

**Bear River Water Conservancy District  
Board Meeting  
Wednesday, September 27, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Bear River Water Conservancy District Board 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, Neil Capener, Richard Day, Russell 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 & Luce  
Lance Nielsen – Hansen, Allen & Luce

Excused: Neil Capener  
Tyler Vincent

**Invocation:** Vice Chairman Forsgren

**Pledge of Allegiance led by:** Financial Chairman Holmgren

**Adoption of the Agenda – Chairman Fridal**

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

**Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting held August 30, 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held August 30, 2017 were included with the packet that was mailed to the Board Members.

A motion was made by Board Member Day to approve the minutes for the meeting held August 30, 2017. The motion was seconded by Board Member Larson. Chairman Fridal, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Carter, Howe, Day, Larson and J. Capener voted in favor of the motion.

## **Master Plan Approval – Bill Bigelow and Lance Nielsen, Hansen, Allen & Luce**

### **The Major Findings of the Master Plan:**

#### **Population Projections**

Historical growth over the last 50 years has averaged 1.7% per year.

New Projections from the Gardner Policy Institute show Box Elder County, as a whole, will grow at 1.4% per year until 2021, then lower to 0.7% per year after 2047. Hansen, Allen & Luce projections show the County may be poised for more rapid growth than the historical growth rate or Gardner numbers.

#### **Water Supply and Demand Projection**

Most water suppliers in the County have sufficient water supplies until 2030. Many suppliers will need additional water supplies during dry year conditions.

#### **Bear River Development Project**

Bear River Development water will be needed in the County somewhere between the years 2040 to 2060. It is recommended to have a water treatment plant using water directly from the Bear River in the Deweyville area and an ultimate option of large water treatment plants in the Bothwell area and Brigham City area.

#### **BRWCD Capital Improvements Projects**

The District needs new facilities to add capacity for existing service areas and to serve new areas. Recommended projects are shown in a 0 to 10-year time frame, a 10 to 20-year time frame and beyond 20-year time frames. Priority of projects can change as need arises.

Some revisions that have been made to the Draft Master Plan per Stakeholder Input are:

- Future District sponsored projects should minimize negative impacts to wildlife, the environment and individual property owners.
- Future water use projections were revised for Brigham City, Deweyville and BRWCD Collinston based on stakeholder input.
- Emphasis was placed on Bear River Development as a major source of future water supply for the County. Box Elder County should support and encourage the State to continue to study all aspects of the Bear River Development Project in accordance with the Bear River Development Act.
- The Division of Water Resources requested the Master Plan to show water use assuming conservation. In the year 2000, water use in Box Elder County was 264 gallons per person per day. To meet the Division of Water Resources goal, this number needs to be reduced by 25% by the year 2025 which is 200 gallons per person per day. The 2015 values were 228 gallons per person per day. Box Elder County water projections have been adjusted assuming that conservation will occur.

Board Member Larson made a motion to adopt the Bear River Water Conservancy District 2017 Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Board Member Day. Chairman Fridal, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Howe, Day, Larson and J. Capener voted in favor of the motion.

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

**Jeff Scott** – There is a public hearing for the proposed Franklin Hill Landfill at the courthouse next Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm. The landfill was requested to be tabled on August 14, 2014, and there hasn't been any activity on it. Instead of going through the county for a corridor change and to change our landfill ordinance to get a conditional use permit they went directly to the State. You must have both State and County approval.

General Manager Jorgensen stated that the State is asking for public comment on the draft permit and if you don't make a comment at this hearing you won't be able to make a statement at any other hearing and comments are due by October 6<sup>th</sup>. The Hansel Valley Hydrogeology study has been given to each member of the planning commission and to each of the county commissioners. A copy of the study will be sent to the Utah State Division of Water Quality along with a letter from Scott Clark of Barnett Intermountain Water Consulting. The landfill would be upgradient from the aquifer and is in the recharge area so there is a potential danger of contamination of the aquifer. The quality of the water that is south of I-84 in the Hansel Valley is considered Class 1 water and the TDS is between 400–600; but as you go farther south towards the Great Salt Lake the TDS rises and almost up to 95,000 and is not usable for any purpose. If the groundwater is contaminated there is no other source and cannot be replaced.

**Jay Carter** – Park Valley had a great rain storm last week, my rain gauge said 1.4 inches between the snow and the rain. There was 18-24 inches of snow on top of the Raft River Mountains. I had to go get my cattle and had to use the snowmobile.

**Russ Howe** – There was 1.25 inches of rain at my house. Thatcher-Penrose has shut off one pump and we are only using the main pump.

**Richard Day** – No Report

**Mark Larson** – I measured 2 inches of water measured from the storm at my place. Ukon Water has turned off the well and turned out some of the upper springs. Water usage has gone down but not sure what this warmer weather is going to do as far as usage.

**Jay Capener** – Flows are down in the canal because it rained and people aren't irrigating. The canal company will continue to evaluate projects and go forward with those projects as we get funding for them.

**Charles Holmgren** – The Bear River Water Users Association had a meeting with PacifiCorp on Monday. Both had legal counsel in attendance. If PacifiCorp can store an additional three feet of water in Bear Lake, they want to be able to sell that water. The attorney said they have no right to

store additional water in Bear Lake and call it their water, the water belongs to the Bear River Water Users. The other attorney said PacifiCorp will not store the additional three feet of water if they have no incentive to do so.

Financial Chairman Holmgren stated some significant lake levels for Bear Lake. The lake is full at 5,923.65 feet above sea level. The next significant level is 5,918 feet; at this level PacifiCorp must release anything above 5,918 feet in the fall for flood control for the next springs' runoff. As we speak, they are releasing 1200-1400 cfs down the river, this isn't for irrigation, it is going to the Bear River Bird Refuge and then into the Great Salt Lake. The water level between 5,918 feet and 5,914 feet is for storage and that water can be used for power generation. At 5,904, no water can be released from Bear Lake for any purpose. We came close to that level in 1992 and 1994 and the all-time low level on Bear Lake is 5,902 feet in the 1930's. The level between 5,918 and 5,921 is the three feet PacifiCorp wants to store and sell to supplement or circumvent the Bear River Development Act. They would sell this additional storage to Bear River Water Conservancy District or to the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District or Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. There was a publication in the Wall Street Journal on September 13, 2017, that talked about the State of Utah, the Bear River Development, and Rocky Mountain Power/PacifiCorp's desire to develop water on Bear Lake.

The Bear River Commission will hold some public hearings. Every 20 years the Bear River Commission has a review of the way the commission runs the river. 20 years ago, they created additional committees to address issues people were concerned about. There will be five meetings, the first one is October 3<sup>rd</sup> in Evanston, which is primarily for the Wyoming people. October 10<sup>th</sup> the meeting is in Logan, Utah, October 11<sup>th</sup> in Grace, Idaho, October 12<sup>th</sup> in Montpelier, Idaho, and November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Dave Forsgren** – Honeyville has had 15 new homes built this year and have averaged 12-13 new homes per year over the past 13 years. I think the growth projections in the Master Plan are pretty accurate. Honeyville's spring flows have increased since the last couple of rain storms so we won't have to start our big pump this year. Honeyville's springs are at 780 gpm and last year we were at 300-350 gpm.

**Roger Fridal** – There has been 50-60 new homes in Tremonton this year. Tremonton needs water now; we have had a good water year but looking at the future there is a problem. Our engineer must give a recommendation to the state on how we are doing on water; he used to be comfortable about how much water we have but he isn't now. Tremonton has implemented a conservation rate and thought people would use less water but that hasn't been the case, they just use it and pay more for it. We had a meeting about secondary water a system for about 2/3rds of the town would cost about \$8,000,000. A big factor is obtaining water rights from the canal company. We estimate we can save 65% with a secondary water system.

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

**GRAMA Policy Update** – General Manager Jorgensen asked the Board if there were any changes or recommendations. With no recommendations from the Board, General Manager Jorgensen stated the GRAMA Policy update is completed and ready to be adopted by the Board.

An Appeals Committee needs to be established. An Appeals Committee consists of three members, an employee of the District and two members of the public who are not employed by or an official of a governmental entity, one of whom shall have professional experience with requesting or managing records.

Board Member Scott made a motion to adopt the Bear River Water Conservancy District GRAMA Policy. Board Member Day seconded the motion. Chairman Fridal, Vice Chairman Forsgren, Financial Chairman Holmgren and Board Members Scott, Carter, Howe, Day, Larson and J. Capener voted in favor of the motion.

### **South Willard Line Extension Project – Robbie Thayne**

The District has been working with Jeff Lefler in getting a water to his home in South Willard. Bill Bigelow has designed an extension of the South Willard water system which runs 250 feet south along on the east side of Highway 89, then it runs about 300 feet or so east to serve Jeff Lefler's house. The project will be completed as per our policy and once it passes the bacteriological and pressure tests then Mr. Lefler will convey the line to the District. When other homes want to connect, they will have to come to the District and buy a connection from the District and pay the impact fee. The District is paying the difference in the upgrade from 6" line to an 8" line. The Fire Marshall told Mr. Lefler a 6" line for fire flow was sufficient to serve his property. The District required at least an 8" line and we cannot require him to put in a line bigger than he needs.

Board Member Day was wondering if the District is going to designate the water for culinary/indoor use only. The water right in South Willard is so limited that the District only has enough water for approximately 3,200 homes. In the Master Plan there are approximately 4,500 homes that could be built in the South Willard area. Early on the District did a secondary water study in that area and the water right can only be used for indoor use. The next item we will be working on are water rates.

Robbie Thayne, who is inspecting the Lefler Project presented a slide show on the construction of the extension.

October 12<sup>th</sup> is the Special Districts training at the county building which starts at 4:30. The Utah Water Users Water Summit is a one-day event on October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Utah Valley Convention Center in Provo. October 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to sign up.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.