



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 MINUTES

March 7, 2022

The Cache Water District Board of Trustees convened for a regular meeting on Mar. 7, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the Cache County Historic Courthouse Council Chambers, 199 North Main Street, Logan, Utah.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE:

Scott Clark - Logan #2 Council District
Jared Clawson – At-Large Position
Shaun Dustin – Southeast Council District
Jonathan Hardman – South Council District
Kirt Lindley – At-Large Position
Max Pierce – North Council District
Bret Randall – Northeast Council District
Brett Roper – At Large Position
Jeannie Simmonds – Logan #1 Council District

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD EXCUSED:

Don Baldwin – Agricultural Representative
Herm Olsen – Logan #3 Council District

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Nathan Daus (Manager), Mike Wilson (CRS Engineers), Chris Slater (JUB Engineers), Chad Brown (Franson Civil Engineers), Chip Marce, Debbie Zilles

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hardman at 5:30 p.m.
Consideration for minutes from February 7, 2022, and agenda for March 7, 2022

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Clawson to approve the agenda and the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Lindley. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chip Marce said he is not a fan of H.B. 242 which recently passed requiring secondary water metering to be in effect no later than January 1, 2030. This is going to be very expensive. He would like to see a provision, similar to what they have allowed for counties of the fifth & sixth class, to opt-out with certain conservation measures. He suggested notifying local users of the requirements and the grant funding opportunities within the first few years. He is supportive of hiring a lobbyist.

Chad Brown lives in Nibley and said there was recently information about the Great Salt Lake benefits in the City's last newsletter, he would like to see similar efforts which would provide information on the benefits to Cache County from the Bear River.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Simmonds will provide a full report and statement next month.

CALENDAR EVENTS

- Mar. 9 – Great Salt Lake Advisory @ 10:00 a.m. in Farmington (no electronic link)
- ~~Mar. 9 – Utah Water Task Force @ 1:30 p.m.~~ - **Cancelled**
- Mar. 11 – Ag. Water Optimization @ 10:00 a.m. – Nate will forward the link.
- Mar. 16 – Northern Utah Water Conference - Cache Event Center
- Mar. 21-23 – Utah Water Users Workshop – St. George (Jon, Scott & Nate will attend)
- Mar. 25-26 – Home & Garden Show – Nate will be sending out volunteer slots

MANAGER'S REPORT

PL-566 PROJECT UPDATES

Wellsville-Mendon Watershed

Mr. Lindley said Wellsville City will be having a public meeting on the pressurized system on March 16. Chairman Hardman noted that Mendon had one last month. There was also a zoom meeting with American Fork City to talk to the manager who runs the culinary and secondary water systems. Mr. Daus said the alternatives have been selected and they are currently working with the other co-sponsors.

Logan River Watershed

Recently had a meeting with the stakeholders and there will be a meeting tomorrow with the Crockett Board.

Porcupine Highline Canal – Waiting to hear back on the Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report (PIFR) from NRCS.

Mr. Daus confirmed that there will be a public comment period during each project's Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

Ms. Simmonds asked if combining smaller systems would eliminate the need for as many meters. Chairman Hardman said it would not. Mr. Daus said it could help with collecting and disseminating data. Ms. Simmonds asked if this a role the District could help with. Mr. Daus said it might be in the future. Chairman Hardman said the Board will have to determine if this is something that should be undertaken. Mr. Dustin said, based on the way the District was set up, there is nothing that would prohibit it, the question would be whether the Board should be a policy group or be "boots on the ground". Ms. Simmonds said it should be a little of both. There should be some discussion about how to help water users accomplish the objectives placed upon them by the legislature.

Mr. Clawson said one concern is the ability to get a good meter. Chairman Hardman said American Fork has one that is doing a good job. They have a screen at the top of their system and encourage users to also put in a screen when they hook in.

Mr. Daus said the legislature will likely get changed because they may not have enough funding to cover all initial requests for help with funding.

Chairman Hardman said Wellsville does not have a pressurized system; Mendon covers 85% of the community with small pressurized pipelines, however, that system is aging.

DISTRICT LOBBYIST DISCUSSION

Mr. Daus suggested potentially partnering with Cache County due to the cost of hiring a lobbyist. The County currently spends ~\$4,500/monthly; he will meet with County Executive David Zook to talk about this further. There is an advantage to knowing what is being discussed ahead of the session to help prepare and be more proactive.

Mr. Randall asked how the success and performance of a lobbyist would be measured. Mr. Dustin said being notified about what is being discussed is a great benefit. Mr. Clark agreed that having "eyes and ears" is important, dealing with last-minute bills is very difficult. Mr. Clawson likes the idea of partnering with the County or another entity.

Action Item: Mr. Daus will do more research and provide a recommendation/proposal to the Board.

WATER LEGISLATION REVIEW

H.B. 33 Instream Water Flow Amendments (Rep. Joel Ferry) – Passed.
Allows water rights to be used to benefit Great Salt Lake levels.

H.B. 95 Landscaping Requirement Prohibition (Rep. Raymond Ward) – Failed.

H.B. 121 Water Conservation Modifications (Rep. Robert Spendlove) – Passed.
Requires state agencies to reduce their outdoor water use by 5% by the end of 2023 and by 25% by the end of 2026. Each agency must submit water use reports to DWR to demonstrate their reduction. It authorizes DWR to provide funding to property owners to replace lawn and turf with drought resistant landscaping. The funding is intended to provide up to 50% of the replacement costs and will be capped at 55 million/year.

Ms. Daugs said he has received calls about a “flip your strip” program like Jordan Valley has. He will provide a summary to have at the Home & Garden Show

H.B. 240 Utah Lake Amendments (Rep. Keven Stratton) – Passed.

H.B. 242 Secondary Water Metering Amendments (Rep. Val Peterson) – Passed.
Requires that beginning April 1, 2020, all new secondary water connections in first and second class counties must be metered. All existing secondary water connections must be metered by Jan. 1, 2030. The Board of Water Resources can issue grants to secondary supplier to help with the cost of installing a meter; a grant cannot exceed 70% of the costs.

Mr. Daugs said there is a question on interpretation regarding smaller systems, he will have Mr. Olsen review it.

Ms. Simmonds asked if there could be a role for the District to monitor and report the data to the state. Mr. Daugs said there may be a place for the Board in the process, however, larger entities may want to do it themselves. Data collection will be useful in making decisions. Mr. Clark said it will be important to get the information out and answer questions. Mr. Daugs said one fear is that some may think this is too much of a hassle and change to culinary, which in some areas will be problematic. Ms. Simmonds would like to find ways to help accomplish this goal. Mr. Randall noted that legislation is often tweaked over time.

H.B. 410 Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement (Rep. Brad Wilson) – Passed
This bill appropriates \$40 million to award as a one-time grant eligible to non-profit conservation groups to establish the water trust and purchase water rights. Mr. Daugs said this may have future implications for northern Utah and should be watched carefully.

H.B.429 Great Salt Lake Amendments (Rep. Kelly Miles) – Passed.
This will better study and evaluate all tributaries that go to the Great Salt Lake.

BENEFITS OF BEAR RIVER STUDY

Mr. Roper will put together a bibliography of relevant information to have and hand out at the Home & Garden Show.

OTHER

Mr. Daugs, Mr. Randall, and Mr. Pierce recently attended the Rural Water Association Conference in St. George. There was a vendor who was offering website services. The Board discussed the need for an updated site. RuralWaterImpact.com can design a platform that is mobile-friendly, can send out informational alerts and is easy to update. Mr. Daugs can have them provide a presentation at a future meeting.

Mr. Pierce asked about watershed councils and whether the Board should be involved. Mr. Daugs said the District will be involved in the Bear River Development. Mr. Daugs will talk to Candice Hasenyager for more information on this topic.

Mr. Pierce has requested a copy of the presentations he attended, when he receives those, he will forward them out to the members.

Mr. Daugs checked into the idea of broadcasting meetings; Cache County puts their public meetings on YouTube for viewing, however, the meetings are not interactive. There was a brief discussion and it was decided not to set up a broadcast as Covid restrictions continue to lift, however, this can be revisited in the future as necessary. Ms. Zilles suggested adding an audio link for meetings to be posted to the website.

Mr. Daugs said candidates have filed for all the open positions on the Board. Cache County Council will approve the appointment for a representative to fill Mr. Baldwin's position at their next meeting.

Mr. Daugs reviewed the water outlook for the county: 79% snowpack, 100% precipitation, soil moisture is 62% (20% better than last year).

The spring tour of south end sites will be scheduled for Wednesday, May 4. Details will be discussed at the next meeting.

Annual Report – Mr. Roper is willing to help.

Mr. Daugs said there are two USU engineering student groups who are picking projects for next year. One will look at a dam site on Curtis Creek and the other group will work with Coveville Irrigation about a possible dam on Spring Creek. The groups working on Rock Creek and Crockett diversion will present at the May meeting.

There will be no APO meetings on March 21.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: Apr. 5, 2022