

Cedar Valley Water Conservancy
Board Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2026



Board Members

David Harris
Tyler Melling
Paul Nelson
Andrew McCrea
Steve Nelson

District Staff

Paul Monroe-General Manager
Mandi Williams- Administration
Tracy Feltner-District Operator
Curtis Nielson-District Engineer
Justin Wayment-District Attorney
Jeff McKee – District Operator
Christy Tullis-Office Manager
Holden Miller-District Operator
Kimberlee Trower-Public Outreach

Others in Attendance

Hayden White
Boy Scout Troop 74

CALL TO ORDER: ▪Board Member Harris called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Troop 74 led the Pledge of Allegiance. Paul Nelson offered the invocation.

DECLARATION OF ABSTENTIONS AND/OR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY BOARD MEMBERS: ▪None.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 19, 2026:

Board Member McCrea moved to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting held February 19, 2026. Second by Board Member P. Nelson. Motion Unanimous at 6:33 PM. (10:41)

PUBLIC COMMENT: ▪ None

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS AND ADJUSTMENTS FEBRUARY 14, 2026 THROUGH MARCH 20, 2026: ▪Williams- went over the payment approval report and highlighted a few items the payment to BD Electric for solar panel installation at Cedar Highlands, the payment to Phaze Concrete for the Eight Mile Hills tank project and the payment to Shumway Exploration for the work on the Eagle Valley Well.

Williams went over the Credits & Debits.

Board Member P. Nelson moved to approve the payment of bills from February 14, 2026 through March 20, 2026. Second by Board Member McCrea. Motion Unanimous at 6:36 PM. (14:08)

REVIEW 2026 FINANCIALS: ▪ Monroe – shared a few quick reminders to speak into the microphones for online participants and noted that Tyler Allred and Spencer Jones were excused. He reported no major issues with the budget. Travel and training expenses are higher early in the year due to conference timing, and USGS monitoring costs reflect annual contract payments. On capital projects, some expenses appear over budget but are offset by loan and grant reimbursements. The 2022–2027 Water Improvement Project totals \$18 million, with most projects complete or nearing completion. The Eight Mile Hills tank is finished on time and close to budget, and the Cedar Highlands tank is nearly done.

About \$2.8 million remains for upcoming well and water line projects, which will be covered by grant funds.

Cash balances include roughly \$5 million in savings from reimbursed project costs, and annual tax revenue is budgeted at \$2.2 million. No questions were raised.

(24:26)

WATER CONSERVATION: UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF CONTRIBUTING TO CEDAR CITY'S REUSE STUDY:

This is a formality last month it was agreed that the Conservancy would contribute to that study.

Board Member McCrea made a motion to contribute 20% of the bill to the Reuse study being conducted by Cedar City. Second by Board Member Melling. Motion Unanimous at 6:47 PM (25:22)

- a. **Aquifer Recharge: Update & Discussion:** Monroe provided an update on aquifer recharge efforts. Approximately 300 acre-feet of water has been recharged this year. This includes water delivered to the Quichapa area to support agricultural use, as well as recharge at the Western Rock site, which is currently the primary active location. The Quichapa project continues to benefit water conservation efforts, with irrigation beginning around March 15. Overall, recharge efforts are progressing well and contributing to both groundwater storage and agricultural support.
- b. **Reuse WWTP Water: Update & Discussion:** Monroe reported securing a \$4 million legislative grant through Rep. Rex Shipp, with support from Sen. Evan Vickers. This brings total grant funding for the reuse effluent project to \$6.75 million. An additional \$3.25 million request has been submitted to Rep. Celeste Maloy, which, if awarded, would bring total funding to about \$10 million. An additional \$1 million grant from the Utah Department of Agriculture may still be used, pending project timing. An extension has been granted through the end of the year, with further discussion on its use to take place in closed session. The reuse effluent project will deliver treated wastewater from the treatment plant back to Cedar Valley for irrigation of parks, schools, and other green spaces. This is one of the

district's largest conservation efforts and is being largely funded through grants, minimizing cost impacts to residents.

BYLAWS: REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF UPDATING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WATER CONSERVANCY:

Wayment reviewed proposed updates to the Water Conservancy bylaws. The revisions clarify board composition, confirming a seven-member board made up of one representative from each member entity (Cedar City, Enoch City, Kanarrville Town, and the Iron County Commission), plus at-large members, including at least one irrigation agricultural user.

Discussion focused on aligning language with state statute regarding appointment authority, particularly where “shall” is required by law versus board discretion for other appointments. Minor wording adjustments were made to ensure consistency with statute while maintaining the intended structure of board representation.

Board Member S. Nelson made a motion to approve the bylaws changes with any minor adjustments to the formatting. Second by Board Member McCrea. Motion Unanimous at 7:23 PM. (1:03:40)

Roll Call as follows:

P. Nelson-Aye

Melling-Aye

Harris-Aye

McCrea – Aye

S. Nelson - Aye

WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

▪Basin 71 Well and Waterline & BZI Innovation Park Well – Nielson reported that environmental review for the Basin 71 and BZI wells is complete, with no public comments received. The project is now awaiting State Engineer and USDA approval before both wells are bid together. Each well is designed for a 24-inch borehole with 18-inch casing to about 1,000 feet.

The BLM is finalizing review of the SF-299 for the final water line segment along Iron Springs Road, with approval expected soon.

▪The 8-Mile Hills Tank – ▪Nielson said the Eight Mile Hills tank is complete and operating, with USDA closeout paperwork still pending. He noted the system is now fully interconnected across the valley, improving reliability and allowing multiple sources to serve the network.

▪Cedar Highlands Tank- ▪Nielson said the Cedar Highlands tank is also complete and in the final closeout phase.

▪The Eagle Valley well tested at 375 gallons per minute and is expected to produce about 250 gallons per minute once equipped. Water quality approval is still pending before final installation.

Justin Wayment arrived at 6:58 PM

BASIN 14 (PVWS) PROJECT:

▪Monroe – A Record of Decision has been issued following the final Environmental Impact Statement, and the outcome was favorable. The project is now moving into engineering and planning, which is expected to take approximately two to three years. This phase will focus on hydraulic modeling, alignment verification, and system analysis, including tank elevations, pipe sizing, and friction losses, before final design is completed.

He noted this project is intended to support long-term water supply needs well beyond a 50-year planning horizon. The next step will be selecting a qualified engineering firm with experience in large-scale, complex projects that may also incorporate financing strategies.

The Record of Decision includes a 30-day window (through April 1) during which it could be challenged. If no challenge is filed, the project may proceed; however, a legal challenge could temporarily pause work if a court issues a stay. Monroe is monitoring the situation closely and coordinating with BLM. (45:38)

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: OPERATIONS & PUBLIC EDUCATION:

▪Conservation – Monroe reported the Conservancy hosted a Localscapes class with about 15 participants, teaching residents how to create attractive, water-efficient landscapes using water wise plants and design principles originally developed by Jordan Valley Water Conservancy.

▪Public Education – March 31st and April 1st the Conservancy will host the annual 5th Grade Water Fair at Heritage Festival Hall. The event brings together multiple agencies and partners to teach students about water conservation, water quality, and watershed protection through hands-on exhibits and demonstrations.

The Conservancy also participated in the Spring Home and Garden Fair March 20th & 21st, where there was strong community engagement. Conservancy staff provided information and resources on water conservation programs, including turf buyback and landscaping efficiency efforts.

▪Operations – nothing to report

BOARD MEMBERS REPORT: ▪ Harris reported on the Local Watershed Council meeting held March 20th. The meeting lacked a quorum, so no officer elections were completed. A follow-up virtual meeting will be scheduled to finish that business.

The council received a legislative update from Sen. Evan Vickers and discussed moving to a mix of in-person and virtual meetings, along with occasional field tours.

Staff noted that the council's role is still evolving under recent legislation, including HB 280, with funding and structure still being refined. The group currently functions as an advisory body focused on watershed health, including forest management and water resource planning.

The council represents multiple agencies and local governments, and while there is general agreement on most priorities, some regional differences remain. Collaboration is continuing to improve.

ENGINEERING REPORT: ▪None

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 16, 2026 (May Meeting Conflicts?)

Board Member S. Nelson motioned to close the regular session and go into a closed session for contracts, imminent litigation, or acquiring real property and/or water rights. Second by Board Member Melling. Motion Unanimous at 7:25 PM.

Roll Call as follows:

Nelson-Aye

Melling-Aye

Harris-Aye

McCrea – Aye

S. Nelson - Aye

Board Member S. Nelson motioned to adjourn the closed session and resume the regular session Board Meeting. Second by Board Member McCrea. Motion Unanimous at 8:57 PM.

Board Member S. Nelson motioned to adjourn the regular session Board Meeting. Second by Board Member McCrea. Motion Unanimous at 8:58 PM.

Council & staff to proceed forward as directed in closed session.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:58 PM.