



**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](http://www.cachewaterdistrict.com)

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**CACHE WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**April 2, 2018**  
**MINUTES**

The Cache Water District Board of Trustees convened on March 5, 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  
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  
Herm Olsen – Logan #3 Council District

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT:**

Barbara Y. Tidwell – Logan #2 Council District  
Bret Randall – Northeast Council District  
Max Pierce – North Council District  
Jon White – At-Large Position

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Clint Carney (USU), Wayne Honaker, Debbie Zilles

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeannie Simmonds at 5:30 p.m.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA**

MINUTES (March 5, 2018) and AGENDA (April 2, 2018)

**ACTION: Motion by Mr. Dustin and seconded by Mr. Olsen to approve the March 5, 2018 minutes as submitted and the April 2, 2018 agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

## **ELECTION UPDATE**

List of candidates who have filed:

- Logan #3: Jonathan Kirby and Herm Olsen
- Northeast District: Bret Randall
- South District: Jonathan W. Hardman
- Southeast District: Shaun Dustin
- At-Large: Dr. E. Travis Littlelike\*, Kirt Lindley, and Brett Roper

\*Jeannie advised that she spoke with Dr. Littlelike who may remove his name from the ballot prior to election.

## **WATER MANAGER POSITION UPDATE**

Mr. Hardman advised that 11 applications were received. The sub-committee, comprised of himself, Jeannie Simmonds, Bret Randall and Jon White, met on Friday to narrow the candidates down to the 4 most qualified. Facetime interviews will be scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2018 using a pre-defined list of questions. The sub-committee will narrow the candidates to 2-3 who will be invited to present before the entire Board in May.

Mr. Olsen asked Chair Simmonds to send out the list of questions for Board members to review and make suggestions prior to the interviews. Mr. Dustin said the sub-committee should have discretion in determining how many final candidates they would like to introduce to the Board.

Mr. Hardman was pleased with the excellent applications and the good skill sets. Many individuals were from outside of Cache Valley. This will be a very important decision.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ms. Tidwell was unable to attend, however, emailed the monthly financials for the Board to review prior to the meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Hardman advised that he and Mr. Pierce recently attended the Utah Water Users Workshop in St. George, presented by the Utah Water Users Association. Numerous other water districts and departments are involved in this workshop with many vendor booths available to visit. He encouraged continued support and participation in this conference, even if it required some financial help from the Board for members to be able to attend and/or host a booth. There are many good residential conservation efforts and available resources already in place.

Mr. Hardman would like to see continued participation in the annual Cache County Fair and asked for permission to register for booth space. The Board agreed that this is a good idea. Mr. Erickson has a meeting next week and will find out more information. Mr. Hardman felt that water conservation should be one of the main messages. Mr. Olsen agreed and said there was a sense from last year that people were amazed by some of

the information that was presented, especially the amount of water used and/or required for particular items. Mr. Hardman advised that most people do not realize how much water they use, particularly residents, and the essential need for conservation and more efficient use. Chair Simmonds said the Board will have access to information from the “Slow the Flow, Save H2O” program. She will be attending a meeting soon and will provide more information to the Board about what is available, especially rebate programs.

Mr. Hardman noted that the Home & Garden Show would be another good opportunity for the District to gain more exposure.

Mr. Olsen pointed out that Logan City is currently considering a significant water rate increase, and as a result, people will likely begin to explore more xeriscape options.

Mr. Baldwin pointed out the need for education about agricultural irrigation. On average, a home uses approximately 4,000 gallons/month and a farm often uses 4,000 gallons/minute 24/7 during farming season. The Envision Utah research indicated the desire for people to produce food locally. Irrigators want people to understand that there are a lot more quality and variety of the crops that are currently being grown in the Valley – which requires more water usage. Although conservation is not the answer for agricultural need, ensuring that water is used resourcefully is very important. Efficiency of water application has long-term ramifications and a direct effect on all of us. In the United States only 6% of income is used to feed ourselves, which allows a remarkable amount of capital to do other things (Canada is over 10%, Mexico 15% and some areas in South America are over 52%). Water plays into this issue, especially in Utah agriculture (Utah is the second driest state).

Chair Simmonds agreed and noted that when members were appointed to the Board, one of the questions during the interview was about agricultural water use, which is a critical component to the livelihood in this Valley. The message that it is being used wisely and efficiently is important.

Mr. Clawson advised that the main issue at several irrigation meetings he has attended involves canal infrastructure and loss/theft. He would like to explore ways that the District can help with grants (sponsoring, administering or researching). Chair Simmonds said that the District can certainly partner to help explore opportunities (e.g. low-interest loans). Mr. Hardman said this is a long-term strategy that should be considered; infrastructure is very important, and currently at the federal level there are not a lot of options. Many systems are quite old and need help, the District should help work together to keep the systems working properly. A Water Manager will be able to help move this idea forward. Mr. Dustin said that currently the District (with available resources and money) can put together all the information available in one location to help simplify research. A document outlining the expected costs would be a good resource for future planning. Mr. Erickson said there is also a marriage with the individual city’s storm management, for example, when Cache Highline was piped, loss was reduced from 40% to 0% and high-pressure systems are implemented to help open up channels. Chair Simmonds said the District has an opportunity to help with grants, especially with smaller canal companies. Mr. Clawson said sometimes it is good to have a bigger body put their stamp of approval on something. One of the biggest concerns in the south area is the rebuild of Hyrum Dam, which is estimated

to be about 49 million dollars, which after federal aid will be about 7.5 million dollars, which will double the assessments in the area and create a large strain. Wellsville/Mendon has one of the best plans and are actively pursuing grants. There will be a lot of need in the coming years as systems continue to age.

Mr. Dustin recently attended the annual USU Spring Water Runoff Conference (a forum for sharing/exchange of water-related issues) and was involved in a panel discussion with Timothy Hawkes, UT House of Representatives and Paul Thompson from the Division of Wildlife Resources. There was a wide range of topics discussed, however, he noted that people are looking for ways to be more effective about managing water. There is an agricultural and municipal approach to water management, one tied to secondary metering and pressurized secondary irrigation and the other is more efficiency in watering crops and possible loss of water rights. The primary focus was academic, however, there were good discussions about research for good water management decisions.

Mr. Hardman said there is a Mini-Water Users Association, where key presentations from the annual St. George conference are presented in Northern Utah. This year it will be in the fall, after the fairgrounds event center is completed.

#### **INVITATION FOR CITY PARTICIPATION - DISCUSSION**

Chair Simmonds asked about the idea of inviting local cities to meet with the District and talk about specific needs and resources and how the District might be able to help. Mr. Clawson questioned whether this would be related irrigation or culinary needs. Chair Simmonds said it would be nice to gain an overall sense in how the District might be able to participate. Mr. Dustin said it is a smart thing to do, however, there should be a list of issues on what will be addressed to help constrain the conversation.

Mr. Olsen suggested getting on the Cache Valley Mayor's Association agenda. Currently Mr. Dustin serves as the Chairman of the Association and will work on getting the District on either the May or June meeting. The Association, comprised of 19 mayors, the Cache County Executive and President Crockett from USU, does not meet in July, August or September. Most meetings have about 90% attendance. Mr. Erickson suggested the June meeting so the new Manager could be in attendance.

Chair Simmonds will draft an outline and send out to members for review.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Erickson was recently contacted by Amelia Nuding from the Western Resource Advocates. He does not know anything about the organization. Chair Simmonds will speak with Richard Bay and Tage Flint about the group.

Mr. Hardman has attended some discussions regarding secondary water metering and the change that can happen when water is applied more efficiently.

Chair Simmonds has received several calls by an individual who owns a farm on the Little Bear River (behind the historical farm) about users upstream throwing debris into the river and clogging it, which impacts his ability to use. He would like to know who to contact for assistance so that the river can be navigable again. Mr. Hardman said he should contact Mike Allred from the Division of Water Quality. Chair Simmonds will forward this information to the individual.

Invoices to be approved for payment:

- ✓ **\$129.23** to Cache Valley Publishing [Herald Journal] for Election posting (Ad #1735977)
  - ✓ **\$202.50** to Debbie Zilles for clerical duties from December 2017-March 2018
  - ✓ **\$96.00** to Jeannie Simmonds for reimbursement for PO Box rental fee (annual)
  - ✓ **\$10.00** to Debbie Zilles for reimbursement for stamps
- \$ 437.73** TOTAL approved for payment.

**ACTION: Motion by Mr. Clawson and seconded by Mr. Erickson to approve payment for the invoices listed above. The motion passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.