



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 WORKSHOP MINUTES

April 28, 2025

The Cache Water District Board of Trustees convened for a workshop meeting on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the USU Water Research Lab at 1600 Canyon Rd, 3rd Fl. Conference Rm. 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
Jeannie Simmonds – Logan #2 Council District
Regan Wheeler – Agricultural Representative

Nate Daus, Debbie Zilles, Anne Bigelow (left prior to the first discussion)

Review resume rankings and choose candidates for initial review

- Discuss the meaning of “remote” and whether that should be local. Concern is about office space.
- Received rankings from the Board; top 6 candidates were chosen for initial interview on 5/7/25.
- Jeanne, Jeff, Beth & Nate will conduct first interviews.
- The board can submit interview questions and scoring system recommendations

New Employee Duties, review & job description

- Reviewed what was included in the job description and how those duties could help develop interview questions.
- Would like to get the person hired by June. Will conduct initial interviews of top candidates next week.

Review 2019 Water Master Plan – 5-year priority and Action Plan

- Hiliary Shugart sent an email regarding environmental water needs, which can be included within the scope of improving and understanding ecological water needs.
- Most original comments wanted to see open water run through parks/fairgrounds (which is still being done).
- Set up Water Banking through the state. Better understand the process.
- Long-term education has always been one of the goals, and assisting with and sharing information with local municipalities is being done. The new Outreach Coordinator will help with this effort.
- Difficult to measure conservation and numerically how much is saved. Need to be comfortable with the efforts and continue moving forward. Cities, developers, and citizens are becoming more conservation-minded. Conservation is a key to many legislative ideas.
- Do not see Board becoming a water purveyor/owner soon, but there may be opportunities for the Board to consider – this should still be the District's long-term goal. The District can possibly become involved in change applications. This is one of the reasons why water studies are being done: to plan for the future.
- The mission statement is to preserve and protect water resources, but it is not clearly defined how to do that, and there is no measurable outcome. Some of the items that fall under this scope include education, attending meetings, sharing information, providing information about legislative sessions and looking for funding for studies (e.g. Northern Utah Cities). There have been two localscapes classes in the Valley the last month which were well-attended. The new outreach coordinator can help with these efforts.
- Bear River development needs to remain a priority.
- The groundwater study will help inform ASR. However, ASR might not need a monthly focus.
- Add another priority for working with municipalities; one of the original goals was that the district could get everyone to work together (14 cities, 140 canal companies).
- What to do with historic paperwork boxes. Decided to give them to USU - USU can organize, catalogue, and put them online.
- Continue to communicate on regional water rights and water measurements. Explain what water rights/leasing is.
- Continue to monitor and be a voice at the legislature (through Casey Snider)
- Make website more efficient, add more information – duty for new employee

- Create a fall workshop meeting to set next year's annual goals and see what objectives have been accomplished.
- Add glossary for terms and explanations to the website.
- ~~Year~~ **Long Term** Priorities

The CWD board helped develop the 5-year priorities as explained in Section 2. These priorities are listed below:

- **Protect Water Rights and Supplies** - Protect existing municipal and agricultural water rights. through efficient conversion of water from agricultural uses to municipal and industrial (M&I) uses where development occurs. Also protect drinking water sources and support efforts to improve water quality.
- **Protect Bear River Allocation** - Continue to stay engaged in Bear River development planning and represent Cache County residents. Increase understanding of Cache County options and the long-term plan with regards to Bear River development.
- **Bank Water Rights/**Water Leasing**** – Participate actively in water banking and the related possibilities to protect water rights through beneficial use, provide more flexibility to move water for needed uses, and provide compensation to water rights holders that lease water.
 - ✓ Little Bear water bank is set up
 - ✓ Leasing water rights for GSL
- **Provide Adequate Reliable Irrigation Supply** - Support and coordinate efforts to promote and fund efficient conveyance and use of irrigation supply and development of secondary water systems between multiple jurisdictions. Many of the existing irrigation delivery systems are becoming less efficient and need to be improved. Also, over the years many areas served by irrigation canals have developed into homes and businesses. As such, there is an increased interest in secondary water systems. With this there is a need to identify processes to develop secondary systems in a way that benefits all parties involved.
- **Conserve Water** - Lead efforts to meet the goal of 18% reduction in M&I water use between 2015 and 2030 established by the State.
 - ✓ Implement high water tier rates (overuse fee)....help them use these funds to develop good conservation plans....new employee facilitates conservation
- **Provide Funding and Technical Assistance** - Assist local water entities or groups made up of the water entities, to obtain grants or loans for projects, and provide technical assistance and funding for studies that match the CWD purpose.
- **Guide Water Legislation** - Influence water policy through the legislative process to protect the water interests of Cache County. CWD needs to continue to be a voice

for the water users in the County on key legislative issues. For example, currently, there are some questions about new secondary water metering legislation and a desire to know what it entails and what it means for local water users.

- Improve Understanding of Environmental Water Needs - Research and investigate Cache County's environmental water demands along the rivers, wetlands, and other water bodies. Environmental studies need to evaluate the effects to downstream rivers and lakes within the Bear River system. This understanding is key to maintaining the beauty of the County and the surrounding areas. Environmental impacts should be evaluated for water planning and development efforts completed by CWD.

- ✓ Functional flow work

New

- **Facilitate data collection and modeling of surface and groundwater systems to better understand water availability**

- ✓ Cloud seeding
- ✓ Snotel Sites
- ✓ Funding for northern cities, Hyrum Dam expansion, and Rock Creek investigations
- ✓ Groundwater study

- **Facilitate cooperation and collaboration between cities, canal companies, etc. to ensure water security**

7:40 p.m. Adjourn