



Parowan City Culinary Water Board Meeting
August 13, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers – 35 E 100 N, Parowan, UT 84761

Board Members Present: Kurt Vest, Sam Halterman, Tom Gurr, David Burton

Board Members Absent: Doug Fox

Staff Present: Mayor Mollie Halterman, City Manager Dan Jessen, and Callie Bassett, City Recorder; Aldo Biasi, Water Superintendent

Culinary Water Board Meeting - Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.

The Culinary Water Board Meeting was called to order by Kurt Vest, who apologized for missing the previous meeting due to being tied up cutting hay.

Declaration of Conflicts

No conflicts were declared by any board members.

Approval of Minutes from 6-11-2025

The minutes from the June 11, 2025 meeting were presented for approval.

Tom Gurr moved to approve the minutes. Sam Halterman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Progress Update on Water Recharge Project

Dan Jessen provided an update on the water recharge project, noting that it was progressing despite some setbacks. He explained that construction crews were currently working throughout the city, with significant work happening on 300 South. He described this area as a "train wreck" due to the complexity of working with a 36-inch pipe in an area with numerous existing utilities that he described as a "spaghetti bowl."

Aldo Biasi added that the construction was proceeding well overall despite encountering some missed utilities that were not on the plan set. He reported that crews had crossed 200 South and were working toward the gravel pit. They were also working on 300 South, preparing water services by abandoning the 8-inch main and connecting to the 12-inch main.

Aldo mentioned they were requiring contractors to run new poly pipe services all the way to the meter setter to prevent future issues. He acknowledged that progress on 300 South would be slow due to the complex utility situation but noted that the construction crew was patient and careful in their work.

The discussion turned to crossing Center Street (Highway 143), with Tom Gurr asking if it would require boring. Dan explained that after significant effort and political pressure, UDOT had agreed to allow them to cut the road rather than bore under it, which represented significant

cost savings for the project. They would be using a "fancy T-patch" and flowable fill as part of the repair process.

Regarding completion timelines, Dan stated that the pipeline project was expected to be completed by the end of September. However, he noted that they were still waiting on gate suppliers for the diversion structure, which was causing delays. He expressed frustration with the gate supplier delays, mentioning that they had hoped to have the structure half-built by now, as it needs to be completed before spring runoff next year.

Progress Update Main Canyon Well

Aldo reported on issues with the Main Canyon Well. He explained that last year they had experienced a problem where the well caught the tubing shaft during backspin and damaged the oil tube. After repairs and operating it for a short time in the fall, they shut it down and switched to the 300 East Well. When they ran the Main Canyon Well again this spring, it experienced the same problem.

After pulling it out of the ground and inspecting it, they found the tube and shaft needed replacement again. Aldo explained that the high-water table in the well might be contributing to the issue by causing debris to accumulate in the tube and shaft when it sits idle.

To address this maintenance issue, they planned to build a cover over the well to insulate it and allow for more frequent cycling between wells throughout the year. He noted that the well is deteriorating, with the camera inspection showing holes in the casing and the screen being partially rotted.

Dan found historical information about the well, stating it was drilled by Jay Grimshaw in 1971 with a bore depth of 915 feet and 14-inch casing. The well has clay from 0-375 feet, limestone from 375-420 feet, then clay again for 80 feet, with conglomerate at the bottom.

Aldo mentioned that while the well is nearing the end of its life, it could potentially be rehabilitated once the springs come back online, which would reduce the demand on the well system. The board agreed that the well's location near the tanks is extremely convenient, making it worthwhile to try to extend its life as long as possible.

Progress Update on Treatment Facility for Spring Water

Aldo reported that they had accessed the 6 Mile Spring collection boxes, removed roots that had accumulated, and cleaned them out. He explained that they were meeting with Bowen and Collins engineers, who were evaluating whether treatment would be necessary to bring the springs back online.

Aldo noted they were collecting daily measurements for turbidity, temperature, and other parameters requested by the state. He mentioned they were about a month behind on testing from where they wanted to be. He also shared information about an alternative treatment approach being used in Cedar City that might be applicable.

Dan added that the Division of Water Quality had suggested considering bringing the springs back online without treatment, but this would require approximately two years of data to demonstrate water quality. Given funding timelines, they were hesitant to pursue this option without high confidence it would work.

Aldo mentioned they might consider bringing the 5 Mile Spring back into the system alongside the 6 Mile Spring. They also discovered a potential breach in the pipeline between the 5 Mile area and the 4 Bay, as water volume going in was not matching what was coming out. They planned to inspect the line on foot to locate any leaks.

Discussion Regarding Bringing the Race Track Well Back Online

Aldo proposed bringing the Race Track Well back online temporarily to test it and ensure it was still functional in case it was needed in an emergency. He explained that he wanted to run it briefly to waste to evaluate its condition.

Kurt Vest noted that the well had a maximum capacity of 200-300 gallons per minute. Aldo confirmed this was accurate and mentioned that in his experience, most of that water had been used for irrigation rather than culinary purposes. The board agreed it would be good to exercise the well periodically to maintain it as a backup option.

Discussion on Water Entitlement Policy

Dan acknowledged that this item had been tabled from a previous meeting and that he had not completed the follow-up work he had been assigned due to other priorities.

David Burton reminded the board that the discussion centered around recognizing the value of water entitlements when lots are combined, noting that if the city requires water when lots are split, it should recognize that value when lots are combined. He emphasized that entitlements are not water rights or shares, but transferable entitlements that need to be tracked.

Dan agreed to continue work on this issue, focusing on record-keeping and developing a system to track water entitlements, potentially using GIS.

Staff Comments

Dan shared information about new state fees that will be assessed to all water systems starting July 1, 2026. He explained that the standard rate would be 3.31 cents per thousand gallons of domestic water used, which would average about \$4.59 per year per connection statewide.

He noted that water systems using less than 10 million gallons annually would pay a flat rate of \$35 per year. He also mentioned that certain water usage would be exempt from the fee, including water used only for agricultural purposes and not through a public drinking water system, which suggested that pressurized irrigation water would not be subject to the fee.

Dan explained that an incentive program could reduce the fee by up to 10% if systems met certain criteria, including having a current water master plan, tiered water rates, meters on all

residences, and compliance with system-specific sizing standards. Parowan appeared to qualify for this reduction.

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Adjourn

Tom Gurr moved to adjourn the Culinary Water Board Meeting. Sam Halterman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Pressurized Irrigation Water Board Meeting - Call to Order – 6:45 p.m.

Kurt Vest called the Pressurized Irrigation Water Board Meeting to order.

Declaration of Conflicts

No conflicts were declared by any board members.

Approval of Minutes from 6-11-2025 Meeting

Tom Gurr moved to approve the minutes. Sam Halterman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Update on Pressurized Irrigation Water

Aldo reported that they had been running the 4 Bay Well for the past three weeks to supplement the irrigation system during daytime hours. He explained that the Yankee Reservoir had been holding its own for a while, but in recent weeks demand had increased as gardens were requiring more water.

Aldo expressed concern about daytime watering and suggested they might need to enforce restrictions more aggressively, possibly through public education or by publishing real-time meter readings on the city website to encourage compliance. He mentioned that the Yankee Reservoir was currently at 151.5 feet, down about 15 feet from full.

He had spoken with Mike Adams, who indicated farmers were planning to discuss their anticipated water usage for the remainder of the season. Adams estimated they might implement cutbacks in about three weeks, after they start their third crop. Biasi noted that once the farmers reduce their usage, the city's system would struggle, and they might need to implement additional restrictions such as eliminating Sunday watering or limiting watering to one day per week.

Kurt Vest suggested that if they went to one day per week, they could split each existing zone in half to balance usage and prevent the pond from overflowing. The board agreed this approach would work better than having everyone water on the same day.

Aldo noted that despite the dry winter and lack of rain, the system had performed remarkably well this year, stretching the water supply longer than in some previous years with more precipitation.

Discussion of Locating Site for Additional Pond

Dan explained that they had lost the Dry Canyon site for a proposed secondary water pond because UDOT has an easement for the entire area and would not permit construction there. He presented an alternative site near the city's water tank and well, showing aerial images and topography of the city-owned property.

Dan explained that this location had several advantages, including existing infrastructure with pressure-reducing valves that would allow them to regulate flow to and from the pond. He noted that there was approximately 10 acres of city-owned land in the area, with BLM land surrounding it.

The board discussed water rights considerations, with Kurt Vest explaining that the pond would need to be classified as a regulating pond rather than storage to avoid additional water rights requirements. Dan Jessen noted that even without water rights constraints, the size would be limited by cost considerations and available excess water.

The board also discussed potential sources of water for the pond, including overflow from the current system that would otherwise return to the creek, well water, and potentially surface water rights from future developments. Jessen mentioned that Enoch City had successfully incorporated agricultural wells and surface water into their pressurized irrigation system to manage growth, which might be a model to consider.

Staff Comments

No additional staff comments were made.

Public Comments

Kurt Vest, acting as a member of the public, asked about the status of the new gun range that was supposed to replace the Dry Canyon location. Dan responded that while they hadn't done any further work on it, it was still in the plans. He explained they needed to find a suitable site, as the previously considered location was too close to houses near Little Salt Lake. He noted that BLM was supportive of the concept, and it would likely be a joint project with the county if they could identify an appropriate location.

Adjourn

Tom Gurr moved to adjourn the Pressurized Irrigation Water Board Meeting. Sam Halterman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Signatures on Next Page.

Approval of Minutes:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Vest", written over a horizontal line.

Kurt Vest, Water Board Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Callie Bassett", written over a horizontal line.

Callie Bassett, CMC, City Recorder

Date Approved: 9/10/2025