

MT NEBO WATER AGENCY  
BOARD MEETING  
Salem City Offices, 30 West 100 South, Salem UT 84653  
Monday, November 13, 2023

CONDUCTING

Richard Nielson, Chairman

BOARD MEMBERS

David Pitcher, Central Utah Water Conservancy Dis.  
Marty Larson, Genola City  
ABSENT - Braden Sheppard, Goshen Valley Local District  
ABSENT - Brett Christensen, Payson City  
ABSENT - Seth Sorensen, Salem City  
ABSENT - David Hathaway, Santaquin City  
Kevin Oyler, Spanish Fork City  
Boyd Warren, Strawberry Highline Canal Co  
Sterling Brown, Strawberry Water Users Assoc.  
Richard Nielson, Utah County

ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBERS

Gerard Yates, Central Utah Water Conservancy Dis.  
ABSENT - Neil Brown – Genola City  
Paul Munns – Goshen Valley Local District  
David Tuckett, Payson City  
Bruce Ward, Salem City  
ABSENT - Lynn Mecham, Santaquin City  
Chris Thompson, Spanish Fork City  
Lynn Swensen, Strawberry Water Users Assoc. (7:40 a.m.)  
Glen Tanner, Utah County

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Roger Pearson, Central Utah Water Conservancy Dis.  
ABSENT - Chris Steele, Genola City  
ABSENT - Melanie McVicker, Goshen Valley Local Dis.  
Travis Jockumsen, Payson City  
Bruce Ward, Salem City  
Norm Beagley, Santaquin City  
Chris Thompson, Spanish Fork City  
Sterling Brown, Strawberry Water Users Assoc.  
Richard Nielson, Utah County

STAFF

Kim E. Holindrake, Payson City Recorder

OTHERS

Steven Clyde, Clyde Snow (online)  
John Waters, Spanish Fork City  
Rachel Musil, Central Utah Water Conservancy Dis.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Richard Nielson called this meeting of the Mt Nebo Water Agency Board to order at 7:33 a.m. The meeting was properly noticed.

2. Swear in New Board Members

- a. Sterling Brown – Strawberry Water Users Association
- b. Lynn Swensen – Strawberry Water Users Association

Kim Holindrake administered the oath of office to Sterling Brown with Strawberry Water Users Association.

3. Public Comment Period

No public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes – August 14, 2023, Meeting

**MOTION: Kevin Oyler – To approve the meeting minutes of August 14, 2023.** Motion seconded by Marty Larson. Those voting yes: Dave Pitcher, Marty Larson, Paul Munns, Dave Tuckett, Bruce Ward, Kevin Oyler, Boyd Warren, Sterling Brown, Richard Nielson. The motion carried.

5. Finance Report

Dave Tuckett reviewed the finance memo noting that since the last meeting four invoices were paid to Hansen, Allen & Luce (\$1,702.75), WestWater Research LLC (\$18,295.00), Moreton & Company (\$75.00), and WestWater Research LLC (\$3,252.50). Revenues included interest of \$21.64, Project #6 assessments of \$1,499.95, and Strawberry Water Users Association Buy-In of \$3,387.73. Account balances include the reserve account - \$5,000, administrative account - \$32,952.39, Project #5 account - \$8,043.54-, and Project #6 account - \$21,330.25 for a total of \$51,239.10. The current balance of Project #5 – Grant is \$44,000. The current balance of the groundwater database assistance is \$3,705.00. Currently, he hasn't been able to get access for reimbursements from the Project #5 grant funds but is working with Chris Hansen on access.

6. Technical Committee Report and/or Action

- b. Update on Groundwater Management Plan (Hansen Allen & Luce)

Chris Thompson stated Hansen Allen & Luce (HAL) have been creating a proposal for phase 2 of the plan and were tasked to contact the state engineers because it was rumored, they were working on a groundwater management plan for this area. The state engineers said they wanted Mt. Nebo Water Agency (MNWA) to create a plan, and they would do quality control and police it to ensure it protected other users. It sounds like the state engineers are on board with MNWA creating a groundwater management plan. HAL is completing the groundwater database study in order to integrate the information into this plan and present a proposal at the first meeting in 2024

c. Update on Groundwater Database Assistance Contract (Hansen Allen & Luce)

Chris Thompson noted the data gathering is being done on as many well levels as possible through self-reporting. The north Utah valley cities are doing this as well. Following the self-reporting, MNWA will need someone to reach out to the entities that haven't reported.

a. Update on WaterSMART Banking Grant Project (Westwater Research)

Chris Thompson reported the grant was received from the Bureau to see if water banking made sense in this area. Westwater Research met with the Technical Committee last week. At first, the Technical Committee ruled out all surface water and felt water banking would work with well water. It generally makes sense to not use surface water mostly because of the Strawberry Valley Project water and the Utah Lake System water, but also because many of the irrigation companies are not ready. Basically, there is so much water here it can't be banked. Following that discussion, the Technical Committee determined that the groundwater is over appropriated, so ground water doesn't make sense either. The recommendation from the Technical Committee is it's just not the time for water banking in this area. There is about \$8,000 of grant project money that has not been spent. The recommendation is to do water right priority research especially for underground water, which can be left out of the groundwater management plan. This falls within the guidelines of the grant. Unless someone really wants to pursue water banking, the Technical Committee recommends approving the resolution in item 7 to extend the deadline by two months for the water banking study, which allows work on water priority research.

Discussion:

Marty Larson questioned if the grant would cover it.

Dave Tuckett questioned if the Bureau is comfortable as well.

Chris Thompson stated Westwater Research is sure this will be covered by the grant. It may take a few months to go through the Bureau.

Rachel Musil clarified the grant is for water marketing strategies and not just water banking so it could be covered by the grant.

d. CUWCD Water Optimization Management Program

Rachel Musil stated CUWCD will be meeting with its stakeholders that are involved or have some sort of interest in the Water Optimization Management Project. This presentation was given to the Technical Committee last Tuesday. CUWCD has a pot of water at Strawberry Reservoir and Jordanelle Reservoir with each going to specific places. CUWCD has infrastructure in place that allows water to be delivered to customers from either reservoir in any direction. The Diamond Fork System and the Utah Lake System are connected at the Spanish Fork Reservoir pipeline that connects to CUWCD M & I system at the mouth of Provo Canyon. This is where CUWCD can push water up to Salt Lake County. There is 70,000 acre feet of Jordanelle Reservoir water dedicated to Salt Lake County with an additional 16,125 acre feet of

water going to north Utah County cities. There is 22,000 acre feet of water from Strawberry Reservoir that goes to Salt Lake County in the future, and an additional 23,158 acre feet of water that goes to south Utah County cities. CUWCD is proposing to balance the reservoir levels and deliver and help with the flexibility to deliver water that is dedicated or meant to come from Jordanelle Reservoir south or from Strawberry Reservoir north. This helps with resiliency, reliability, operational constraints, flexibility, optimization, and minimizes losses. This interchange works through accounting of debits and credits to either reservoir. This process also analyzes direct flow exchanges to optimize water supply. This process is a requirement for federal agencies, evaluates environmental impacts, uses an interdisciplinary approach, documentation, and provides opportunity for public and agency input via an EDA process. Public comments are due by December 15, 2023.

Discussion:

Kevin Oyler questioned if Deer Creek is part of this, is there a maximum cap that can flow out of both reservoirs, and do any customers have priority over other customers. How close is it to having water resiliency?

Rachel Musil explained Deer Creek water is separate and distinct. Water in and out of the two reservoirs is balanced as much as possible based on contract limitations. Primary customers are those receiving water from that reservoir. It keeps more water in the reservoirs because of maximization of reservoir storage. The only secondary customers are agriculture water and could be cut for water resiliency issues. CUWCD is going through a process to actually put together drought operation requirements to determine if there would be a cut on water supplies. Strawberry Reservoir and not been full but is expected to be full next year.

Boyd Warren questioned fill and spill is the way debt is paid between the two reservoirs.

Rachel Musil clarified the reservoirs are paid back when water is delivered to another customer outside that reservoir. It provides operational flexibility. The spill part of the equation is because there can't be physically have more on paper than can be filled in a reservoir. It is a benefit to both as the deficit is managed. There is a major benefit to the Strawberry water supplies because Jordanelle typically fills, and Strawberry has only filled twice. She is expecting Strawberry to fill next year.

2. Swear in New Board Members - CONTINUED

- a. Sterling Brown – Strawberry Water Users Association
- b. Lynn Swensen – Strawberry Water Users Association

Kim Holindrake administered the oath of office to Lynn Swensen with Strawberry Water Users Association.

(Lynn Swensen excused - 8:00 a.m.)

7. Resolution – WestWater Research LLC Agreement Extension for WaterSMART Banking (Project #5)

Chris Thompson stated this extends the deadline and allows the water right priority into the scope. It uses the last \$8,000 to help with groundwater management.

**MOTION: Dave Tuckett – To approve the (resolution) agreement extension with WestWater Research.** Motion seconded by Marty Larson. Those voting yes: Dave Pitcher, Marty Larson, Paul Munns, Dave Tuckett, Bruce Ward, Kevin Oyler, Boyd Warren, Sterling Brown, Richard Nielson. The motion carried.

8. Update on Utah Lake System Pipeline and Plan Formulation Study 8:00 a.m.

Roger Pearson showed an overview of the Strawberry Reservoir water delivery system and the regional nature of the system. The Utah Lake System Pipeline overview shows part of the water going north and part going south. This has been worked on for almost 20 years with planning, environmental, and construction. Bid results were received on Thursday for the Santaquin Reach with VanCon with a bid of \$72 million. Construction will start as early as next year with completion in the middle of 2026 and includes six turnouts. The Juab County and Southern Utah County plan formulation project will explore opportunities and options to get water to south Utah County and Juab County. It includes a drinking water treatment plant in Salem taking water to Goshen and east Juab County. The system includes the ULS and Highline Canal systems along with a 96-inch canyon pipeline branching north and south. This year the project looks at the possibility of the ULS and Highline Canal systems providing optimization and flexibility because of such close proximity of each other. Jacobs Engineering is looking at concepts to utilize the Highline Canal with the ULS line for a robust, regional system in the area. A concept level design set gives an opportunity for feasibility analysis and costing to make it work and includes potential piping of the Highline Canal. Enclosing the canal provides public safety, improves water conservation, and provides efficient water management. It saves about 16% of the water supply. Saved water can be captured and used under the CUPCA section 207 to be used by the Secretary of the Interior and CUWCD. Return flows are essentially utilized to Utah Lake into the Bonneville Unit water supply to ensure the needs of Utah Lake are met so Strawberry Reservoir and Jordanelle Reservoir can retain water.

9. Resolution - Set 2024 Meeting Schedule  
a. February 12, May 13, June 10, August 12, November 11

Richard Nielson proposed moving the November 11 date because of Veterans Day.

Discussion consensus is to move the meeting to November 4.

Discussion regarding outgrowing the current room, setting the room up differently, and other available venues. It was determined to remain in the current venue and set the room up differently.

**MOTION: Marty Larson – To approve the (resolution) meeting schedule with the November 4 meeting change.** Motion seconded by Dave Tuckett. Those voting yes: Dave

Pitcher, Marty Larson, Paul Munns, Dave Tuckett, Bruce Ward, Kevin Oyler, Boyd Warren, Sterling Brown, Richard Nielson. The motion carried.

10. Other Business

a. Information/Discussion Items for Future Meetings

No discussion.

b. Other

No other business.

11. Next Meeting – February 12, 2024

12. Adjourn

**MOTION: Marty Larson – To adjourn.** Motion seconded by Dave Pitcher. Those voting yes: Those voting yes: Dave Pitcher, Marty Larson, Paul Munns, Dave Tuckett, Bruce Ward, Kevin Oyler, Boyd Warren, Sterling Brown, Richard Nielson. The motion carried.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.