is in the process of gathering information for an audit with URS. These audits look at our payroll and eligibility and come about every 3 years.

The UASD annual convention is the 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of November in at the Layton Convention Center. Voneene is the Chair of that Association, and it is a great training opportunity. The dates conflict with our board meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November. We may want to consider moving our November board meeting to the 14<sup>th</sup> and the December board meeting to the 19<sup>th</sup>.

We had the opportunity to serve water to West Corinne in their time of need through the connection on our Harper Ward line when they had a problem. Voneene has been asked to attend their board meeting to discuss a proposed 10: water line that would connect our Bothwell system with the West Corinne Water Company system. They think it is a good time to discuss having that connection as a backup to their system.

**Approved**

There was a discussion on ownership of the line, the ability to sell water, cost, impact fees and prices for services and use. It was recommended by the Board that Voneene attend their board meeting and include engineer, Bill Bigelow in the discussions, planning and design. The installation would be separated into two portions; West Corinne Water Company would provide the labor and installation, BRWCD would provide the pipe and other parts needed. It was noted that we have a rough estimate of our portion of \$85,000.

A motion was made by Board Member Mark Larson to accept the General Manager's report. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jay Carter. All votes were in favor of the motion. Chairman Fridal, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Day, Vincent, N Capener, and Scott voted in favor of the motion.

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

The financial statements for July 2018 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 Larson to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Neil Capener. Chairman Fridal, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Vincent, Scott, Day and J. Carter voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. A favorable vote was given by all Board Members.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

A cake was shared by the attendees in honor of General Manager Voneene Jorgensen's 25 Year Anniversary with the District.

**Approved**