

**Bear River Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 23, 2015 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, Neil Capener, Richard Day, Russ Howe, 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 Nelson Phillips, News Journal

Excused: Brent Baugh and Roger Fridal

Invocation: Financial Chairman Holmgren

Pledge of Allegiance

Intent to Increase Property Tax

The District sent a letter to the County Commission signed by Chairman Clinton Burt. The letter stated the District's intent to raise their certified tax rate from 0.000192 to the maximum statutory limit of 0.0003 to repay bonds and to pay for capital facilities and other expenses. The letter was read by General Manager Jorgensen. The proposed increased dollar amount is \$381,401 which is approximately a 56.25% increase. These numbers were generated by the County Auditor's office.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Adoption of the Agenda – Chairman Clinton Burt

There were no changes to the agenda.

A motion was made by Board Member Carter to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Financial Chairman Holmgren, Chairman Burt, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Howe, Day, Capener and Vincent voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting held August 19, 2015.

The minutes of the Board Meeting held August 19, 2015 were included with the packet that was provided to the Board Members.

A motion was made by Financial Chairman Holmgren to approve the minutes for the meeting held August 19, 2015. The motion was seconded by Board Member Vincent. Chairman Burt, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Howe, Day, Capener and Vincent voted in favor of the motion.

Project Updates

South Willard

– Robbie Thayne

Rob reported that the 24 hour pump test has been completed and presented a slide show of the pump testing of the well. The well driller is going to let the District use their pump to fill our reservoir. The air comes in about 375-400 gpm so we can comfortably pump 300-350 gpm without any sand or air. After 24 hours of pumping the well at 485-500 gpm, the draw down was 140 feet. The water level in the well recovered in about 11 hours and recovers in about 11 hours.

– Bill Bigelow

I will evaluate the data from the 24 hour pump test and put together a bid package for the new South Willard pump. In the meantime, like Rob was saying, the well driller offered to let us use his pump for 30-60 days while we are waiting for our new pump to be ordered and installed.

Trustees Reports

Jeff Scott – No Report

Jay Carter – No Report

Russ Howe – Thatcher Penrose has new auto read meters. They read them once to make sure they were working properly. All 251 meters can be read in about 1½ hours driving at 15 mph. Also, the new meters automatically read every 15 minutes and will let us know if it detects a continuous leak for more than 24 hours. We can then call the customer to let them know they

have a leak somewhere in their house. The meters will also tell us if there is a problem with the backflow. Howell is going to upgrade to the same meters.

The Thatcher Penrose well was struck by lightning and it took out the entire control panel so we used the District's water for a week until we got everything repaired.

Richard Day – South Willard Secondary water project is moving forward.

Neil Capener – No Report

Tyler Vincent – As far as water is concerned, Brigham City is doing really well.

Charles Holmgren – I measured 1.5 inches of rain in Bear River City from the rain storm we had a week ago. PacifiCorp has shut off the pumps at Bear Lake. The lake continues to drop just from evaporation and it is down to just under 500 cfs, which is natural flow. We had a meeting with the Bear River Bird Refuge a couple of weeks ago. We are letting them know that we are trying to spill the water we have in excess on the canal toward the bird refuge to help them out and have asked that they don't call water from us on October 1. In the past we have done quite a bit of irrigating in October.

We have another meeting with the Bird Refuge on October 1. Their Deputy Director has gone to Alamos, Colorado so we will meet with the interim Assistant Manager, David Farmer, to find out if they want to take the water. If that happens we may have to ask PacifiCorp to start pumping again.

We finally did some investigation on the Hammond Canal in the Collinston area. We were trenching on the west side of canal and the excavator was only down about 4-5 feet and hit a gravel vein and said a lot of water is leaking through the gravel. We will hopefully get this long term problem resolved within the next few months.

David Forsgren – Honeyville and Deweyville are moving forward on the connection between the two water systems. We have a contractor and the connection will be completed this fall. This will allow the transfer of water between Honeyville and Deweyville and this will also ensure that the Collinston area will have the water they need.

Clint Burt – I got word from Lyle Holmgren that the total on the livestock sale out to the County Fair was over \$1,100,000. They had 50 more animals than they had last year, with a total of 790 animals. The fair was a great experience for a lot of people.

General Manager's Report – Voneene Jorgensen

Certified Tax Rate –

The board needs to ratify and adopt the 2015 certified tax rate of 0.000192.

A motion was made by Financial Chairman Holmgren to ratify and adopt the 2015 certified tax rate of 0.000192. The motion was seconded by Board Member Vincent. Chairman Burt, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Howe, Day, Capener and Vincent voted in favor of the motion.

General Manager Jorgensen reported she attended the work meeting for the Box Elder County Planning Commission and was able to discuss the recommendations we had submitted for the draft ordinance for the Solid Waste Zone Policy. We appreciate the planning commission accepting our comments and hope they will incorporate them into the draft ordinance.

There was a Tax Revenue Committee meeting at the State Capitol in August. That committee has been charged with looking at all the earmarks that are now in code to see if they are justifiable. The one earmark that affects the District is the 1/16th sales tax earmark for the development of water and the funding of water projects. The Legislature is looking at the possibility of taking away all earmarks and looking toward a legislative appropriation annually for each item. The 1/16th sales tax has been given to the Division of Drinking Water, Water Resources and Water Quality to help fund the SRF revolving fund loans which, in turn, are to help communities, districts and water companies with low interest rate loans so they can afford to upgrade water systems and construct water projects. That is something very significant that we will need to watch this coming legislative session.

I also attended the Utah Association of Special Districts and Utah Water Users Board meetings on September 11th. The Utah Water Users Water Summit is being held on October 27th. If you would like to attend, please fill out the form and return it to Cassee.

We have signed the water agreement with Brigham City for our Harper Ward System. It will be in effect for 5 more years through the year 2020. There was a \$10 increase per acre foot of water.

The next step in our Truth in Taxation process will be advertising and public notice in the paper. We will hold our public hearing in conjunction with our budget hearing in December. In October the parcel specific notices will be mailed to property owners. Those notices will show the exact amount of increase that pertains to each particular parcel.

I was asked to be a panelist at the AWWA Conference in Logan on September 16th. I gave a short presentation on the value of water and the challenges of developing water in a growing rural community. I always enjoy telling people about the District and how successful the District has been, the challenges we have faced and how important it is that we are able to bring water to areas of the county that have needed water for many, many years and how wonderful it is to be able to provide that service to the rural areas.

The Jensen family attorney has contacted our attorney and asked if we would be willing to mediate. We offered them an equivalent to what we offered previously but we haven't heard back. We have paid \$4,400 and they have the option to accept one connection with a value of \$4,800. Hansen, Allen & Luce is in the process of doing the Impact Fee Study for the Collinston area and it is almost completed.

Cache Valley appraisal wasn't what we expected. The appraisal was less than we thought it would be so we may want to hold onto that property for a while.

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

The financial statements for August 2015 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 Vice Chairman Forsgren to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Day. Chairman Burt, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Howe, Day, Capener 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 Board Member Vincent. The motion was seconded by Board Member Scott. Chairman Burt, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Howe, Day, Capener and Vincent voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.