

**Bear River Water Conservancy District  
Board Meeting  
Wednesday March 25, 2020 5:00 p.m.  
102 W Forest Street  
Brigham City, UT 84302**

**Minutes**

Present: Trustees: Roger Fridal, David Forsgren, Charles Holmgren, Mark Larson, Neil Capener, Russ Howe, Jay Carter, Jeff Scott, Richard Day, Tyler Vincent

Absent: Jay Capener

Staff: General Manager Carl Mackley, Systems Operator Robert Thayne, Administrative Assistant Jill Jeppsen

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak this meeting was held electronically via phone conference.

**Welcome:** Chairman Roger Fridal

**Declaration of Conflicts of Interest:** None

**Adoption of the Agenda** –Chairman Fridal

A motion was made by Board Member Vincent to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jeff Scott. All Board Members voted in favor of the motion.

**Systems Operations – Robbie Thayne**

We are going to have Potable Divers come and check our water tanks in Bothwell and Beaver Dam. They will clean the sand or minerals out of the bottom of the tanks and check them for leaks. They are from Vernal. We have checked their references and they are good. We think there is a leak in the bottom of the Bothwell tank, maybe around the drainpipe or the gate valve just outside the tank, so they will be locating the leak. It's about 5 or 10 gallons per minute, so we need to get it taken care of.

The State has required that we do something with the drain line coming out of the Bothwell tank. It currently goes into Krys Oyler's pond by his house. The State wants us to have more clearance between the end of the pipe and the pond. We are going to add an extension to the end of the drain that will increase the clearance.

The operators have done a lot more GIS locating. We have completed South Willard and Harper Ward and the other systems are about half-way completed. We have been able to find a lot of our system.

We have three connections ready to be installed next week.

We lost a power supply in Beaver Dam that provided power for SCADA. It is an expensive component, but we had to have it replaced. SKM came out and replaced the part.

We are working on a SCADA upgrade with SKM. They are currently working from their offices adding the new software to the computers. It will be completely new software, so there will be a

learning curve for all of us. We are not sure how this will affect UKON at this point, but we will make sure they are included in whatever training needs to happen.

Because of the virus outbreak a lot of our projects are on hold. For safety reasons, and to not add to the spread of the virus, the operators are working solitary for the most part. Any combined projects are on hold for a few weeks. We are doing the essentials and doing more GIS locations. We are taking care of our systems and keeping water flowing to everyone, safely.

## **Trustee Reports**

**Jeff Scott** – No report

**Jay Carter** – No report

**Russ Howe** – Nothing new to report from Thatcher.

**Neil Capener** – No report

**Richard Day** – No report. Asked about some water flowing along Highway 89 near the Church. It was noted that it is a drainpipe from the church that is plugged. It has been breaking up the asphalt and the County is aware of the problem. Richard Day wanted to make sure it was not our waterline that was broken.

**Mark Larson** – No report

**Charles Holmgren** – The meetings for irrigators have been changed to electronic meetings. There is one in two weeks; Bear Lake Preservation Meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup>. We are not sure about the Bear River Commission on April 21<sup>st</sup> if it will be electronic or not. Bear River Canal Company in cooperation with the Utah Division of Water Resources (DWR) has been given the go ahead to do a project. DWR has not yet had the board meeting that approved the funding, but we are moving forward with the project. We have been up front with the DWR to let them know we are starting the project without the approval; they gave verbal approval to begin. There won't be any money release until there is a meeting with the Board of Water Resources that should happen in the next two weeks, hopefully. The project is a pipe to deliver water from the pond in Harper Ward. It is in cooperation with the shareholders in that area where it has been difficult to deliver water in the past.

Pacific Corp has changed their plan at Bear Lake, and they have started putting 250 Cubic feet per second of water into Bear Lake from Mud Lake. They had been pumping water out of Bear Lake and sending it down the river for flood control preparation. They have 300,000 acre-feet of room left on the lake so there is not much chance of flooding. Bear River Canal Company elected new officers: Jeff Hardy is the President, Charles Holmgren is the Vice President and Bobby Roach is the Secretary.

**Tyler Vincent** – Things are good in Brigham City.

**David Forsgren** – No report

**Roger Fridal** – Nothing to report

**General Manager's Report – Carl Mackley**

There is a lot NOT going on in Deweyville as far as the Flat Canyon well. The well is not producing enough to make a project out of. It is very disappointing. We have the support from our engineers, and they believe even if we could develop it more that it would not produce the 300 gallons a minute that would justify making a permanent project out of it. It is only producing about 50 gallons per minute. General Manager Mackley asked for a recommendation that we abandon any further development of that well. There was a discussion regarding what would be done with the well, the resolution at this point is unknown and there are several options that will need to be considered. Another option we have is to drill two test wells in Harper Ward. We already own two parcels on the north end of Harper Ward, bordering Honeyville one is a one-acre and a five-acre parcel that are approximately 1000 feet apart. Learning from this experience at Flat Canyon, we should drill two test wells at the same time. If we start to drill and get a similar outcome to Flat Canyon, we would abandon that well immediately and turn our attention to the next well. In this location we should be able to get a good bedrock well. There was a short discussion on how we would supply Collinston with water from this project. It was noted it is in our Master Plan to run a pipeline from Harper Ward to Collinston at some point.

A motion was made by Financial Chairman Holmgren to stop progress at the Deweyville Well site. The motion was seconded by Board Member Larson. All Board Members voted in favor.

General Manager Mackley continued by asking the board what kind of support do we have for drilling two test wells in Harper Ward to see what we have there? These would be drilled with the intent they are strictly test wells, we are not trying to make project wells out of them, the production wells would be drilled at a later time. Funding for the project would need to be in place before the project is started. We have some bonds that will be paid off in the next two years. Everything is paid that was owed on the Flat Canyon project. We will not be purchasing any property at the well site but may need to spend some money to clean up and restore the property. There was a discussion regarding our water rights in the area. A plan to abandon the Flat Canyon well will need to be completed in the next few months.

The question was asked about the timeline for drilling the two test wells in Harper Ward. Financing applications can be started right away to have the funding in place before we begin the project. Also, a structure would need to be built to cross the canal to access our properties, this will need to be approved by the Bear River Canal Company. Any construction of this type would need to wait until the water is taken out of the canal in the Fall. The water rights are already in place and we already have approval to drill one well on each of the two parcels. We have utility easements and right-of-way easements already in place.

A motion was made by Financial Chairman Holmgren to authorize the General Manager to investigate financing and investigation of drilling one or two wells at the Harper Ward sites. The motion was seconded by Board Member Day. A favorable vote was given by Chairman Fridal and Board

Members Scott, Carter, Howe, N. Capener and Larson. Vice Chairman Forsgren voted against the motion stating he thought there needed to be more discussion before a decision was made. The motion is passed.

The District has been asked to partner with the Utah Division of Water Resources and several other Conservancy District's in the state to join the Slow the Flow Campaign. General Manager Mackley has been attending meetings with this group, it has been a very productive experience. A formal process has been completed to find a consultant that can manage the campaign. Neither the Cache District nor the Bear River Conservancy District has participated in the past; it is a privilege to be invited to be involved in the process. General Manager Mackley asked for the board to support a 5-year commitment to pledge \$4,300.00 per year for the campaign. We are the smallest District to participate and our annual fee is fixed, the other districts have an amount that is a percentage of the campaign total based on the population served.

A motion was made by Board Member N. Capener to approve the Partnership with the Utah Division of Water Resources and other Districts for the Slow the Flow Campaign as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Day. All Board Members voted in favor.

General Manager Mackley continued his report by telling the board members what we are doing in the office during the Coronavirus. We do have a plan; the operators are being asked to work separately from each other for at least the next two weeks. Our operators work so well as a team but if one operator was to contract the coronavirus all the employees would have to self-isolate for the next two weeks. This would leave us without an operator. General Manager Mackley has been working from home, Jill continues to work in the office, but the office is closed to the public except by appointment and payments are accepted through the drop boxes provided. The operators are compiling a list of the daily responsibilities for each system so that if we had to find a backup operator, we have something to give them to follow.

We are wondering about the surrounding cities and water companies; if they have a plan or if they need any help with anything. Brigham City has a plan and are following it closely to protect their key employees. Tremonton City office is open as usual, employees are taking precautions against the spread of the virus. Bear River Canal Company has set up a drop box for payments and asking people to make their assessment payments using the drop box or by mail. Board Member Larson will talk to Ukon water company to determine what their plan is. He is also concerned about some of the small water companies in the county that only have one operator. General Manager Mackley pledged help to any of the small systems if they need any help during this time.

Ukon Water Company and Riverside North Garland have been looking for water in the north part of the Bear River valley have approached the District with interest in partnering or seeking options to provide water for future needs. There have been a few options available in that area. There is the King well and Steve Welling has a well and water right for sale. The District also has some unapproved water right applications that we filed in 2018. Another option is for us to extend our Bothwell pipeline around Point Lookout to the west side of I-15 and cross the freeway and be able to provide water to Ukon and/or Riverside North Garland. Further information will be sent to the board for review. This is informational only to let the board know we are investigating these options; no proposals are being made at this time.

There was a short discussion regarding the status of a couple of legislative bills.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Forsgren to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Day. All Board Members voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 P.M.