



Our Water. Our Future. Our Choice.

The District's purposes include planning for and facilitating the long-term conservation, development, protection, distribution, management, and stabilization of water rights and water supplies for domestic, irrigation, power, manufacturing, municipal, recreational, and other beneficial uses, including the natural stream environment, in a cost-effective way to meet the needs of the residents and growing population of Cache County.

www.cachewaterdistrict.com

CACHE WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2025

The Cache Water District Board of Trustees convened for a meeting on May 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Cache County Historic Courthouse Council Chambers, 199 North Main Street, Logan, Utah.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Anderson – Logan #3 Council
Jared Clawson – At-Large Position
Jonathan Hardman – South Council District
Kirt Lindley – At-Large Position
Beth Neilson – Southeast Council District
Jeff Ostermiller - Logan #1 Council District
Max Pierce – Northeast Council District
Bret Randall – Northeast Council District
Brett Roper – At Large Position
Regan Wheeler – Agricultural Representative

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD EXCUSED:

Jeannie Simmonds – Logan #2 Council District

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Nate Daugs, Chad Brown, Chris Slater, Debbie Zilles

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Clawson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ACTION: Mr. Hardman moved to approve tonight's agenda and the April 7, 2025 minutes. Mr. Ostermiller seconded the motion. The motion was approved (8-0).

Yea: Anderson, Clawson, Hardman, Lindley, Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Roper, Wheeler

Absent: Neilson*, Pierce*, Simmonds (*arrived later in meeting)

PUBLIC INPUT

None

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Ms. Simmonds was absent at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Daugs answered for Mr. Roper that property taxes are collected, and most of the revenue is received in December. The increase will take effect in November 2025.

CALENDAR

- May 6 – Tour of Cutler Dam @ 8:30 a.m.
- May 6 – Utah Watershed Council @ 1:00 p.m.
- May 14 – GSL Advisory @ 10:00 a.m. (Mr. Daugs will send out a link)

MANAGER REPORT

PL-566 Project Update

NRCS sent out a 15-question sheet last week to complete on the current projects. As they work on restructuring their organization, they do not anticipate many projects moving forward into the design stage process. They need to reduce the number of employees and are uncertain about the future budget. Two that are currently in the EIS process will finish out.

Applications Update

Six candidates will be interviewed Wednesday afternoon.

Budget Discussion

The Bear River Watershed Council inquired whether the District would be willing to cover the cost of one annual lunch meeting. Mr. Daugs said the Council could consider setting aside some funds for this in next year's budget. The new employee will be involved in extensive outreach and will likely collaborate with this group.

The Audit RFP has closed. The Executive Committee will review and rank the submissions, and one will be chosen for this year's audit.

Mr. Pierce arrived at 5:45 p.m.

All three water study contracts have been signed. Approximately \$300,000 of the \$740,000 available funds remain. Blacksmith Fork will return with a higher evaluation of several sites and provide a report to the Board by mid-summer. The District has until June 2026 to spend the funding on any appropriate studies. Mr. Pierce asked about Trout Creek; Mr. Daugs said that will probably not qualify because it crosses state lines. He asked members to consider ideas within their represented areas.

The summer intern (a BYU student) will start tomorrow and begin mapping with USU. Please let Mr. Daugs know if there are specific things he can assist with.

REVIEW OF 2025 DISTRICT LONG-TERM PLAN

Mr. Daugs explained the decision to change the “5-year Plan” to the “Long-Term” plan, so it is not as date-specific. Many of the same goals will remain. The 2026 Annual goals and objectives will be decided at the fall workshop meeting.

Once the new Outreach Coordinator is hired, he/she can help with water conservation efforts and develop goals and objectives. Mr. Ostermiller suggested drafting language that can be presented to City Councils; he also noted that Utah Waterways may have some helpful ideas.

Ms. Neilson arrived at 5:58 p.m.

Mr. Daugs noted the added information to provide support for water research (e.g., groundwater study, snotel sites, Logan River Observatory, and well-mapping study).

Ms. Neilson inquired about the approximately \$300,000 (discussed earlier) for water conservation. Mr. Daugs said that if there is a specific use for conservation, the contract could be amended if necessary. Mr. Roper said that if someone was willing to sell or lease the rights, the District could determine how difficult it would be to shepherd the water. Mr. Daugs said the GSL Commissioner’s Office has indicated that they are working on two small water leases in Cache County (individual farmers, one in Mt. Sterling and the other in Richmond).

Mr. Lindley said one of his concerns is how and who will ensure water reaches the Great Salt Lake. Mr. Daugs said the responsibility is on the State Engineer. Ms. Neilson said it should be measured at a delivery location. Mr. Daugs said the first few years will be a learning curve for everyone involved in the process. Ms. Neilson said water moving past a dry dam needs to be shown.

Ms. Neilson said the Audubon Society is trying to determine the primary sources of water inflows in certain areas, with the idea of potentially purchasing that land to maintain its agricultural use and ensuring consistent water delivery to the flows.

Mr. Randall noted that the Great Salt Lake discussion should include Wyoming and Idaho (part of the Bear River supply) to help secure water for the lake. Mr. Daugs agreed and also noted there are many issues.

OTHER

The National Water Users Association will meet in Utah this September; there is currently no agenda set. The last time it was held in Utah was eight years ago.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.