Parowan City Culinary Water Board Meeting
July 8, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers – 35 E 100 N, Parowan, UT 84761

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

Absent: Doug Fox

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

Public Present: See Sign in Sheet

1. Call to Order
Chair Kurt Vest called the Culinary Water Board Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. A quorum was present. City Manager Dan Jessen briefly acknowledged the absence of Sam Halterman, a board member who recently passed away, noting the difficulty this had caused in scheduling recent meetings, and confirmed that a replacement appointment would be made at the following night's City Council meeting.

2. Declaration of Conflicts
No conflicts were declared.

3. Approval of Minutes from 3-11-2026 Water Board Meetings
No corrections or additions were offered. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2026 Water Board Meeting was made by Tom Gurr and seconded by David Burton. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Project Updates: Aldo Biasi
Aldo Biasi provided the following updates on active water infrastructure projects:

Main Canyon Pipeline. Work with the engineering firm of Bowen and Collins has been progressing, though the project timeline has been pushed back from a fall installation target to early spring. The delay is primarily due to environmental review requirements and the need to formally establish a prescriptive easement on record. Although the city holds a prescriptive easement by use, the funding source requires documented legal title, requiring the city to go through the formal process to get the easement officially recognized.

6 Mile Spring. Work on this project is proceeding in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service, which has been cooperative. Rather than a fully pre-designed approach, engineers are planning an investigative, time-and-material bid process—digging first to assess conditions and designing

as work progresses. An RFP for a contractor was issued, bids were received, and the award was scheduled to go before City Council the following evening.

In-Town Mainline Upgrades. Surveyors from Bowen and Collins have completed initial surveys on nearly all streets identified for water line upgrades. The targeted lines are primarily undersized 2-inch galvanized pipes, many of which have been repeatedly repaired and are described as significantly deteriorated in some locations.

Water Storage and Operations. Storage tanks are being kept as full as possible—set at one foot from the top—to maintain reserves in the event of a power outage or fire emergency. The Main Canyon well has been switched on for the summer season and is pumping heavily to meet demand.

Drought Funding Opportunities. The Governor's drought declaration has opened potential federal funding avenues. Staff are preparing applications for possible new well sites and rehabilitation of existing wells, including consideration of whether the Main Canyon well is worth rehabbing or whether a new bore nearby would be more practical.

Emergency Generators. Aldo Biasi confirmed that generator procurement is actively underway. The City Council approved two generators in the budget (valued at over $100,000 each), with delivery lead times of approximately five to six months. Dan Jessen elaborated that staff are pursuing a funding strategy to cover both generators through grants—specifically, a county fire (PC match) funding contribution and a federal grant being pursued by Aldo Biasi through the USDA—with the goal of acquiring both units at no direct cost to the city. This priority was underscored by recent preemptive power shutoffs by Rocky Mountain Power across Iron County during red flag weather events, which left other municipalities scrambling to maintain water service.

Racetrack Well. The well is operational and pumping. The current plan is to pipe it to waste this budget year, test water quality, and then bring it into regular rotation by tying it into the 300 East line, directing water to one of the nearby retention structures.

5. Other Business

Commercial Watering Station – Liability and Safety. Dan Jessen reported that Brian Head Town recently concluded a lawsuit stemming from an injury at their commercial bulk water-filling station, where a user was struck by a sudden surge of water pressure. While that city was found not liable due to a lack of negligence, their city manager, Brett Howser, strongly recommended that municipalities require account-based access—rather than anonymous credit card access—so that users receive written safety instructions before operating the equipment. Dan noted that Parowan's own station similarly allows any member of the public to access high-pressure water output without prior instruction, and suggested the board consider moving toward an account-based model as a precautionary administrative measure. A separate comment was raised that at least one customer had complained that Parowan's bulk water rates are higher than those in St. George; staff noted this had not been a common complaint and the matter may warrant future review.

A brief discussion was also held regarding the diversion structure project, with members noting the need to confirm the structure's readiness ahead of potential monsoon events the following week. Concerns were raised about a missing operating wheel on one of the diversion gates, and the need for fencing around the splitter structure was mentioned as a follow-up item.

6. Member/Staff/Public Comments
No additional comments were offered by members or the public.

7. Adjourn
Motion to adjourn the Culinary Water Board Meeting was made by Tom Gurr and seconded by David Burton. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Callie Bassett, CMC, City Recorder

Date Approved: 8/12/2026

Parowan City Pressurized Irrigation Water Board Meeting
March 11, 2026 – Immediately Following the Culinary Water Board Meeting
Council Chambers – 35 E 100 N, Parowan, UT 84761

1. Call to Order
Chair Kurt Vest called the Pressurized Irrigation Water Board Meeting to order at approximately 6:29 PM.

2. Declaration of Conflicts
No conflicts were declared.

3. Approval of Minutes from 3-11-2026 Water Board Meetings
No corrections or additions were offered. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2026 Water Board Meeting was made by Tom Gurr and seconded by David Burton. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Pressurized Irrigation Update: Aldo Biasi
Aldo Biasi reported that the pressurized irrigation (PI) system is holding up well overall under summer demand conditions.
Four-Bay Well and VFD Installation. The four-bay well has been the primary supply source since the season began, initially metered at approximately 1,100 gallons per minute. After about a month of operation, surging and meter irregularities indicated possible cavitation or air intake, prompting a temporary shutdown. During that period, a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) was installed on the well, allowing operators to modulate output. The well now runs optimally at approximately 750–850 gallons per minute, running smoothly and consistently. The VFD has been operational for approximately two and a half weeks and has allowed staff to idle the pump down during low-demand periods rather than risk overflow.

Yankee Reservoir. The Yankee Reservoir is currently sitting at approximately 150–152 feet, which is estimated to be at or below the halfway mark of expected seasonal capacity. Board members expressed cautious optimism that incoming monsoon rains could relieve some pressure on the reservoir. It was noted that if the Yankee drops to the point where it can no longer supply the system, the city will likely need to move to once-per-week irrigation immediately and rely heavily on the four-bay well. Board member David Burton confirmed no communication has been received from reservoir stakeholders about an early shutdown, and the general expectation is that the farmers will use the allocation until it is exhausted.

Drought Conservation. Aldo Biasi reported that residents appear to be more conservation-conscious this season than in prior years, though some water is still flowing at unauthorized times. City staff have also reduced irrigation of city-owned green spaces, though watering has been increased somewhat in preparation for Labor Day events along Main Street and at the library park.

5. Other Business

DWR Aeration for the PI Pond. David Burton reported that the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is exploring the possibility of funding and installing an aerator in the mix/PI pond to improve dissolved oxygen levels and help keep fish alive during the summer. The pond water level has been below the invert for much of the season. Dan Jessen proposed a potential alternative: connecting the PI system to the pond in a way that would create a fountain effect when activated, accomplishing both aeration and water delivery simultaneously. He acknowledged that this option would require renegotiation of the weir split with the reservoir company once the city's springs come back online, and that a culinary water backup connection would also be needed. Aldo Biasi confirmed a backup culinary connection would be the appropriate solution for periods when the PI system is off.

It was also noted that the pond recently had a first annual catfish derby, was well-attended, and that clearing of the south side of the pond and rerouting of a pipeline has resulted in noticeably increased public use of the area.

6. Member/Staff/Public Comments

Tom Gurr expressed appreciation to Aldo Biasi and his crew for their ongoing work maintaining the system.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the Pressurized Irrigation Water Board Meeting was made by Tom Gurr and seconded by David Burton. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:41 PM.

Callie Bassett, CMC, City Recorder

Date Approved: 8/12/2026