

**Mt. Nebo Water Agency Board Meeting
May 15, 2017**

Board Members: Chairman Warren Peterson, Goshen Valley; Gene Shawcroft, Central Utah Water; Soren Christensen, Salem City; Marty Warren, Strawberry Highline Canal Company.

Board Alternates:

Technical Committee: Chris Hansen CUWCD; Richard Nielson, Utah County; Chris Thompson, Spanish Fork City,

Staff: S. Junior Baker, Shelley Hendrickson, Steve Clyde

Public present: Roger Barrus, Jeremy Sorenson, Keith Broadhead, David Tuckett, Darrick Whipple, Rich Tullis, Lonny Ward, Ann Garner, Norm Beagley, Steve Jones.

Chairman Warren Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

BOARD ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES – February 13, 2017

The minutes of February 13, 2017, were tabled to the next Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Warren Peterson read aloud a letter that the Agency received from Strawberry Water Users Association.

Chairman Warren Peterson invited public comment. There was none.

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS/ALTERNATES

1. Santaquin – Keith Broadhead
2. Genola – Lonny Ward
3. Payson alternate – David Tuckett
4. Goshen Valley Local District alternate – not present

Shelley Hendrickson performed the swearing in of the new board members: Keith Broadhead - Santaquin City, Lonny Ward - Genola City, and David Tuckett - Payson City alternate.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT – Chris Hansen

- a. **Regional Water Study on Phase II (status update & participants)**
 - i. **Board Action on Technical Committee Report – Regional Water Study**
- b. **Muscle Walls**
 - i. **Board Action on Muscle Walls**

Technical Committee Report – Regional Water Study

Chris Hansen reported that the study was going well and that he had nothing to report.

Richard Noble reported that Hansen, Allen and Luce had completed review of the demographics and population projections and defining the water needs of the study area both present and over time to the year 2060. He also reported HAL had completed an inventory of existing facilities and water rights and had concluded, in terms of overall capacity to meet the municipal water needs in the area, the area is in pretty good shape as a whole. There are a couple of cities that will need more water but by developing some more resources and acquiring more water rights they should be good as well. He said the team had summarized the surface and ground water rights and compiled them by city; not just the current municipal boundary but the buildout boundary so that the cities have a good idea of the inventory of the water rights that are available within their projected City limits. He said one thing to note is that preliminary information indicates that both surface water and ground water is over appropriated which means there are more water rights than water available. He also said that in moving forward they are looking at opportunities to share resources that include inter-connections between cities and how water can be moved physically from one city to another and were looking at options for delivering treated water from a regional treatment plant and they are reviewing and revisiting aquifer storage and recovery as a way to manage the ground water resource of the area in context of the findings they have found thus far and also wastewater reuse.

Chairman Warren Peterson said one thing Richard Noble mentioned in sharing water resources between Cities was the institutional constraints or issues. He assumed that it included the peculiarities of the statutes regarding cities' ability to provide water service outside of their municipal boundaries. Richard Noble said their report would address such water right issues, including enlargement of water rights and also constitutional limitations affecting cities.

Marty Larsen asked if participation was widespread at the Technical Committee meetings. Richard Noble said yes, it was very good and responsive.

Soren Christensen asked if they were moving at all towards our ground water in the Payson area in terms of what we have been over-allocated or under-allocated there. Richard Noble said that they had identified the recharge of the basin which is about 80,000 acre feet per year. The water rights are almost double that. Notwithstanding that they still believe there is some room for use of those water rights to meet the future needs. Soren Christensen asked if they were looking at the safe yield. Richard Noble said yes and that they were looking at recharge.

Discussion was held regarding a final list of those participating. It was determined that all members of the Agency are participating. The consultants and the Technical Committee reported that they have had contact with Elk Ridge and Woodland Hills but not finalized anything with them, that Strawberry Water Users has elected not to participate, and that they have had no contact with Juab County.

Richard Noble mentioned that some of the smaller cities and towns, although they are not actively participating in the study, have been helpful in sharing information. He said a few of the river/irrigation companies that divert out of the Spanish Fork River that have been withholding a bit and that Goshen Town officials have given info, but the Town is not officially participating as part of the project. Richard Noble said that they have made a concerted effort to preserve agriculture and that each of the cities have in their General Plan elements that preserve agriculture.

Chairman Warren Peterson said that he had met with Richard Nielson and the Utah County Commission member to talk about future plans in the Elberta area. The industrial park area in the Goshen Valley Specific Area Plan still going to be reserved for large campus industrial type facilities and actively promoted by Utah County and EDCUtah with no intention to build a City there.

Muscle Walls

Chris Hansen said that he was approached by Chris Thompson about an Agency project to obtain a quantity of Muscle Wall sections and a trailer for approximately \$25,000 to transport them and possibly a storage place. He explained that Muscle Wall is a local product out of Logan, Utah; it is made of two foot tall plastic wall sections, each section weighs about 50 pounds, and can be locked together quickly deployed and filled with ballast water to control, contain, and redirect flood water. He said Spanish Fork City has purchased 400 feet of it already. He said the Technical Committee is proposing a small project for Mt. Nebo Water Agency to have Muscle Wall available to all interested Agency members. He said the Committee did not presently have a recommendation as to how to take care of and store the Muscle Wall.

Chris Thompson explained the theory that cities have flooding during the early spring while other entities may have a need if canal breaches occur.

Discussion was held regarding the project proposal. Discussion was held regarding whether any action was needed on the regional study and that action on the Muscle Wall would be taken up during the budget discussion.

Chairman Peterson suggested that if this is a product the Agency is interested in then we should establish a committee and create a project. Discussion was held regarding establishing a committee and how the product benefits every entity (flood control, fire control etc.). Gene Shawcroft **moved** to create a flood control project committee and have each participant provide a committee person with Chris Thompson as the committee leader. Soren Christensen **seconded**. Discussion was held regarding which of the nine member entities would like to participate. Entities will go back to their governing bodies to obtain approval for the Agency's June meeting. Lonny Ward **moved** to **table** the action on the Muscle Wall to the Agency's

next meeting. Soren Christensen **seconded** and the motion **passed** with all in favor. Discussion was held regarding projects.

Water resource management committee report – Board action on Water Resource Management Committee Report

Chairman Peterson asked for a report from Soren Christensen.

Soren Christensen reported that the Water Resource Management Committee met last month and decided that they were going to focus on ground water management and looking at a ground water management plan. Projected growth in Utah County will be significant on our ground water basin. He said the committee's view is that we need to start planning now to see that our ground water is not depleted before it becomes irreversible and if we let that happen the State Engineer will mandate a recovery plan by using priority rights as primary tool. Mr. Christensen said the area is already seeing depletion over the last couple of years and there is discord between municipalities and other water users, in particular protesting surface rights being transferred to diversion to ground water. The purpose of a ground water management plan is to limit water withdrawals to a safe yield of the basin. Defined as not diverting more water from the aquifer system than nature puts back by way of recharge. It also protects the integrity of the aquifer and protects the water quality. The Agency's first step, as an organization and working with the State Engineer, is to develop and determine what a safe yield for our basin is. The State is mandated to come in and regulate the basin on a priority basis unless (and this is where the Agency comes in) a voluntary arrangement is established by the water users. This can be done even before the safe yield has been breached.

Discussion was held regarding working together to come up with a voluntary approach within the ground water basin, annual recharge, conjunctive management surface and ground water recharge and work with each other, historical water use.

Chairman Warren Peterson asked Soren Christensen, as chair of the board, if he wanted the Agency to take any action today.

Soren Christensen asked if the committee was on the right track and for some guidance.

Junior Baker explained what would need to happen in order to get the project in the budget.

Discussion was held regarding a projected amount.

Soren Christensen **moved** that the Mt. Nebo Agency pursue a voluntary ground water management plan and put \$40,000 into the budget for next year to help us fund the initiation of that work. David Tuckett **seconded**. Discussion was held regarding the motion. The motion **passed** with all in favor.

Tentative Budget – Junior Baker

Junior baker went over the tentative budget. He told the Board that they would need to address the Santaquin and Genola buy-in assessment. Discussion was held regarding the assessment and the administrative budget versus project budget. Marty Larsen **moved** to divide the cash by 1/7th and charge the two new members and **adopt** the administrative tentative budget. Soren Christensen **seconded** and the motion **passed** with all in favor.

Junior Baker went over the project budget and told the Board that they would need to know by their June meeting who is in and who is out relative to the projects.

Discussion was held regarding the project budget.

Soren Christensen **moved to approve** the tentative project budgets for project 2, 3, and 4. Keith Broadhead **seconded**. Discussion was held regarding the project costs and what had been billed and collected. The motion **passed** with all in favor.

Audit Discussion

Junior Baker explained that the Agency did not need a formal audit but should obtain some best practice tips by obtaining the help of an accountant.

Other Business

Junior Baker said that he had prepared an update of the financial report to date but left it at the office.

Next Meeting – June 19, 2017.

Keith Broadhead **moved** to adjourn. David Tuckett **seconded** and the meeting adjourned at 9 a.m.