



CACHE WATER DISTRICT
Our water. Our future. Our choice.

The purposes of the District include planning for and facilitating the long-term conservation, development, protection, distribution, management and stabilization of water rights and water supplies for domestic, irrigation, power, manufacturing, municipal, recreational and other beneficial uses, including the natural stream environment, in a cost-effective way to meet the needs of the residents and growing population of Cache County.

www.cachewaterdistrict.com

CACHE WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
December 4, 2017
MINUTES

The Cache Water District Board of Trustees convened on December 4, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. for a REGULAR SESSION in 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
Herm Olsen – Logan #3 Council District
Max Pierce – North Council District
Jonathan W. Hardman – South Council District
Shaun Dustin – Southeast Council District
Jared Clawson – At-Large Position
David L. Erickson – At-Large Position
Don Baldwin – Agricultural Representative
Jon White – At-Large Position

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT:

Barbara Y. Tidwell – Logan #2 Council District
Bret Randall – Northeast Council District

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

David Koontz
Mike Allred- Utah DWQ
Keith Shaw
Lisa Welsh – Utah State University
Clint Carney – Utah State University
Chris Slater – J-U-B Engineers
Debbie Zilles

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jeannie Simmonds at 5:33 p.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MINUTES (November 6, 2017) and AGENDA (December 4, 2017)

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Clawson and seconded by Mr. White to approve the November 6, 2017 minutes and the December 4, 2017 agenda as written. The vote in favor was unanimous, 8-0. (Mr. Dustin was absent at the time of the vote)

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. CACHE WATER DISTRICT FUNDING & ACCOUNTING UPDATE

Chairwoman Simmonds reported that Ms. Tidwell got the Board an Employee Identification Number (EIN) approved and will be opening an account at Lewiston State Bank. Once the attorney signs the Interlocal Agreement, the County can transfer the funds.

5:39 p.m. Mr. Dustin arrived

2. REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Mr. Baldwin attended a meeting regarding Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) working with landowners in Gentile Valley to raise the flood control levels at Bear Lake. Currently, the irrigators are willing to work through a lease for the ground in question that may be flooded and have asked RMP for upfront funding. He does not believe there is enough time at this point to work something out because the lake is being drained at a rapid rate.

Chairwoman Simmonds asked if RMP was purchasing property in Gentile Valley. Mr. Baldwin said it would be a lease, not a purchase, which would allow for the releases needed for spinning reserves. Chairwoman Simmonds attended the November Bear River Commission meeting in Salt Lake and Connelly Baldwin had advised that they were purchasing land. Mr. Baldwin explained that the landowners in Gentile Valley have stated they are not going to work with RMP. The irrigators, except for the small pumpers association, have agreed to work on a lease that would be equitable for the landowners and provide an opportunity for them to have an area for floodwater. It would be beneficial for the irrigators to hold water in the lake and raise the flood control levels.

Mr. Erickson pointed out that there have been millions of dollars spent in river cleanup efforts and wondered if any projects in the County would be affected and/or washed away by potential flood water. Mr. Hardman said he was not aware of any.

Mr. Baldwin explained that flooding could raise groundwater in certain areas, which could possibly cover up to 850 acres, as well as concern about crops and disease. There are 26 landowners involved which makes it difficult to get everyone to agree. RMP did have an option to pursue eminent domain proceedings against the landowners, however, that created a great deal of friction.

Mr. White asked how pursuing eminent domain would benefit anyone other than RMP. Mr. Baldwin said they would be able to respond more rapidly when the grid demands power. If the turbines are not already turning, it takes too long to bring them up to speed. There are many concerns that still need to be addressed.

Mr. Hardman asked Mike Allred for a recap of the recent Water Task Force meeting. Mr. Allred said the main topic was the request for change related to the spinning reserves at Bear Lake and the ability to raise the water storage level. Having more water in the lake would be a benefit, however, could potentially raise some of the levels in Bear River during seasonal runoff periods, but would not affect projects or improvements in terms of degradation. Water would be allowed to be stored longer and released later in the summer. The segment of Bear Lake, which has not had water for over 20 years, is the area where RMP was trying to purchase land. It is an interesting proposition with many pros/cons. There are concerns with locations along the stretch of river which have road crossings. The Utah Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (FFSL) has developed a comprehensive management plan for Bear River. The beds of navigable waters within the state, including the Bear River, are owned by the state. The Bear River Comprehensive Management Plan (BRCMP) is available to review on the ffsl.utah.gov website. The uses, concerns, classifications, and restrictions are identified based on location. There will be a permitting requirement with an associated cost.

Chairwoman Simmonds suggested creating a sub-committee to move forward with the hiring of a Manager and begin the process of advertising and reviewing applicants before final candidates are brought before the Board. Mr. Hardman, Mr. White and Mr. Dustin (tentatively) volunteered to help. Chairwoman Simmonds will begin organizing the process.

Chairwoman Simmonds explained the need for a financial clerk. Mr. Clawson noted that this is indicated as a line item in the budget. Mr. Olsen recommended that Chairwoman Simmonds bring back three options to the Board for review.

3. WaterSMART GRANT

Chairwoman Simmonds reviewed the funding opportunity announcement and recommended application. The U.S. Department of the Interior's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) program objective invites States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, local government entities, non-profit organizations, existing watershed groups and local and special districts to submit proposals for Phase I activities to develop a watershed group, complete watershed restoration planning activities, and design watershed management projects.

A "watershed group" as defined in Section 6001(5) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act is a grassroots, non-regulatory entity that addresses water availability and quality issues within the relevant watershed, is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources in the watershed, makes decisions on a consensus basis, and represents a diverse group of stakeholders, including hydroelectric producers, livestock grazing, timber production, land development, recreation or tourism, irrigated agriculture, the environment, municipal water supplies, private property owners, federal, state and local governments, and tribes.

Eligible projects include Watershed Group Development - activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Hiring a watershed group coordinator to organize and coordinate activities.

- Developing a mission statement, vision statement, and goals for the watershed group.
- Hiring a facilitator to assist with outreach to stakeholders.
- Conducting outreach activities, such as the creation of an outreach plan and information materials (e.g., brochures, advertisements, website, videos) and conducting stakeholder meetings to establish a broad-based, diverse membership.
- Gathering information about issues and needs related to water quality and quantity within the watershed (e.g., through research, talking to government agencies and local universities).
- Conducting pre-planning activities, including outlining a watershed restoration plan, researching existing plans related to the watershed, collecting baseline information, and identifying restoration needs for the watershed.

Note: The development of articles of incorporation, bylaws, and business practices and staff salaries and contractor costs are eligible activities for both new and existing watershed groups and can be completed as part of any task area.

Watershed Restoration Planning - activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Completing a watershed restoration plan, improving on existing restoration plans, or conducting water quality or quantity studies to provide baseline information about the watershed.
- Conducting mapping and other technical analyses, including obtaining data, performing modeling, or developing goals and benchmarks for the restoration plan.
- Obtaining project management services or software technology required to formulate the watershed restoration plan.
- Interviewing watershed group members and stakeholders to gain an idea of projects that would improve the watershed.
- Working with watershed group members, landowners, federal agencies, and state or local governments to determine how the watershed can be improved.
- Reviewing watershed-specific best management practices established by federal, state, and local government agencies.
- Developing general watershed management project concepts or performing an analysis of the watershed to identify and prioritize watershed management projects. For example, creating a matrix within the watershed restoration plan that outlines and prioritizes watershed management projects.

Watershed Management Project Design - activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Completing an analysis to prioritize management projects and identify specific project locations.
- Completing site-specific project design and engineering.
- Developing project timelines and milestones.
- Researching what type of site-specific environmental compliance will be necessary to implement a project.

Projects not eligible for funding under this funding application include, but are not limited to, scientific research and other projects.

This is a 2-year grant (deadline January 31, 2018).

Mr. Hardman is familiar with the grant and suggested a meeting to come up with some ideas. Mr. Allred said the DWQ is interested in partnering with the Board to create a development plan. DWQ has a watershed coordinator and local task groups to help write a proposal.

It was noted that there are also other opportunities through the bureau that include drought contingency planning. An Energy Conservation Nexus announcement will be coming soon.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2018 CACHE WATER DISTRICT BUDGET

6:00 p.m. Public Hearing open

Chairperson Simmonds made the changes as discussed at the last meeting, which left a balance of \$41,850. She included \$8,000 for *Publications* (as discussed last month) as a line item under the *Office* section as she could not recall the specifics. Mr. Clawson said \$8,000 seems like a lot for publications. Mr. Dustin does not remember the specifics of the conversation; however, it could be for advertising costs associated with setting the Board up. Mr. Olsen pointed out that this is for 2018. Chairwoman Simmonds said it could be amended later. Mr. Clawson agreed that the funds could be reallocated if necessary.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. White to close the public portion of the hearing. The vote in favor was unanimous, 9-0.

6:03 p.m. Public Hearing closed

Mr. Erickson asked about funding for cloud seeding. Mr. White said the County has budgeted funds. Chairwoman Simmonds said Mr. Buttars, the County Executive, wanted the project paid out of CWD funds; Mr. Erickson said the budget should be increased to reflect that. Mr. Dustin questioned whether the County wanted to give control of the program over to the Board. Mr. White explained that there is not a lot of control since the project is operated out of Salt Lake. He does not think this should be the Board's job and he will follow-up with the County Council. Chairwoman Simmonds noted that this is not included in the proposed budget. Mr. White said the Board has a signed agreement to operate on the approved \$250,000 budget for four years and this transfer of funds may not be possible and/or the correct decision. Mr. Clawson thought that the public perception of running the funds through the Board might be negative. Mr. Olsen said if the County Council determines that it should be handled through the Board, appropriate adjustments to the budget and agreement could be made at that time.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Olsen and seconded by Mr. Clawson to approve Resolution 2017-02 for adoption of the 2018 Cache Water District budget as proposed. The vote in favor was unanimous, 9-0.

OPEN ITEMS

Chairwoman Simmonds introduced Debbie Zilles who will be helping with the meeting minutes.

The website should be operational in the next few days, Chairwoman Simmonds will email the Board when it is ready.

Mr. Hardman asked about water banking. Joanna Endter-Wada said the Division of Sponsored Programs at USU is preparing contract documents. As a provision of the project, there will be an advisory board with a representative from each of the entities who provided a cost-share match.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.