

# City of La Verkin

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## LA VERKIN CITY WATER BOARD MINUTES

**Thursday, October 26, 2023, 3:00 pm.**

**111 South Main Street, La Verkin, UT**

**Present:** Doug Wilson, Kelly Wilson, Derek Imlay, John Valenti, Kenneth Cox, Don Halterman, Kyle Gubler, and Christy Ballard.

### **I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Don Halterman at 3:00 pm.

### **II. Approval of Minutes: June 29, 2023, minutes**

**The motion was made by Ken Cox to approve June 29, 2023, minutes, second by John Valenti. Mayor Kelly Wilson-yes, Imlay-yes, Valenti-yes, Cox-yes, Halterman-yes, Doug Wilson-yes. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **III. Reports:**

#### **A. Water Purchase:**

Kyle passed out the list of people wanting to sell irrigation shares and those who have not paid the assessment yet this year. They have been issued a 180-day notice from the City that will come due by the first of December. He also passed out a list of water shares the City has purchased since February 2021. We have purchased a total of 38 shares.

#### **B. Culinary Water Management update:**

Derek reported the system is doing well. The City is replacing the pumps at the pump station affecting Sunset View Estates, Hillside Terrace, and the hotel under construction. The pumps needed to be upgraded for the new hotel, and they covered that cost. Those subdivisions are being fed by Cottam Well water.

The City's culinary numbers have been down every month, except for one, since last year. That ultimately helps the City stay within our water rights and not depend on the Water Conservancy District.

There have been some mainline breaks, but most have been service line breaks, which are easier to repair. There is a lot of ground movement when the seasons change, so breaks are expected, but overall, it has been a good year.

#### **C. Irrigation Water Management update**

Derek reported the irrigation water will be out of the system on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The crew will begin flushing the lines a couple of days before.

It has not been a bad irrigation season; the breaks have been minimal. Last year the motors were replaced. The numbers have been consistent. The ten-year average is 280–300-acre feet for September; this year, the City was 167-acre feet. He is unsure whether people are more conscientious, or the meter is not working correctly. We did have rain in September.

The La Verkin water rights are 2,620. The Conservancy District gets an average of 700-acre feet per year that the City doesn't use.

Doug Wilson mentioned the City discussed metering irrigation water. Why would we need to if we use that much less than our right?

Mayor Wilson explained the State passed the requirement to meter irrigation water but has issued La Verkin City an exemption because of our water quality. No company will warranty a meter that is not for culinary-grade water.

D. Washington County Water Conservancy District update-Mayor Kelly Wilson

Mayor Wilson reported the water works group he has been meeting with is trying to redo the regional water agreement. They cannot get all seven cities to agree, so they have decided not to make any changes.

Doug asked what the main issues were.

Mayor Wilson answered that each city had its issues. La Verkin wasn't affected much because the City owns the water rights for secondary water instead of a canal company where the shareholders own the rights. La Verkin has enough water in the springs that we can still grow.

The Water District has tried to get out of the 1999 agreement with us, but neither of us could find anything showing that the agreement was terminated. The attorney for the Conservancy District told the Mayor they think the City is in breach of contract, and he replied that La Verkin City has followed through with everything we said we would. The City is up to date on all payments and has only used 297 of the 1,000 connections we have been paying for.

There were some issues with payment for a few months, but they were resolved.

There was a discussion on the water situation in surrounding communities. As we grow, La Verkin City will need to rely more on the Conservancy District for water.

The District has agreed to work with the City on getting a water tank for the top side because they want to increase the size. The process has been slow because the property owner hasn't pushed it, but that may change. There are people interested in developing some of that property.

The landscape ordinance the City has been working on for the Conservancy District has been put on hold because they may be making changes on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Doug asked about the purpose of the ordinance.

Mayor Wilson replied that we all must agree to certain things for the State to give the Conservancy District money for the grass replacement. Each city has different things they want in there. The big thing for La Verkin is honoring our delivery contracts in our secondary system. We have a legal obligation to honor those delivery contracts. The District agrees with that. If someone has a delivery contract, they do not need to follow a landscaping ordinance.

The City would like to purchase as many delivery contracts as possible. We currently have about 350 of the 600 shares.

Doug reported that the right was delivered with adjudication in the 1990s. They took water then, and something happened when the District put irrigation water in pipes where we didn't have as much water as the City initially did.

Ken said that according to his father-in-law, Gordon Wood, the State taking the La Verkin Canal Company water drove the agreement between La Verkin City and the Canal Company. If the City owns the water, the State cannot take it.

Mayor Wilson said he has talked to the Conservancy District about the City using less agricultural water as time goes on, but we will also need more culinary water. The City is willing to pay to put the water in the reservoir, treat it, and deliver it back to us. The District is willing to do that.

La Verkin City is in a better position than most because we have excess water.

The treated water from the new Ash Creek Special Service District facility will be used to water Confluence Park and added to our irrigation system. We do not want to put it into the Virgin River.

Don asked for an update on the hot springs project.

Kyle said they are getting ready to break ground in December. They can start construction, but Rocky Mountain Power cannot get them power until July 2025, which has slowed construction down.

Don asked why Virgin was excluded from the water issues with the Conservancy District.

Mayor Wilson answered they did not sign the original pooling agreement. They want to now, and some developers are willing to pay that cost. Virgin had an agreement for Cottam Well Water before the pooling agreement because they were out of the water back then.

Doug said Springdale, Virgin, Apple Valley, Rockville, and Leeds are not part of the pooling agreement.

Mayor Wilson reported that Leeds would like to develop property, but they do not have the water. They approached the District, and the seven cities in the pooling agreement don't want to give it to them because they don't have anything to contribute.

**IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:**

No comment.

**V. Board Member Concerns:**

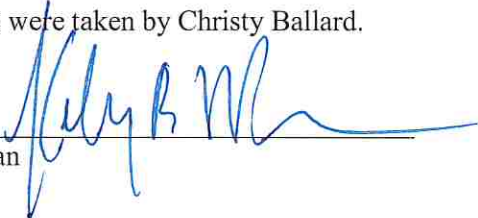
No comments were made.

**VI. Adjourn:**

**The motion was made by Mayor Kelly Wilson to adjourn, second by Ken Cox. Mayor Kelly Wilson-yes, Halterman-yes, Cox-yes, Imlay-yes, Valenti-yes, Doug Wilson-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion was carried unanimously at 3:50 pm.**

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.

Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelly B. Wilson", is written over a horizontal line.

