

City of La Verkin

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LA VERKIN CITY WATER BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, June 27, 2024, 11:00 pm.

111 South Main Street, La Verkin, UT

Present: Doug Wilson, Kelly Wilson, Derek Imlay, John Valenti, Kenneth Cox, Kris Gubler, and Nancy Cline. Public: Karl Wilson.

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Doug Wilson at 1:00 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes: November 22, 2024.

The motion was made by Mayor Wilson to approve November 22, 2024, minutes, second by Ken Cox.

Kelly Wilson-yes, Imlay-yes, Valenti-yes, Cox-yes, Kris Gubler-yes, Doug Wilson-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Reports:

A. Water Purchase

Kyle Gubler was not in attendance but had the Water Purchase handout.

B. Culinary Water Management update

Derek reported we had used less culinary water than last year. This year, we have a big Ash Creek project and the Hot Springs, which will change numbers again. We had hydrate alerts going off.

Doug Wilson asked how the city bills for hydrates.

Derek explained the rates. However, the Wahington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) has raised rates and is on a tier system. The more you use, the more you pay. Our spring can still cover all the city's water needs.

John Valenti joins the meeting at 1:11.

C. Irrigation Water management

Derek reported that the irrigation number has been on track with the average since 2010. We're doing well; however, the numbers will increase as more citizens use irrigation instead of culinary for their yards. This is exactly what we want to see so that culinary use will go down. We are in good shape. We cycle six lb. ever cycle with 180 cycles per minute. With the recent storms, we had a lot of moss and red dirt in the system, and we cycled 300 cycles per minute, possibly 600 cycles. We bought new motors, and we have been able to keep up with the cycles.

Doug Wilson asked about leaks.

Derek answered that the irrigation had done well. Culinary depends on the ground freezing and thawing. The Mainline hasn't had too many issues. However, our residential budget has been used. They haven't been as bad as in the past, so we are improving.

Kenneth Cox asked about the desert landscape rebate.

Derek explained the WCWCD offers a rebate if you replace your grass with a desert landscape.

Kenneth Cox asked if they are still using irrigation or if they sell their shares after they replace grass.

Derek explained that they rented it from the city. They require a certain number of trees and shrubs in their front yards. If the citizens don't use irrigation, they get a standard fee. In the mid-2000s, the WCWCD offered half-off impact fees if they hooked up to irrigation. If they didn't use it, they had to pay the other half. This encouraged people to use irrigation outside and not culinary. Derek also mentioned they would send an employee out to give people a bid on what their rebate could be.

D. Water District Irrigation Study

Mayor Wilson referred to the graph and reported that the study should be done by February. The study will identify where the water slippage is, water loss in the system, and leaks. It will also be able to identify where the leaks are located.

Doug Wilson asked if Toquerville was part of this study.

May Wilson said they could tie La Verkin into that Toquerville settling pond. Hurricane City did a similar pond.

Karl Wilson asked if we maintain our water rights.

Mayor Wilson responded yes. According to the Constitution, we maintain our rights for generations to come. La Verkin City trades water for water, but we keep our rights.

E. Ash Creek Sewer District meeting.

Mayor Wilson reported on what was discussed in the Ash Creek Sewer District meeting. The goal is to treat water in the secondary system. They wanted to use the water as much as possible through water plants. They would trade re-use water for water we send from the Virgin River. Below Pah Tempe is not good water, so it needs to be cleaned for use. There would be no extra cost to trade water for cleaning and storage. We give them our extra water and buy it back treated water. They mentioned we would want the extra water back when Topside is developed. There could be 1600+ houses to get water to.

Doug asked about delivery fees.

Mayor Wilson explained that's why we do a study every five years: to increase the price to pay for system replacement. The State will not give money to cities to help with system replacements if the city is not doing the study, fixing the problem, and maintaining the pipes. We need to put water rates where they need to be to save up for repairs and replacements in the system.

Kenneth Cox said there are numerous training courses on how to bill for your water.

Mayor Wilson responded there is training, and La Verkin is not charging enough.

Kenneth Cox said every time he sees a water break in the neighborhood, he wonders how much it costs the city to fix it with hourly wages, pipe, and machinery.

Mayor Wilson replied that the cost of the pipe has almost tripled since 2020. The City Council meeting on July 3rd will include a water rate raise from WCWCD.

IV. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action to change the meeting time from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The motion was made by Kris Gubler to change the time from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m., second by Kenneth Cox. Kelly Wilson-yes, Kris Gubler-yes, Cox-yes, Imlay-yes, Valenti-yes, Doug Wilson-yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action to provide irrigation water to Greg Bringhurst.

Doug Wilson declared a conflict of interest since this is his cousin. He said WCWCD aims to get everyone on irrigation water and off culinary for outside uses. In the past, La Verkin City has paid for the irrigation of citizens. Greg Bringham has met with Derek Imlay and Kyle Lovelady about it.

Derek handed out a map showing Greg's land's irrigation lines and property lines.

Doug Wilson said Greg's property is dry. Greg would only need a 1-inch pipe to supply his land; however, the current Ordinance requires a 6-inch pipe, costing him \$150,000. Doug asked if there was any way to change the ordinance or be creative in getting him a 1-inch pipe. He points out the property on the map and the neighbor's property lines. Doug says it's a large lot, and he isn't asking for special favors, but this is a good example of how we need to get creative to get citizens irrigation. Greg's property is right on the city property line boarding Toquerville.

Mayor Wilson wondered if he could tie into the new line; they are putting down SR 9 to Toquerville. Could he wait that long?

Kris Gubler asked how big the parcel of land was.

Doug Wilson answered that it's about 3.5 acres.

Derek said, "Let me give you the logistics." The pink line is the main transmission, and the green line takes a separate line to his line. The issue is that there is no way to get to his line. We can't come off the green line; we must come off the mainline and run on a city road until it hits a private road, which is Bringham Drive.

Doug commented that he understands people have been running their own lines.

Derek said they want to get irrigation to that whole area. None of the houses have it, but until the line is run. There is no way to get it there. He agreed with Mayor Wilson that it's best to wait for the bigger line to be put in. The ordinance says it must run on a dedicated city street.

Kris Gubler suggested they find out where the line will go, and then they can devise a way to get him irrigation.

Derek said he would follow up on it.

V. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

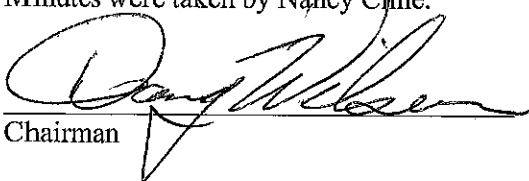
No Comment.

VI. Board Member Concerns:

No Comment.

VII. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Ken Cox to adjourn, second by Kelly Wilson. Kelly Wilson-yes, Kris Gubler-yes, Cox-yes, Imlay-yes, Valenti-yes, Doug Wilson-yes. The motion was carried unanimously at 2:11 pm. Minutes were taken by Nancy Cline.


Chairman

