



# City of LaVerkin

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## LAVERKIN CITY WATER BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015 3:00 p.m.

435 North Main Street, LaVerkin, UT

**Present:** Virgil Bice, Alan Olsen, Mark Mangum, Mayor Kerry Gubler, Kyle Gubler, Derek Imlay, and Troylinn Benson.

*Anna Andregg and Doug Gubler have been excused.*

I. **Call to Order** by Mayor Kerry Gubler at 3:00pm.

II. **Approval of Minutes:** February 25, 2015 minutes.

**Motion was made by Mark Mangum to approve the February 25, 2015 minutes as written, second by Kyle Gubler. Bice-yes, Mangum-yes, Olsen-yes, Kerry Gubler-yes, Kyle Gubler-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

III. **Reports:**

A. Financials-Kyle Gubler

Kyle did not print the financials. Irrigation is always a concern. The auditor has been suggesting a rate increase and after the water study that was completed it appears we may need to do that now. This will be discussed further in the meeting.

Mark would like to see if the budget could be tightened up before raising water rates. Once the budget has been evaluated and if the need is still there, he would support an increase.

Kyle explained the 2010 Water Study suggested the need to raise rates and so has the auditor. He will have financials for the next meeting.

B. Culinary Water Management Update-Derek Imlay

Derek reported La Verkin is in good shape. As for irrigation, we are still having issues with people not following the suggested water times. Right before this meeting, Derek checked the chart and it lists the usage at 6cfs, which is almost to the point of over using the allotted amount. The Conservancy District will start restricting us when we reach 7 or 8 cfs.

The suggested watering time is on the website, Facebook, has been on the billing and was part of the mailer that went out to every resident of La Verkin.

Mayor Gubler would like to put it back on the water bill.

Water appears to be more of an issue this year than in previous years.

Derek reported his crew has been using door hangers and letters to educate citizens they see watering after 10am and before 6pm. The City has tried to make sure they are in line with the Ordinance as well.

Mayor Gubler feels our citizens are getting better at watering.

#### C. Irrigation Management Update-Derek Imlay

This item was discussed in the previous business item.

Mayor Gubler said La Verkin has a good position in water rights in Washington County and to him, that means being even more responsible in the usage of our water. We are 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> from the top.

If the Board could help educate the citizens when they see someone water outside the suggested time, it would be appreciated.

#### D. Water Usage

##### 1. Culinary Water

Derek passed out the usage charts, it states 2014 but the numbers are for 2015.

The Riverwood Master Meter monitors Toquerville Springs and Ash Creek Springs and Cottam Well supplies the upper tank. The water usage coming in is the upper column. "Users" is how many people we have using the culinary system right now. The chart shows the average gallon per connection and the slippage(unaccounted water) in the system, 10 is healthy and 20 is acceptable, obviously we like to trend more toward 10. This number has dropped since we did the 2010 Main Line Water Project, which is good.

The bottom shows the Springs, those readings are actually a combination of Hurricane and La Verkin. Hurricane separates from us when it gets to Riverwood. The totals are separated out between Hurricane and us.

##### 2. Secondary Water

Derek passed out the chart for the irrigation it covers 2010 to current. As of 2pm today, we have used 180-acre feet of water this month. The average is on the right hand side.

Derek knows when the irrigation needs to come out of the system by the amount of times the system cycles. If it starts to cycle too often, it can burn up a motor.

Mayor Gubler mentioned being concerned with using that much water in the middle of the day.

Derek replied he may know why it is so high today, Russell Bezette still flood irrigates. The City has sent him a letter stating this will be the last year he will be able to do that. By next year, he needs to have a sprinkling system in and until then we have asked him to pick one day a week to water.

Mark pointed out the water usage has been lower every month this year than last year.

Derek replied we are doing better but it still needs to be lower.

#### E. Contracts-Kyle Gubler

Kyle passed out a list of people wanting to sell their water shares along with the delinquent accounts.

Kyle explained the steps in dealing with delinquent accounts.

Some people feel the City needs to own all the water, others feel there needs to be shareholders. The City cannot sell water shares, so once they become property of the City they stay that way.

Alan asked if Confluence Park was ever able to purchase the 30 shares they needed.

Kyle reported it appears Confluence will use the money to put in water lines and then lease water from the City. This will increase our water usage.

Mayor Gubler said Ron Thompson agreed to make the water available to them through La Verkin City. We should still have our assessment and Confluence Park will have what they need.

Confluence Park is talking about looping into our system to help the overall water pressure. It will be a while before any of that happens; right now, it is only a verbal agreement.

Kyle reported Ash Creek Sewer District owns 30-acres there and plan to put a treatment plant on it.

Virgil asked about a well La Verkin City dug by Ash Creek that had too much fluoride and was capped off. It is by John Corne's property.

No one in the meeting knew anything about it.

#### F. Increasing irrigation rates-Kyle Gubler

The 2010 Water Study was passed out.

Kyle explained there are three things we charge for; one, if irrigation water is available at the property but they choose not to connect to it there is a \$3 stand-by fee. Second, is a \$10 connection fee, this is for people connected to irrigation and rent the water from the City, up to ½ acre. Third, is the \$60 per share, this is charged to people who own water shares within La Verkin.

In 2010, the study recommended over the next five years increasing the fees in increments. The recommended increase was; standby fee increase by \$.65, the connection fee by \$2.24, and the shares needed to increase by \$11.61. This rate increase would increase our annual revenue by \$14, 058.

The gradual increase didn't happen and now the auditor has told us we are spending more on repairs than we are collecting. The Water Fund and the General Fund are supplementing the Irrigation Fund. At some point this issue will need to be addressed.

The Drainage fee is another area that will need to be increased at some point.

Mayor Gubler feels the rates should be increased either at the beginning of 2016 or at the beginning of our next fiscal year, July 2016. He would like the Board to look over the study and the rates so at the next meeting they can come to an agreement on what to recommend to the City Council.

Kyle agrees with Mark that we do need to look at the budget to see if there are areas that can be cut. However, the system needs to be maintained and the budget needs to be able to do that. To replace the system it was estimated, in 2010, to be 3.5 million dollars. The City cannot afford to do that, but we do improve it with each repair and street project.

Allen pointed out the system is 30 years old and it has been reported an increase in the number of breaks.

Derek explained the product that was originally installed and the problems with it. The current budget for the irrigation is \$74,000. He is working on an irrigation audit and so far has found \$2,000 in non-reported connections.

Allen suggested picking a section of the system and replacing it each year.

Kyle replied the entire budget is used for repairs.

Mark would like to know what the projected needs are and to have the financials broken down to see where/if we can cut anywhere. He also wondered if there are any future needs the system may have that have not been taken into consideration.

Kyle will email the detailed financials to the Board members. He also said over the last several years the amount of money spent on repairs has increased each year.

**IV. Business:**

No business items.

**V. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:**

No comment.

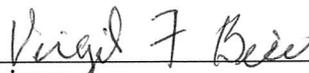
**VI. Board members concerns:**

None.

**VII. Adjourn:**

**Motion was made by Kyle Gubler to adjourn, second by Alan Olsen. Kyle Gubler-yes, Kerry Gubler-yes, Mangum-yes, Olsen-yes, Bice-yes. Motion carried at 3:53pm.**

Minutes were done by Troylinn Benson and Christy Ballard.

  
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Chairman