



Parowan City Culinary Water Board Meeting
December 10, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers – 35 E 100 N, Parowan, UT 84761

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

Board Members Absent: Doug Fox

Staff Present: Mayor Mollie Halterman, City Manager Dan Jessen, Public Works Director Aldo Biasi, and City Recorder Callie Bassett

Public Present: There were no members of the public present.

Note: The recording of this meeting was not turned on until several minutes into the meeting.

Call to Order

The Water Board Meeting was called to order on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Declaration of Conflicts

No conflicts were declared by board members.

Approval of Minutes from 10-08-2025 Water Board Meeting

The minutes from the October 8, 2025 meeting were not approved during this meeting.

Water Rate Presentation: Aaron Anderson with Bowen Collins and Associates

Aaron Anderson from Bowen, Collins and Associates provided an update on the water rate analysis. He recapped that at the previous October meeting, the Board had expressed preference for maintaining the current rate structure with uniform increases across the existing rate schedule to meet forecasted financing needs. The original analysis indicated a need for just over a 10% rate increase in 2026 with subsequent annual increases thereafter.

Aaron presented two significant updates to the rate model:

1. Additional fleet needs had been incorporated based on city staff input.
2. Accelerated timeline for new staff hires, moving them from 2028/2031 to 2026/2029, with ongoing discussions about which funds (water fund or combined public works funds) should cover these wages.

Aaron also explained that preliminary impact fee calculations indicated potential significant increases from the current fee of approximately \$2,000 per equivalent residential connection. This increase would be driven by planned capital improvement projects, including the redevelopment of 6 Mile Spring and a new water tank on the east side of the city. He estimated the impact fee changes could reduce the recommended rate increases by approximately 2-4%. Dan Jessen, City Manager, further clarified why they needed to pause on finalizing the rate recommendation. He explained that if they adopted water rates based on assumptions about

impact fees, and then the City Council adopted different impact fees than anticipated, they would need to revisit the rate structure. Therefore, they recommended completing the impact fee process first in January before finalizing the water rates in February.

Board members discussed the relationship between impact fees and residential rates, with Kurt Vest noting that if impact fees were not set correctly, existing residents would effectively subsidize growth. Dan explained that impact fees must be based on a formula related to new projects divided by the number of new homes. He estimated the current preliminary calculations might increase the impact fee to approximately \$6,000-\$7,000, though these figures were very preliminary.

The Board discussed the history of impact fees, with Kurt Vest recalling that in the past, developers had complained when fees were higher. There was consensus that properly setting impact fees was critical to ensure existing residents were not bearing costs that should be paid by new development.

Discussion and Possible Recommendation to the City Council on Water Rates

David Burton moved to table the discussion of possible recommendation to the city council on water rates. Kurt Vest seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Water Projects

Aldo Biasi provided a detailed update on water projects:

6 Mile Spring Project:

- Staff has been exploring the site, cutting trees, and locating outlets, boxes, valve cans, and pipelines.
- Meters have been installed at the top and bottom to measure flow.
- Flow measurements showed more water at the bottom than at the top, indicating potential infiltration.
- They discovered a collection box near the 5 Mile campground that was contributing approximately 30 gallons per minute to the flow.
- Current flow from 6 Mile Spring is about 160 gallons per minute, significantly below the 900 gallons per minute often referenced in documentation, though historical readings showed flows of around 550 gallons per minute.
- They found extensive root systems in the collection boxes that were likely restricting flow.
- Staff discovered water disappearing from the creek upstream and then reappearing near the spring boxes.
- They located another potential water source around a bend that might be the "Watercress Spring" referenced in water rights documentation.
- The board discussed finding someone with historical knowledge of the springs, with David Burton suggesting Johnny Orton would be helpful for spring development.

Other Water Projects:

- The Main Canyon well is getting a building constructed over it to allow year-round operation.
- The Racetrack well was activated successfully. It initially produced reddish water but cleared up after about 10 minutes. This well had been listed as somewhat inactive with the Division of Drinking Water, but the city confirmed it would remain an active culinary well.

Dan Jessen provided an update on the water diversion project:

- The pipeline portion of the recharge project is complete.
- The contract for the diversion structure was awarded to JP Excavation, with major work expected to begin in March-April, working around high water periods.
- The bridge project's pre-bid meeting was scheduled for the next day.
- The plan is to leave the old diversion structure in place until the new one is operational.

Member/Staff/Public Comments

Kurt Vest and David Burton discussed potentially meeting to identify people with historical knowledge about the springs. Sam Halterman suggested Jim Robinson might have some information. The group also discussed water rights documentation and searched for information about the "Watercress Spring" that Aldo had discovered in the canyon.

Dan Jessen provided an update about negotiations with Brian Head Resort regarding water rights and wells required by a 20-year-old court judgment.

Adjourn

Tom Gurr moved to adjourn the Culinary Water Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by David Burton, and passed unanimously.



Callie Bassett, CMC, City Recorder

Date: 3/11/2026



**Parowan City Pressurized Irrigation Water Board Meeting
December 10, 2025 – Immediately Following the Culinary Water Board Mtg.
Council Chambers – 35 E 100 N, Parowan, UT 84761**

Call to Order

The Pressurized Irrigation Water Board Meeting was called to order immediately following the Culinary Water Board Meeting.

Declaration of Conflicts

No conflicts were declared.

Approval of Minutes from 10-08-2025 Meeting

David Burton moved to table the minutes from 10-08-2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Gurr, and passed unanimously.

Member/Staff/Public Comments

Aldo Biasi reported on two projects:

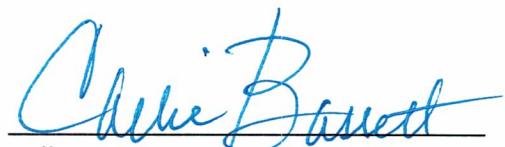
1. Meeks Pond - Work is underway to install a diversion structure to bypass the pond when necessary and an invert to maintain the appropriate pond level.
2. Forebay Maintenance - Aldo recommended maintenance on the forebay, including acid washing the screen and clearing accumulated sand and gravel. He requested board support for potentially using a long-arm excavator to dredge the forebay, with the work potentially occurring this winter if budget allows.

Kurt Vest moved that the city does what is needed to maintain or clean out the pond and get it ready for the next irrigation season. The motion was seconded by Tom Gurr, and passed unanimously.

Dan Jessen provided additional information about negotiations with Brian Head Resort regarding well locations and water rights.

Adjourn

Sam Halterman moved to adjourn the Pressurized Irrigation Water Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Gurr, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Callie Bassett, CMC, City Recorder

Date: 3/11/2026