



City of La Verkin

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LA VERKIN CITY WATER BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

111 South Main Street, La Verkin, UT

Present: Kyle Gubler, Kelly Wilson, Richard Hirschi, Derek Imlay, Todd Edwards-Washington County, Cameron Rognan-Washington County, Christy Ballard, and Karl Wilson.

Richard Prince, Alan Olsen, John Valenti, and Anna Andregg were excused.

I. Call to Order by Mayor Richard Hirschi at 3:00 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes: February 26, 2020 minutes.

The motion was made by Kyle Gubler to approve the February 26, 2020 minutes, second by Kelly Wilson. Wilson-yes, Imlay-yes, Hirschi-yes, Gubler-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Reports:

A. Water Contracts:

Kyle passed out a list of people that want to sell their shares and people that are currently past due on their assessment fees.

Kyle went over the procedure of selling/purchasing water shares and the timeline for the letters on outstanding balances.

Karl Wilson pointed out many people don't realize the value of water shares. Compared to other municipalities one share is worth over \$8,000.

Kelly Wilson suggested the City try to buy some of those shares.

Kyle mentioned he could negotiate with the people interested in selling. However, the City ends up getting back some each year from people that just don't pay the bill.

Derek reported the City currently owns 110 shares.

B. Financials:

Kyle passed out a copy of the Water Fund (culinary). He briefly reviewed the packet. The City is in good shape.

He then passed out a copy of the Irrigation Fund. He went over that information. The information shows the City is currently short approximately \$8,500. This will be made up once the June billing goes out. The City should actually end up over budget.

C. Culinary Water Management update

Derek reported the Cottam Well usage has not gone over this year. There are a handful of water breaks that need to be repaired. His crew should start working on those next week.

The breaks have slowed down since the beginning of the year and the irrigation system has held up quite well this year.

The property at 233 North State Street has been separated from the mainline along with the two property owners along the south side of 300 North.

The owner at 233 North has had some drainage and settling issues so hopefully, this will address that. The City will be able to shut only his irrigation water off if it continues to be a problem.

D. Irrigation Water Management update
Reported on during the previous business item.

IV. Business:

A. Discussion and possible recommendation to allow flood irrigating in Confluence Park.

Kyle reported Commissioner Iverson contacted him regarding this issue. He feels the City shouldn't have been worried about the County not contacting them before the project in the Park began.

Kyle responded to him that the County has done a lot of good things in the Park but connecting to a public utility without giving the owner of the utility some information beforehand is not allowed. It would not be allowed with the County run Water Conservancy District or the Sewer District. Whether or not the City allows flood irrigating in Confluence, the City should have been notified before the project to connect to La Verkin City's irrigation system began.

He also told Commissioner Iverson his main concern with flood irrigating was not the Park but the people in the City. If the Park flood irrigates it would take all the pressure from the rest of the citizens and that is not going to be permitted. If the County would install a pressure sustaining valve that would maintain the pressure in the City, he would be willing to take it to the Council. This should just be temporary until Ash Creek Special Service District builds the treatment facility and then it will be watered by them.

Councilman Kelly Wilson told Commissioner Iverson the same thing about the pressure sustaining valve and explained how works. He told Kelly then that the County would be okay to pay for that.

He explained why and how those valves work.

Todd reported that Commissioner Iverson told him that same thing.

He mentioned there are two types of valves, but he likes the idea of the pressure sustaining valve. Alpha Engineering conducted a study and told them it would be best to irrigate Confluence Park during the off-peak times, which is during the day and that is what they would like to do. La Verkin City doesn't have storage on the system so it would be better for the City to have them do that because it would equalize the irrigation system.

The pressure sustaining valve would allow the County to do that.

Kyle mentioned allowing flood irrigating within the City limits would require an ordinance change.

Todd explained the fields were leveled into six basins so irrigating should not be an issue.

The people who got the bid for farming the fields are aware they will have to work with the City. The County wants to get their share of the irrigation water, but they don't want to be a detriment to the system.

Karl mentioned it was always understood, from the time Virgin River Land Preservation Association acquired shares to use in the Park that it would need to be a closed system for them to be used.

He was also involved in other meetings regarding Confluence Park that resulted in renegotiating the plan that got us to where we are today. In all those meetings it was always understood that a pressure reduction or pressure control valve would be necessary. The plan at the time was to loop the system so it could be controlled from both ends. That would be less impact on the City when it's taken from two sources instead of one.

The only conflict he sees is that the City wasn't notified.

Cameron reported the County has received the documents to purchase water shares from the Virgin River Land Preservation Association and is currently reviewing them. He is hopeful that should be taken care of by the end of July.

He asked if the 30.25 shares they are purchasing would be enough to cover the Park.

The Board replied that amount would be sufficient.

Derek is in favor of the pressure sustaining valve and a meter.

The City will also be requiring the property owner on the other side of the creek to install the same type of valve. He hopes both systems will fit in the same vault. Then the two owners can work together on watering times.

Todd said the County would like to be ready to plant this fall.

Kelly mentioned the City had discussed reducing the mainline down there from an 8-inch line to at least a 6-inch or possibly even a 4-inch line.

Kyle asked when Ash Creek Special Service District plan on having the plant up and running.

Kelly said the time frame is 3-5 years.

There was a discussion on how much water the treatment plant would put out a day.

He asked Todd if Alpha Engineering was going to design the pressure sustaining valve.

Todd said if the City can give him a drawing for the sustaining valve, he can design it.

Derek will get with Kelly and get that information to Todd.

There is going to need to be a meter so the City can keep track of the amount of water used.

He will meet with the other property owner and let him know what the plans are and that he will need to help in the purchase of the vault.

Cameron reported Confluence Heritage Foundation received the bid for maintaining the fields. Cameron will be meeting with them to go over the lease agreement. What is the timeline of this project?

Kelly said the meter is on the shelf and the valve is probably 3-4 weeks. The vault will be the most time-consuming.

Todd, Derek, and Mike Chandler will need to meet to discuss the location of the vault.

Kyle asked about the length of the lease and if they will be able to take equipment into the Park

Cameron replied the length of the lease has not been determined but they are looking at 5 years and yes, they will need to use equipment to harvest the crop. They will not be able to graze there for a couple of years, at least.

The group listed on the application they would use historic type of equipment to harvest, not big combines.

The County will attend the next City Council meeting to answer any questions.

The motion was made by Kyle Gubler to request this item be on the July 15, 2020, City Council agenda and to recommend approval of allowing flood irrigating in Confluence Park, second by Kelly Wilson. Hirschi-yes, Gubler-yes, Imlay-yes, Wilson-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

No comments were made.

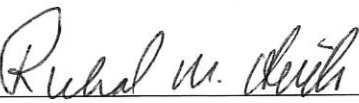
VI. Board Member Concerns:

Kyle reported that Senator Anderegg did not attend the last Task Force Meeting.

VII. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Mayor Richard Hirschi to adjourn, second by Derek Imlay. Imlay-yes, Hirschi-yes, Wilson-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion carried at 3:51 pm.

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.


Chairman