

**GWSSA OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**3025 E. Spanish Trail Road, Moab, Utah**  
**Thursday September 19th, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Pyatt at 7:03 PM. Board members in attendance were Vice Chairman Gary Wilson, Mike Holyoak, Ben Wilson, Kevin Clyde, Dale Weiss, Rani Derasary, Luke Wojciechowski, Mike Duncan, and Trisha Hedin.

Other GWSSA staff present were Agency Manager Ben Musselman, Jaylene Frias, and Josh Green - ARO.

Board Members not present were Rick Thompson, Ken Helfenbein, Brian Backus, and Steve Getz.

**Minutes** – Board meeting of 8/15/2024. Motion Made by Dale Weiss to approve. Seconded by Mike Holyoak. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Citizens to be heard.** - None

**Approval of Checks and Expenditures** – Motion by Kevin Clyde to approve the amount of \$288,874.75. Seconded by Ben Wilson. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Financial Statement** – Presented by Ben Musselman. One thing to note was that while we are 66% through the year, our new culinary water fees puts us at 74% of the projected income of water revenue. This is because our rate increase happened after our budget was made, so we are bringing in additional revenue, which puts us ahead.

**Project Updates** – Presented by Ben Musselman. Flash Flood repair projects are being worked on by the contractor and they are making progress. Garrets Gulley has water pipe going through it that we have repaired and looking at removing via a bypass in the future. A irrigation pipe over on Heaven Avenue area appears to have a dry wash diverted to where it is damaging it. Further discussion by the board revealed that the person who did this is no longer alive and there is no way to pursue recourse to fix this, so that GWSSA should proceed with fixing it themselves.

**Colorado River Diversion Funding Application Discussion/Action-** Presented by Ben Musselman. States this was for a work release with Sunrise Engineering. We have some support, Letter of support from San Juan County, Verbal from Division of Wildlife Resources and Division of Natural Resources. Moab Irrigation is in support. MAWP is in support and they want to see the Grant Application before they put full support. Nature Conservancy is in support as long as its not on their property. The Diversion will be beneath the river, like a well screen, were it will not be in the way of boats or fish. It will not do a stream or bank alteration. Gary Wilson is concerned of writing check of \$10,000.00 without support of key players, remarked that Nature Conservancy, who would benefit from this, is in favor of this so long as GWSSA doesn't take any water from the river. The point of the diversion is to flood the wetlands to help rejuvenate them, per the grant parameters. No other entities are helping to fund this to get this going.

Mike Duncan asked Trish Hedin if Grand County Commission and City Council would want to sign off on what GWSSA is doing here. Trish explained process to get it before the Commission meeting, as did Luke Wojciechowski, who said it has not come before them yet. Ben let Luke know that the City Engineer was here at the original meeting last month and the City Engineer said he was going to bring it before their council. Trish states that she would like to know the overall objective of the project, and wanted to know why San Juan is backing this. Ben explained that water suppliers are working together and we do not control what people build with that. Trish said it'd be hard for Commission to pass something that they don't understand the scope of. And if they were asking for money, they'd need justification. She would ask San Juan County to help with these things and invest, because they have the money to do so, and they need to invest in that part of the valley.

Gary Wilson says that San Juan County would benefit from that water, it would be good for them to invest. The city would also benefit because of their parks.

Dale Weiss emphasized that in 20 years we may not have enough water and we need to do something about it now as 60% of our culinary water is being used for something else.

Motion by Gary Wilson to approve participation in this application if other agencies can match our \$5000.00 dollars by the time the grant is due. Seconded by Dale Weiss. **MOTION CARRIES 8 - 2, with Trisha Hedin and Rani Derasary opposed.**

Gary said that if there is a need for an emergency meeting next week for this, to let everyone know and get one made.

**Resolution 2024-09-19-b** - A Resolution of the Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency Amending the Accident Prevention Program to include a backing policy and a more defined way to report incidents. Motion by Kevin Clyde to approve. Seconded by Trisha Hedin. **MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Water Right Purchase Approval** – Presented by Ben Musselman. Water Rights belong to Mary Gwyn Meador Hawks. Explained that Division of Water rights said it is a valid water right, likely be transferred 100 percent. Seller agreed to all terms in contract. Well is a 60 foot deep well on a property not owned by water right seller. The owner of the land wants to retain well. Division of Water rights states we need send letter to property owner we purchased water rights and want access to well and want to abandon well. He will reply that he wants to retain the well and can then file on it. Once that's done, we can walk away from it. Once agreement is signed tonight, we will pay ten percent of agreement as down payment. Motion by Kevin Clyde to approve the purchase of the water rights from Mary Gwyn Meador Hawks. Seconded by Dale Weiss. **MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.**

Agreement was notarized by our new employee Jaylene Frias, whom Ben introduced to board.

**Lake & Snow Report** – Presented by Ben Musselman. Lake levels are lower, but what we expect to see this time of year. The gate is broken at the Sheely Diversion but will be worked on next week. GWSSA did turn on the Schumacher Well to help Moab Irrigation Company with their water when the flash flooding destroyed their water intake dam. It ran for 7 days until the dam was fixed. Questions

were brought up about how water/power was paid for when this well was operated and Ben was going to clarify it.

**Items from staff** - Ben Musselman presented UASD Convention document so Board Members could sign up for it if they wanted to. He wants to send Josh Green. Josh Green has also created forms for staff to use with our Chlorinator and fleets, which has helped our record keeping. Sheree Maughan was our former auditor at Larsen & Company, who did our preaudits. Ben is unhappy with Larsen's service and extra charges for consultations. Sheree has offered to continue doing our quarterly audits for less than what Larsen has been charging. It will save GWSSA money and he wanted to let the board know.

GWSSA is currently working on 2025 budget and will call Budget Committee soon.

**Committee Reports** - Dale Weiss, Gary Wilson, Kevin Clyde worked on a employee committee.

**Items from Board Members**- Trish Hedin – 100 Women who Care grant. She was able to get \$3000 dollars to help GWSSA Customers who are struggling to pay their bills. Ben and Kristi have set up a way to get qualified customers vetted through an outside party. Trisha was thanked by everyone in the meeting for her hard work on this.


Kevin Clyde- Grand County USU water monitoring MOU. Grand County Approved \$80,000 to do a ground water study. Kevin believes we should be involved as the water manager in Grand County. Trish explained the parameters of the MOU and that it is gathering data from all entities; this will start in January 2025.

**Closed Session – if needed.** – Not needed

**Motion for Adjournment** at 8:28 pm made by Gary Wilson, Seconded by Mike Holyoak. **MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.**

ATTEST:

  
Ben Musselman, Agency Manager

  
Gary Wilson, Vice President