

MT NEBO WATER AGENCY
BOARD MEETING
Salem City Offices, 30 West 100 South, Salem UT 84653
Monday, August 14, 2023

CONDUCTING Richard Nielson, Chairman

BOARD MEMBERS David Pitcher, Central Utah Water Conservancy Dis.
Marty Larson, Genola City
ABSENT - Wes Quinton, Goshen Valley Local District (online)
ABSENT - Brett Christensen, Payson City
ABSENT - Seth Sorensen, Salem City
David Hathaway, Santaquin City
Kevin Oyler, Spanish Fork City
Boyd Warren, Strawberry Highline Canal Co
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
ABSENT - Glen Tanner, Utah County

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

STAFF Kim E. Holindrake, Payson City Recorder

OTHERS Steven Clyde, Clyde Snow (online)
John Waters, Spanish Fork City
Sterling Brown, Strawberry Water Users Association

1. Call to Order

Chairman Richard Nielson called this meeting of the Mt Nebo Water Agency Board to order at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was properly noticed.

2. Swear in New Board Members

- a. Dave Pitcher – CUWCD
- b. Bruce Ward – Salem City

Kim Holindrake administered the oath of office to Dave Pitcher with Central Utah Water Conservancy District and Bruce Ward with Salem City.

3. Public Comment Period

No public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes – June 12, 2023, Meeting

MOTION: Marty Larson – To approve the meeting minutes of June 12, 2023. Motion seconded by Kevin Oyler. Those voting yes: Dave Pitcher, Marty Larson, Paul Munns, Dave Tuckett, Bruce Ward, David Hathaway, Kevin Oyler, Boyd Warren, Richard Nielson. The motion carried.

5. Finance Report

Dave Tuckett reviewed the finance memo noting that since the last meeting one invoice was paid to the US Postal Service (\$332.00). Revenues included interest of \$10.65 and Project #6 assessments of \$20,988.05. The final assessment payment was just received. Account balances include the reserve account - \$5,000, administrative account - \$30,163.02, Capital Projects Project #4 account - \$-0-, Project #5 account - \$13,503.96, and Project #6 account - \$20,988.05 for a total of \$69,655.03. The current balance of Project #5 – Grant is \$44,000.

6. Technical Committee Report and/or Action

a. Update on Project 5, WaterSMART Banking Grant Project

Chris Thompson reported the Committee held a good discussion with Westwater Research and decided to focus on a simple banking program with underground water rights. If this can be done successfully, then it can be expanded. The feeling is water banking is complicated and new; it's almost a test project with this grant. The Committee felt it would be a wise way to move forward instead of adding surface water, which has a lot of complications. The Committee doesn't want to kill it right out of the gate by trying to do too much.

Discussion:

Richard Nielson likes the idea of it being simple. This could go in a lot of complex avenues so it's a good way to start.

Boyd Warren questioned if GVLD still has water to put into this project.

Paul Munns didn't know.

Marty Larson noted at about the grant time, GVLD identified about 984 feet for the water banking project.

Chris Thompson stated GVLD applied for a change application to move water to some wells in maybe Payson and Salem. The offer was to get the water moved into those wells to use in some sort of a water bank. The change application is still in process.

Marty Larson clarified he thinks the 984 feet is here, so it wasn't in question. He thinks the water is to go into four different wells so it can be used in multiple places.

Chris Thompson noted that the water in the change application could then be added.

b. Update Project 6, Groundwater Management Development

Chris Thompson stated Hansen, Allen, & Luce (HAL) is working on creating a scope of work for the next step of the Groundwater Management Plan. They learned that the State Engineer is also working on a groundwater management plan. The Committee asked HAL to get with the State Engineers Office to find out what they are doing and maybe combine efforts, so efforts aren't duplicated. We are hoping to schedule a joint virtual meeting to discuss the next steps of the groundwater management plan.

Discussion:

Chris Thompson noted the Committee has discussed SUMWA, which doesn't have a huge agenda when it comes to meetings. SUMWA is looking at how to administer water rights more efficiently and make more sense of its contracts.

Richard Nielson stated there is a little bit of complication there because some members of SUMWA are not members of Mt. Nebo Water Agency and vica versa.

Chris Thompson stated there isn't any city that wants to give up any of their contract water. But if we can administer the water more efficiently, it would be good. Especially when approaching a block notice type situation when all that water becomes available. We don't want to create a situation where water can't be used because it's all in a city's name. We are looking at options there.

Steve Clyde clarified a lot of the legal aspects and concerns were addressed with the Technical Committee a few years back, which is some good information. He would just need to go back and review it as this point. It takes a voluntary organization like this to do it, and project participants could get involved. The State Engineer has to bless it in order to move forward. If the state is acting right now, he agrees we need to sit down with them in order to not to duplicate efforts.

Dave Tuckett noted the SUMWA property has been sold so SUMWA only has a contract with Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) for CUP water.

Chris Thompson stated SUMWA has some ground water rights and has looked at different options on those rights such as water banking. Woodland Hills is currently using some of those water rights. These water rights could be traded or sold. Once we get into the Groundwater Management Plan, we can see if groundwater is over appropriated. If there is more groundwater then can be used, it doesn't benefit the group.

c. Other

No other items discussed.

7. Resolution - Participation Agreement with Strawberry Water Users Association

Dave Tuckett reported the Board and all the entity members approved the Second Interlocal Agreement that allows Strawberry Water Users Association (SWUA) as a member. Now it comes down to the participation agreement. Through discussions with Sterling Brown, SWUA is ready to move forward. If the agreement is approved, SWUA would submit three names for a board member and alternate board member to CUWCD for approval. There is a buy-in to the administrative budget of \$3,387.73. SWUA has not participated in any projects but can choose to participate at a later date. This agreement is identical other than the Strawberry Highline Canal board members are appointed by Utah County.

MOTION: Dave Tuckett – To approve the Resolution to approve the participation agreement with Strawberry Water Users Association. Motion seconded by Dave Pitcher. Those voting yes:

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

8. Other Business

a. Information/Discussion Items for Future Meetings

No other business.

b. Other

Bruce Ward questioned if a bigger venue is needed to meet. He could set up the room with the chairs down below.

The Board agreed.

9. Next Meeting – November 13, 2023

10. Adjourn

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

This meeting was adjourned at 7:50 a.m.