

MINUTES OF THE **WORK SESSION** OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL UTAH WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025, AT 11:30 AM AT DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, OREM, UTAH.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Shelley Brennan, Chair  
Wayne Andersen, Vice Chair  
Jon Bronson  
Kirk Christensen  
Steve Farrell  
Wade E. Garner

Steve Hanberg  
Max Haslem  
Marvin Kenison  
L. Alma Mansell  
Greg McPhie

Eldon Neves  
Jim Riding  
Jennifer Scott  
Randy Vincent  
Brad Wells

TRUSTEES EXCUSED

Kathy Wood Loveless

STAFF PRESENT

Gene Shawcroft, General Manager  
Lisa Anderson, Board Executive Assistant  
Kirk Beecher, Lands Manager  
Ric Cantrell, Director of Strategic Engagement  
Ned Carter, Ind Control System Support  
Heath Clark, Asset Management Manager  
John Coker, IT Manager  
Chris Elison, Engineering Manager  
Matthew Gregg, Computer System Specialist  
Jared Hansen, Director of Water Policy  
Tyler Harvey, Facility, Fleet, & Emergency Mgr  
Shaun Hilton, Project Engineer  
David Imlay, Raw Water Operations Manager  
Shawn Lambert, CFO  
Bart Leeftang, Assistant General Manager

Alex Lowell, Project Engineer  
Rick Maloy, Strategic Initiatives Manager  
Devin McKrola, Engineering Manager  
Robert Moore, Legal Counsel  
Angie Nielsen, Records Assistant  
Troy Ovard, Duchesne Area Manager  
Roger Pearson, CUPCA/Special Programs Manager  
Brad Perkins, Engineering Manager  
Mike Rau, Finished Water Operations Manager  
Bronson Stewart, Controller  
Amanda Strack, Water Conservation Manager  
Sarah Sutherland, Environmental Program Manager  
Paulette Webster, Contract Administrator  
Mike Whimpey, Assistant General Manager  
Gerard Yates, Deputy General Manager

Chair Shelley Brennan called the meeting to order at 11:34 am.

Bart Leeftang, Assistant General Manager, gave a brief report on the Truth-in-Taxation process. He reminded the Board that at the June 18th Board Meeting, they voted to proceed with the Truth-in-Taxation process. Following this decision, counties were notified and offered presentations to provide information and answer questions. Four counties extended invitations, leading to meetings with Utah County on July 8 (as noted by Gene Shawcroft, following Bart's report), Juab County on July 21, Duchesne County on July 28, and Salt Lake County on August 12.

Bart reported that the presentations to each county were generally positive, and certain points of interest were raised in some of the meetings. In Juab County, questions centered on the time frame for water delivery, with a target of 2032 noted; no concerns were expressed about the tax increase. In Duchesne County, following the presentation, discussions focused on the

Colorado River, but again, no objections were raised to the tax proposal. Salt Lake County Council acknowledged the importance of water infrastructure and the necessary work the District performs but raised concerns about whether using tax revenues to support infrastructure obscures the “true cost of water” for users. District staff emphasized the Board’s foresight in establishing a reserve fee in 2016, balancing customer impact while ensuring necessary funding of critical infrastructure. Additionally, Bart noted a legislative study recently completed that examines the balance between tax revenues and water rates, and this topic will continue to be discussed in future meetings.

Finally, Bart expressed that the District appreciates the Board’s flexibility in accommodating new statutory requirements mandating quorum participation in Truth-in-Taxation public hearings. With 13 Trustees participating in each hearing held in Roosevelt and the Wasatch Front, all obligations have been met, and there is nothing further to report at this time.

Bronson Stewart, Controller, presented the final adjustments to the 2025-2026 budget. He reminded the Board that there will be a public hearing at 1:00 p.m. today to receive final comments on the budget and that two resolutions will be presented to adopt the tax rate and budget for 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Bronson reported that the tentative budget shows an increase of \$309K and a total budget of \$398.3M. He shared that there were some reclassifications and carryforward of items, an increase in the DACRWTP operations budget due to increasing chemical costs, and some property tax revenue adjustments.

Trustee McPhie reported that the Finance, Audit, & Budget Committee members unanimously recommend that the Board authorizes the 0.0004 rate for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Mike Whimpey, Assistant General Manager, presented an overview of the District's procurement practices for professional services and contrasted similarities and differences with the process used to award construction contracts. He shared that the District follows State statute (63G-6a-1502.5) and the District's Administrative Code.

Mike reviewed the requirements for selection of professional design services and explained that State law requires a qualifications-based selection process. Design professional services are awarded to the most qualified firm, and a fee estimate is negotiated based on an assumed scope. This is due to the nature of design professional services where the specific scope and final deliverables are often based on a set of assumptions and are not well defined up front when the consultant is selected. Often, amendments are necessary for design professional services as the scope becomes more clearly defined through the design process. Mike shared a visual where selecting the lowest cost design consultant that isn’t the most qualified results in the highest overall life-cycle cost of the project.

In contrast, construction projects are awarded to the lowest bidding contractor if they meet a minimum set of qualifications. This is because the scope of work is described in detail, and the bid is based on typically hundreds of pages of drawings and technical specifications. The

contractor knows exactly what should be included in their scope when preparing the bid and can therefore be held strictly accountable to provide the full scope as defined in the bidding documents. Change orders to construction contracts are sometimes necessary to address unforeseen conditions, design issues, or an expansion of the original scope of work.

Mike reviewed a specific example of a selection process for design professional services that occurred in Spring 2025. In this case, the highest qualified consultant made several assumptions during the proposal stage that led to a much higher than expected fee estimate to be submitted. District staff provided additional clarification to the selected consultant and then negotiated a fee estimate much more aligned with the expected scope of work.

Mike emphasized that the District's approach to contracting is to build partnering relationships which are based on trust and fairness with our contractors and consultants. Trustee Bronson cautioned that District staff should not allow the relationships that are developed to overshadow the fair bidding process. Mike assured Trustee Bronson that ensuring a fair bidding process is first and foremost and that the reputation of being fair with its consultants and contractors results in lower overall costs to the District.

Jared Hansen, Director of Water Policy, gave an overview of the District Riverware Modeling Program. He explained that the variety and complexity of models vary, but all are simulations of real-world systems that aid in understanding, predicting, and managing water resources. Jared shared a simple model performing calculations using spreadsheets to analyze data. He then indicated that complex modeling can be done with the help of powerful modeling platforms like Riverware. Development of these complex models requires specialized expertise and experience that the District does not have in-house. Several years ago, the District hired Precision Water Resource Engineers (PWRE) to aid the District in its model development efforts. Jared emphasized that complex modeling is crucial to the District's long-term planning, policy evaluation, water rights, and facility operations.

After Jared's discussion regarding modeling, Troy Ovard, Duchesne Area Manager, demonstrated how the Strawberry Aqueduct Collections System (SACS) model has been used to optimize diversion and collection of our water supply. The model helps provide confidence in the volume of water that can be stored in Strawberry without putting the facility at risk, given its lack of a spillway. The modeling tool has been instrumental supporting operational decision while facilitating coordination with partner agencies.

In response to a question from Trustee Wells, Jared elaborated on how the District evaluates and leverages model results to make important operational decisions and performs rigorous calibrations to ensure the basis for operational and planning decisions are rooted in measurable and defensible real-world data. It was noted that these models are only as good as the data that is available, and over time, models are refined as the robustness of the data improves. Jared gave an example of Airborne Snow Observatory Flights collecting data using LiDAR are now being used, a very expensive approach to data collection, and in the future, we anticipate that the same data will be collected using satellite data at a fraction of the cost.


Trustee Wells then asked if the value of the modeling can be correlated to the value of water saved. Jared stated that the value of the water is much greater than the cost of modeling and that the return on investment related to the modeling work goes beyond the cost of water. The modeling helps the District protect its interests in its water supply by informing regulators and policy makers of the impact that their decision might have on water supply availability.

General Manager Gene Shawcroft stated that PWRE is the expert and in the past, the states of the Upper Colorado River Basin were limited to modeling support provided by the Bureau of Reclamation during the development of the 2007 Interim Guidelines. That operating policy failed in part; due to the limited access to expertise, we are now able to access through PWRE. Today, our negotiators have ready access to questions we did not have in years past. This doesn't just benefit the District or Utah, it also benefits all the Upper Division States. He said that PWRE can rapidly develop alternatives for various operating policies and evaluate the impacts of the different simulations, informing decision makers of the merits or vulnerabilities of each.

Tyler Harvey, Facilities, Fleet, and Emergency Manager, gave the Board an update on upcoming security enhancements at District headquarters. The recommendation comes from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), who did an audit of headquarters. One of the key recommendations was to modify the building lobby access. The District is pursuing modifications to the lobby, as recommended, and expects to complete the security enhancement construction in the next few months.

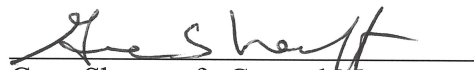
There were no Committee Reports.

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 pm.



Shelley Brennan, Chair

G. WAYNE ANDERSEN  
ACTING CHAIR

  
Gene Shawcroft, General Manager