

**Bear River Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
Wednesday June 24, 2019 7:00 p.m.
Bear River Water Conservancy District Conference Room
102 West Forest Street, Brigham City, Utah**

Minutes

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

Absent: Jay Capener

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

Other: Craig Hawkes, Howell Town

Welcome: Chairman Roger Fridal

Invocation: Richard Day

Pledge of Allegiance: Mark Larson

Adoption of the Agenda – Chairman Roger Fridal

A motion was made by Financial Chairman Holmgren to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Forsgren. All Board Members voted in favor of the motion.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest: None

Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting held May 27, 2020

The minutes of the Board Meeting held May 27, 2020 were included with the packet that was provided to the Board Members.

Board Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 27, 2020. The motion was seconded by Board Member Vincent. All Board Members voted in favor of the motion.

Craig Hawkes – Howell Town

Mr. Craig Hawkes, Mayor of Howell Town and water system operator presented a map of showing the existing waterlines in the town and a proposed water line. The existing water lines were installed in 1977. Since then, some of the water lines have been upgraded and added onto. The town well, constructed in 2000 is a great well, however system capacity is limited due to the size of the current water lines. Howell has received a \$195,000 grant from Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) for a new 8” water line from the well.

Hansen, Allen & Luce, engineers for Howell Town, have worked up a 4-phase plan for system upgrades and the estimated cost for the new waterline would be \$323,900. The Town is hoping to have the cost reduced from \$21 per foot to \$18 per foot. Howell Town had previously asked the Conservancy District for help with some engineering costs when they constructed the well in 2000 and are returning now to ask for help with engineering costs for this project. The estimated cost is ~\$18,350. There was a discussion of the items on the map and the sizes of the existing system and where and when the new water line will be installed.

Dave Forsgren made a motion to grant the request for up to \$18,000 to help with engineering. There was a discussion regarding whether the District has a set limit to donate financially to help out other government entities. It was determined that there is not, and requests are evaluated on a case by case basis. The Board discussed whether they are willing to donate to this project, and if we have the money in the budget. The motion was seconded by Board Member N. Capener. All voted in favor of the motion.

Invoices will be approved by Howell Town and submitted to the District to be paid directly to Hansen Allen & Luce Engineers, up to the agreed upon amount. Mr. Hawkes stated that the bids will not go out until winter and that most of the engineering costs should be able to be added to next year's budget. There are a couple of outstanding invoices that need to be paid now. The District may have to do a budget amendment to cover any payments made this year.

Financial Business – Charles Holmgren Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements for May 2020 were prepared and provided to the Board Members. Financial Chairman Holmgren has reviewed the reports and asked for the Board to approve them.

A motion was made by Board Member Vincent to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Day. All Board Members voted in favor of the motion.

Certified Tax Rate

The Certified Tax Rate for 2020 has been established as .000241 with expected revenue of \$1,212,227 for the fiscal year 2020.

A motion was made by Financial Chairman Holmgren to accept the Certified Tax Rate of .000241. The motion was seconded by Board Member Scott. All Board Members voted in favor of the motion.

Bond Refinance – Jill Jeppsen

At last month's Board Meeting, it was suggested we look at the possibility of refinancing the South Willard Bond due to the interest rate of 2.19% being higher than the District's other outstanding bonds. We investigated the possibility and found the following: Bank of Utah does not want to handle an amount that small for a bond; the current balance is \$939,000.00. First Community Bank (current

bank of the District) said this is not something they do. Zion's Public Finance did not return the phone messages left. The Division of Drinking Water will not add the refinance to the current loan application for the Harper Ward test wells, but would consider it with a project bond, such as putting in the infrastructure from the wells. Conclusion: we will keep the current bond and rate and continue to pay it down.

System Operations – Robbie Thayne

South Willard: We are doing some sampling for iron bacteria. This system has a one million-gallon tank and we only use about 10 gallons a minute. We are not delivering water to South Willard Water Company right now. We took the first sample at start up, then started pumping at 200 gpm and took a sample. We then continued pumping for four hours at 200 gpm then changed to 300 gpm and immediately took the 3rd sample. The 4th sample was taken after 24 hours of pumping at 300 gpm. We found that while we were pumping over the 24 hours at 300 gpm the well level varied between 48 feet above the pump and 28 feet above the pump. We were worried that we would have to shut off the pump prematurely due to the wild drawdown. Then about 4:00AM, the water level in the well went up to 56 feet and stayed steady for another 11 hours.

We are hoping that the continuous pumping helped to develop the well and/or removed some build up from the pump. The samples have been sent to a lab in Kansas for analysis. There was a discussion on what may have caused the well level to stabilize and that we may need to pull the pump and have it cleaned. One common complaint from people that have an iron bacteria problem is that it affects the pump rate because it clogs the equipment. We have not had adequate demand on this system, nor pumped the well at a high enough flow rate that we would notice its performance was being affected. The rate of our normal operation is 180-200 gpm for a short period of time.

Potable Divers is coming on the July 6th and 7th to clean the tank.

Asset Management System: We have been meeting each week with Gateway Mapping on the asset management system. The workorder part of the program is up and running. We are currently doing an inventory of all the system vaults and will be working on maintenance and repair/replacement cost aspects of the system next.

Retail Meters: We are going to begin replacing retail meters in Harper Ward and Bothwell. We have purchased 100 new meters for the project. We are hiring a seasonal employee to help with this effort.

Collinston Pipeline Extension Project (CPEP) is scheduled to begin on Monday, June 29th.

Beaver Dam: The springs in Beaver Dam are steady, and production has not decreased.

Bothwell: We installed a hydrant meter in Bothwell for Granite Construction Company for a project they are doing on I-84 from Tremonton to Snowville.

Cross Connection: The operators all attended a Cross Connection Control training this week. All our full-time operators are trained administrators. (Carl is an operator but has not been trained in cross connection control.) The State will be monitoring each entity for compliance. We will be looking at customer connections and educating our customers about cross connection hazards.

Weeds: We have received our annual weed complaint in Collinston around the north tank and are working to cut the weeds down around the tank and several other places.

Fixing vault leaks: We have had some pilot valves fail. We had a pilot valve fail in Beaver Dam that has been fixed, but it pressured up the line. The public needs to know they really must have a pressure reducing valve on their homes to protect them in these situations. There was a discussion about regulation for new construction.

Bothwell Transducer: We lost a transducer in Bothwell that has failed a couple of times and we have not been able to figure out why. We finally found the water minerals plugged up the inlet, it will need to be maintained on a regular basis going forward.

Trustee Reports

Jeff Scott – Glad for the rain received. Meeting on July 8th to decide if we will hold the county fair. Letter to request a “Green” COVID-19 Status has been sent to Bear River Health Department. They will forward it to the State for a decision. It was noted that just today, the Governor said that all requests by counties to improve COVID-19 Statuses are on hold.

Jay Carter – We finally got a rainstorm about 8 days ago, measuring about 0.8 inch in Park Valley. It was a decent amount after what we have not had all spring. We had snow on the mountain on May 23, and again in June. It does not happen very often that we have fresh snow on the mountains in June. The irrigation water has hit bottom now, but for no rain in the spring it was decent.

Russ Howe – Marble Hills up above Thatcher has 5 new homes going in now. Thatcher is running two pumps right now to keep up with demand. Bothwell is setting the number of new connections on the amount of water they are purchasing from the District. There are several fire hydrants in Thatcher that don’t have water to them, due to age and not having been exercised. They need to cover them if they don’t work.

Richard Day – There are about 10 or 12 homes being built in South Willard. They are working on getting secondary water to them. They are having trouble finding the secondary water line. The culinary lines have been mapped, but the secondary lines have not been. The secondary water system is owned and operated by Pineview. There was four inches of snow up behind Pineview last Wednesday.

Neil Capener– Riverside North Garland has a lot of decisions to make, they have had a lot of requests for development. It is a challenge.

Mark Larson– Ukon’s springs are holding up better than they thought. Have not heard any complaints from any of the independent companies about not having water. Marble hills upgrading to electronic meters. A lot of building going on in the county.

Tyler Vincent – Attended a conference today in Logan regarding COVID-19 and talked about how building has not slowed down during the pandemic. Water in Brigham City is good right now. It has been an interesting weather year so far. There is a lot of building going on in Brigham, developers

looking to build 48 homes on the old golf course property at the north end of town. There is concern about the high water table in that area.

Charles Holmgren – They have not turned on the pumps yet at Bear Lake. After last week's rainstorms we measured .84 at the farm west of Bear River. The canal company is pulling 900 CFS, all-natural flow water (not Bear Lake storage). Pacificorp is holding conference calls once a week with all the water users on the Bear River. They should start to do releases on Bear Lake anytime. Bear Lake is still rising a small amount; it is 4 feet from full. The irrigators like it this full, the beach goers do not. The typical start date to turn the pumps on can be roughly determined by what the snowpack is at Tony Grove. It is usually around July 1st, but on some dry years it has been as early as May 1st. There was a Board of Water Resources meeting last Thursday. The director said the budget is getting cut 8% or about a half million dollars. It has eliminated some positions in the administration. They are dropping their water education program, at least for this year, and there will be no pay increases for any employees in their division. A comment on the General Manager's report; I talk to Acme Water Company's president once a week and West Corinne's president once a month, but have not talked to Corinne City.

Dave Forsgren – Nothing to report

Roger Fridal – Tremonton also has a lot of building going on. The secondary water system that was put in last year on one section of town is working, we find leaks every day. The secondary water is pumped out of the canal. Our wells and springs are doing well for the year.

Public Comment – No comments

General Manager's Report – Carl Mackley

We are interested in helping small water systems in the county that are based on volunteer or unpaid workers. There are a lot of them. There are a lot of good training, tools and information available to help. We would like to see more of these water systems in the county take advantage of the available resources. We know they could benefit from the trainings and tools that are out there that they might not know about. We are hoping we could extend more available information to these systems through our board members. Maybe we could make a survey for them to fill out to find out what their most pressing needs are. There are helps available that they probably do not have the time to research themselves. We could make some of the trainings available here or notify them of specific upcoming trainings, based on their preferences.

There was a discussion regarding if training notices could be more specific so it would be easier to choose which ones to attend and could the District filter out the notices and forward the information? This would be tied back to survey results. It would be helpful to these smaller systems to be more proactive instead of reactive to situations. Carl will put together a short survey so we can see what interest level there is from the different towns and water companies.

Status of Flat Canyon Well: There has been a change of opinion from last month. We think it will be better to explore developing the well rather than abandon it. There will be a cost to it, and it may

be a high cost to benefit ratio, but it will eventually pay for itself. We should take advantage of the well especially since it is in an area where we do not have our own source. We have one year left on our temporary agreement to either back out or proceed and enter into a permanent agreement where we pay the specified amount to the landowner and we get an access easement and an acre of ground. We need more information on the flow rate and the water quality from the well. The previous well drilling company would not work on the well and supply the information that we wanted. What we observed is if they would pump higher than 55 gpm it was drawing down too much. But at 50 gpm to 55 gpm it was able to sustain the level for a long time. We will also need to get updated water quality samples. We think the quality is good because of the samples we took before we deepened the well. It is an 8 inch well, 578 feet deep with a static level about 120 feet. There was a discussion about test pumping the well and what results are expected. We intend to call Rod Mund to see if he can do the work for us. Due to the money already invested in the project, the Board Members are in favor of continuing the work on this well.

A motion was made by Board Member Day to move forward by seeing what Rod Mund can do and what the cost will be for developing the Flat Canyon well rather than abandoning it. The motion was seconded by Board Member Larson. All Board Members voted in favor.

General Manager Mackley asked the Board Members for direction on the District position regarding water companies and developers in different areas. The developers are wanting the water companies to give them more connections than the water companies have or are willing to make available. The water companies do not seem to have a real concrete or defensible position on how many connections they are willing or able to give. We talked about the growth in the county earlier in this meeting and we have an idea that it will continue. The water companies need to have a better plan to accommodate the growth, and we need to know what that plan is. Our role should be to support the water companies so they can be the retailers and we can be the wholesalers. The developers are not getting the connection they want so they come to us and ask for connections. There was a discussion regarding our policy for the developers to get a denial letter from the water company. This isn't working well in some instances because the water companies are not expressly denying service, but they aren't granting it either. Our objective and preference are to be the wholesale provider not retail. It was noted if they want to develop bad enough, they will source out the water.

Bothwell tank overflow pond options were supplied to the Board Members. There was a short discussion about the two options.

General Manager Mackley has been working on a ground water availability model between the West side of the Wellsville Mountains and the Bear River. We have some developed and mostly undeveloped water rights along the Western Slope of the Wellsville Mountain Range and it would be advantageous to the District to have a tool to model different development scenarios along this corridor between Brigham City and Beaver Dam. He is working on developing the tool, which is taking some time. The tool breaks down the model area into 6 separate zones as sub-units to study groundwater use, recharge, and contributions to the Bear River from the East side. This tool, when completed will be something that we can use to make decisions with and help convince the State Engineer of what we are doing.

A motion was made by Board Member Scott to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Vincent. All Board Members voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.