

CACHE WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

JUNE 19, 2017

MINUTES

The Cache Water District Board of Trustees convened in a regular session on June 19, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cache County Historic Courthouse, Council Chambers, 199 North Main Street, Logan, Utah.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE:

Jeannie F. Simmonds – Logan #1 Council District
Barbara Y. Tidwell – Logan #2 Council District
Herm Olsen – Logan #3 Council District
Max Pierce – North Council District
Bret Randall – Northeast Council District
Jonathan W. Hardman – South Council District
Shaun Dustin – Southeast Council District
Jon White – At-Large Position
Jared Clawson – At-Large Position
David L. Erickson – At-Large Position

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT:

Don Baldwin – Agricultural Representative

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Craig W Buttars – Cache County
Jan Ricks – Don't Raise Cutler Coalition
Caleb Watterson – Don't Raise Cutler Coalition
Beth Watterson – Don't Raise Cutler Coalition
Darin Mann – Utah Rivers Council
Sharon Kunzler – Kunzler Seed Livestock
Issa Hamud – Logan City
Paige Hanson
Barbara Watterson
Tim Lindsay – Logan City
Connely Baldwin – PacifiCorp
Paul Johnson
Wayne Cardon
Lorie Ballard – Don't Raise Cutler Coalition
Ethie DeVilbiss – Don't Raise Cutler Coalition
Amy Flygare – Don't Raise Cutler Coalition
Blaise Chanson
Nathan & Elaine Ricks
Eve Davies – PacifiCorp
Bob Oaks
Jim Evans

Jim Watterson
Hilary Shughart – Bridgerland Audubon Society
Zackary Webb
Lisa Welsh – Utah State University
Kelby Johnson – Don't Raise Cutler Coalition
Braydon Johnson – Johnson Farms
Jason Watterson – Don't Raise Cutler Coalition
Stephen Lytle – Yellowstone to Uintas Connection
Clint Caincy – Utah State University
Logan Christian – Yellowstone to Uintas Connection
Jason Christensen – Yellowstone to Uintas Connection
Daniel Carolan – Yellowstone to Uintas Connection
Jane Hiatt
Colleen O'Neill
John Nelson
Bryan Dixon
J.D. Rhea
Crystal Vejar
Susanne Janecke
Marisa Egbert – Utah Division of Water Resources
Janeen Allen

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jeannie Simmonds at 5:31 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hilary Shughart

Shughart said one of the most important issues we are facing is water conservation and invited all to attend a walking garden tour this coming Saturday that showcases gardens that consume much less water than in the past and still produce an abundance of fruits and vegetables.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA(JUNE 19, 2017) AND MINUTES (JUNE 5, 2017)

ACTION: Motion was made by Clawson and seconded by Olsen to approve the June 19, 2017 agenda and the June 5, 2017 minutes of the Cache Water District as written. The vote in favor was unanimous, 9-0, White absent at time of vote

2. BUDGET DISCUSSION

Simmonds said the budget will be posted publicly and presented for approval at the July 10th meeting.

5:34 p.m. – Jon White arrived

3. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Simmonds said there is a draft copy that needs to be reviewed by the attorney for the water district. When it comes back from him, it will be presented for discussion and approval in a future water district meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. PRESENTATION: *PACIFICORP*

Connely Baldwin, Hydrologist

The remainder of the meeting was a presentation on Bear Lake preservation and ideas for future efficiencies for the Bear River. The presentation is a part of these minutes as “Attachment A.” Please refer to the attachment for more information and to the audio recording of the meeting as posted to the Utah Public Notice Website at: <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>

Baldwin said they are currently in an expository phase of this project and are presenting to as many groups as will listen including stakeholders in groups such as the Bear Lake Preservation Advisory Committee and the Bear River Commission, and continuing on through the primary agencies and entities who are interested. They have also had discussions with the State of Utah Division of Water

Rights and Water Resources.

Throughout the presentation board members asked many questions concerning the idea of raising the level of Cutler Dam by 3 feet. At the end of the presentation, Simmonds allowed time for public comment. The following offered comments:

Jason Watterson

Watterson said he was instrumental in raising a grassroots group to oppose the option of raising the Cutler dam believing it to be a “water grab” for the Wasatch Front with the potential of causing a lot of damage to natural resources, agriculture, and wetlands. The water stored in Bear Lake can actually be used by people in Cache Valley. However, if the Cutler Dam is raised, the water stored is past the point of use for Cache Valley residents, and Watterson believes the idea of raising the dam level is simply a mechanism to sell water to the Wasatch Front.

Bob Oaks, Emeritus professor of Geology at USU

Oaks made three points about the PacifiCorp presentation:

1. No consideration was given to aquifer storage and recovery
2. Lining canals alleviates seepage issues but does not contain evaporation
3. Dredging the reservoir is a viable option and should be considered more carefully

Wayne Cardon

Cardon contended the point that PacifiCorp owns a majority of the land adjacent to the reservoir. He said they only own a small portion along the river and that hundreds of acres of privately owned land will be adversely affected by the raising of the dam. He also contended that farmers are using 4 acre feet of water per acre. He clarified that the State Engineer allows the use of 4 acre feet, but they are only using between 2.5 and 3.0 acre feet. He added his opinion that the reservoir needs to be dredged noting that there is currently 87 feet of silt buildup in front of the dam.

Tim Lindsay – Logan City Wastewater Treatment Operator

Lindsay noted that PacifiCorp has been in violation of its permit since they started looking into it in February. He estimates there has already been about \$1,000,000 in damage to the wetlands and to the wastewater treatment facility due to erosion caused by the water backing up. In addition, he has been unable to obtain a wet sample because of the amount of silt in the water. Raising the Cutler 3 feet will only exacerbate these issues.

Blaise Chanson

Chanson recommended the Cache Water District work together with the State in conservation improvements, take the marketing element out of the equation, and guarantee that Cache Valley will receive its rightful share of the allocation from the Bear River Development Act. This could be done at a much lower cost than the option of raising the Cutler dam.

Paul Johnson

Johnson noted that he lives along the banks of the Bear River and believes the raising of the dam to be a bad idea because of the yearly flooding in the springtime. Raising the dam will not change the flooding that takes place every year. Also, dredging is a normal operation in other reservoirs across the country to maintain the integrity and infrastructure. Dredging is a better alternative for storing water

than building more dams and reservoirs on other parts of the river.

Issa Hamud – Logan City Environmental Director

Hamud is very concerned with the idea of raising the Cutler Dam by 3 feet. In addition to the concerns raised by Lindsay, Hamud added that if the dam is raised, they will not be able to discharge. One of the main reasons the new treatment plant is being built by Logan City is because of PacifiCorp's unwillingness to dredge the Cutler Reservoir. The silt is full of phosphorous which eventually produces the oxygen that causes the death of fish and other wildlife living in and around the reservoir. The State used this study to essentially force Logan City to build the new \$160 million treatment facility. Hamud continued saying it is in the best interest of everyone that the reservoir be dredged. Raising the level will only buy a little time and in a few years, the buildup of silt and sand will consume what was gained by raising the level.

Additionally, he is very concerned that raising the level of the dam will cause the groundwater in Cache Valley to go up creating all sorts of flooding issues throughout the valley.

J.D. Rhea

Rhea said the word "conservation" is used, but seems more like an afterthought in most conversations. He believes conservation is the key and we can save water faster than trying to figure out ways to build new reservoirs. He would like to hear more from PacifiCorp on their proposals and ideas to support and recommends pursuing methods of conservation.

Logan Christian

Christian encouraged the board to find a third party entity that can analyze this issue and its impacts including:

- Infrastructure and wastewater treatment
- How taxpayers will be impacted by raising the dam level
- Wetlands and recreation (bridges are almost touching the water now)
- Roads and bridges infrastructure (when will the analysis be done and who will pay for it?)
- Maps showing the acreage that will be affected
- Steps that need to be taken to address the above issues

Susanne Janecke – USU Geology Professor

Janecke asked Baldwin to clarify what he meant by "bank stabilization." Baldwin replied that it's primarily water rights mitigation.

Kelby Johnson

Johnson is not only concerned about the raising of the Cutler Dam, but the options that were presented regarding Bear Lake storage. His main concern is that whatever water is stored will go to who will pay for it and that is not Cache County. He also added his concern about the affect the groundwater issue will have on areas close to and far away from the dam.

Jim Watterson

Watterson owns approximately 3 miles of shoreline along Cutler Reservoir. He witnesses the channel filling with sediment more and more every year. When Cutler Dam was built in 1927, it was 97 feet high. In the 90 years since then, the silt has risen to just ten feet below the top of the dam. Raising the level will only buy maybe three years because the silt will continue to rise. Flooding continues to

increase because the channel is full of silt, and the alkali levels poison the ground every time it floods. He believes PacifiCorp is merely trying to find a way out of having to dredge the reservoir.

Simmonds asked when the next opportunity would be for people to participate in this process. Baldwin said the relicensing will be a public process with notices given next year.

Eve Davies of PacifiCorp gave a rough schedule of the relicensing process. She estimated it taking place in August, September or October of 2018. She noted that relicensing requires environmental studies which will be funded by PacifiCorp.

Davies said the presentation from this meeting will be posted on the PacifiCorp website along with questions and answers from previous meetings and schedules of future meetings. She will provide the link to their website so it can be posted on the Cache Water District website.

OPEN ITEMS

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

CACHE WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
JUNE 19, 2017

ATTACHMENT A

Bear River Water Development: Ideas for Alternate Solutions

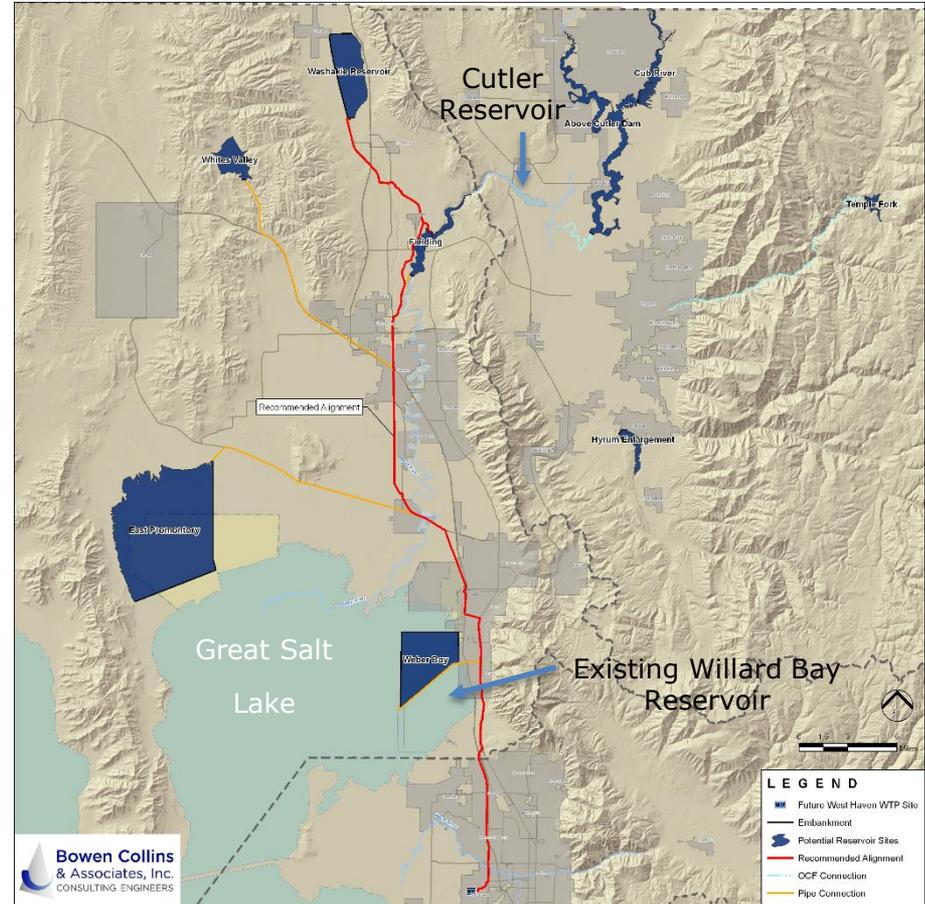


Background – State Perspective

- Utah's Bear River Development Act
 - Up to 220,000 acre-feet annual delivery
 - Multiple new reservoirs about, 250,000 acre-feet total
 - Extensive pumped fill/release to distribute water
 - Environmental impacts:
 - Reservoir siting
 - Additional consumptive use reducing Great Salt Lake inflow (Bear River is the largest tributary to the Great Salt Lake)

Current Approach

- Develop 3 of several potential reservoir sites (shown in dark blue).
- Pump and fill required for many options (red and orange pipelines).



Background – County Perspective

- Cache County Water Master Plan
 - Cache Water District established November 2016
 - Identified opportunities for more irrigation water
 - 8,000 acres in Cache Valley new irrigation possible, currently dryland farmed
 - Additional 6” of water for 50,000 acres already irrigated

Who is the Bear Lake Preservation Advisory Committee

The **Advisory Committee shall ...** consist of a representative of each of the Company Irrigators, representatives of the entity or entities comprising the Small Irrigators, each of the entities comprising the Bear Lake Group, representatives for PacifiCorp, and representatives from the Bear River Commission and the States of Idaho, Utah and Wyoming should they desire to participate, **as well as other parties who have an interest in promoting the goals enumerated below.**

Purposes of the Bear Lake Preservation Advisory Committee

- a. to **promote water conservation** and efficient use practices;
- b. to promote **more reliable water supplies** in Bear Lake and Bear River for all users;
- c. to promote soil and energy conservation and improved water quality;
- d. to **pursue means other than litigation to resolve conflicts**;
- e. to continue to support the concept of a single accounting model for administration of water in the Bear Lake/Bear River System; and
- f. to periodically review the irrigation allocation schedule and recommend changes in that policy to PacifiCorp as may be appropriate.

Brainstorming Time

How can the Bear River/Bear Lake System support additional significant water use?

Without building new reservoirs

Without decreasing crop yields (**increase** crop yields?)

Without decreasing the amount of water that reaches the Great Salt Lake (**increase** Great Salt Lake levels?)

Without decreasing Bear Lake water levels (**increase** Bear Lake levels?)

Bear River Water Management

- PacifiCorp is the primary Bear River water management entity
 - Sole owner of Bear Lake storage rights.
 - Provides supplemental irrigation by contract to 150,000 acres
 - Integral to river regulation
 - Bear Lake Preservation Advisory Committee member!

I. Bear Lake Increased Storage

- Increase hold-over storage by reducing flood storage
- Increase river channel capacity through the constrained reach to compensate for lost flood storage
- Makes available 140,000 acre-feet of stored water for **new uses** (refilled in very wet years at new target elevations).
- If the water was used over 10 years: **14,000 acre-feet per year (about 14,000 typical homes)**
- **Requires modification or renegotiation of multiple intertwined legal agreements to allow new water delivery.**

II. Soda Plant Spinning Reserve

- Increased river channel capacity through the constrained reach allows:
 - Soda to provide operating reserves
 - Energy benefit to support renewable generation
 - No Bear Lake releases required to support, facilitates *additional* storage at Bear Lake.

III. Cutler Increased Storage

- Dam safety investigations reveal that Cutler can safely store 3 more feet of water if spill gate heights are increased.
- **15,000 acre-feet per year** (15,000 typical homes)
- Gate replacements identified for dam safety purposes

IV. Irrigation Conservation Measures

- Some water development math:
 - 150,000 acres typically uses 4 acre-feet per acre, which means
 - 600,000 acre-feet per year is used for irrigation below Bear Lake
 - If new irrigation technologies + canal lining can produce 30% savings x 600,000 acre-feet, then
 - **180,000 acre-feet** per year is SAVED
 - This represents reduced Bear Lake storage water use.
 - This provides the opportunity to transfer the saved storage water to new uses, without increasing overall Bear Lake storage water deliveries.

Summary: PacifiCorp's Four Concepts under Evaluation

The Bear River/Bear Lake System may be able to support all of the planned full annual demand of 220,000 acre-feet of water for new municipal use without building new reservoirs through:

- I. Bear Lake Increased Storage – Reduce flood control storage
- II. Soda Spinning Reserve – Operating reserve benefit
- III. Cutler Increased Storage – Increase height of spill gates
- IV. Irrigation Conservation – New technologies and canal lining

Regional Benefits

- Support further economic development
- Supports:
 - Existing irrigation uses
 - Bear Lake water levels
 - Great Salt Lake water levels
 - New water users

Considerations

- Mitigation for any impacted water rights
- Agreements may need MOUs, updates or consultation.
- Compact: Irrigation deliveries only when Bear Lake is below irrigation reserve of 5914.61'.

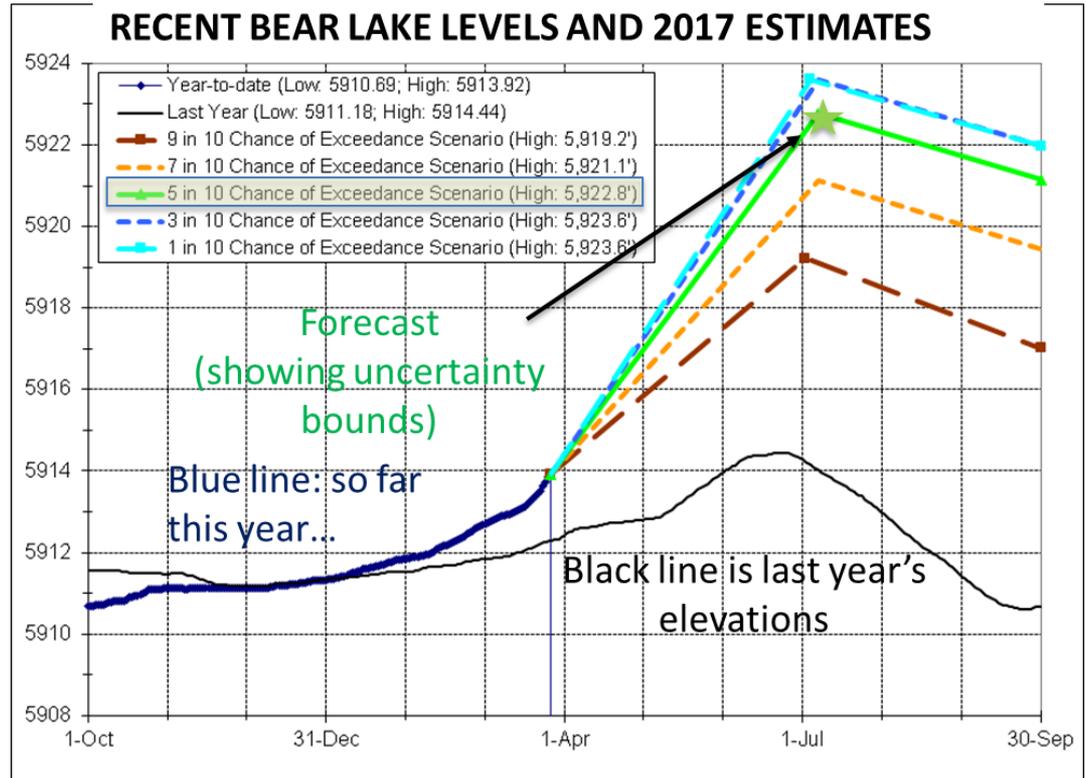
Next Step: Detailed Discussions

- Schedule and hold subsequent special meetings of the Bear Lake Preservation Advisory Committee.
- Subcommittee of smaller group/representatives of interested committee members.

2017-2018 Opportunity

Abnormally high snowmelt runoff anticipated in 2017

Increase Bear Lake hold-over storage in 2018 and beyond



Water Management 2017-2018

- August 1st: Begin flood control pre-releases using typical Bear Lake management targets.
- October 31st: Adjust fall/winter Bear Lake releases if revising 2018 Bear Lake management target.