



MINUTES
Springville Water Advisory Board Meeting - JULY 15, 2021

MINUTES OF THE SPRINGVILLE WATER ADVISORY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021 AT 6:30 A.M. AT THE SPRINGVILLE CIVIC CENTER, 110 SOUTH MAIN, MULTI PURPOSE ROOM, SPRINGVILLE, UTAH.

Committee Members in Attendance: Rollin Hotchkiss, Nile Hatch, Rod Andrew, Bryan Boshell, Kellen Hyer, Cl. Jensen

City Staff: Brad Stapley, Marcie Clark, Shawn Barker

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hotchkiss welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Brief introduction of the board members. Welcome to new board member, Kellen Hyer.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Hatch made a motion to approve the May minutes. Mr. Andrew seconded. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Mr. Hotchkiss reviewed the duties of the Water Advisory Board. Besides looking at culinary and secondary water issues, we review waste water, but not storm water.

Old Business:

1. Grant for Smart Controllers. Mr. Stapley and Mr. Barker met with the Buildings and Grounds Department and they are looking at two different types of controllers. They will probably be going with the Weather Tech controller, which can be used with a smart phone.
2. Mr. Hotchkiss asked about the 30% in operating revenues in the bank. Does the city ever get dinged for having too much in reserve? Mr. Stapley explained that the City Council has requested that the enterprise funds have 30%. As we look at our 20-year plan, we spend a lot of money on our capital projects. So we're in good shape in the water system. We may have to raise rates in 3-5 years.
3. Mr. Barker gave an update on the water supply in Hobble Creek. It is significantly lower and we are using Strawberry Water to supplement. Mr. Stapley mentioned that we still have enough water to support the June Sucker.

New Business:

Water conservation efforts - Mr. Barker explained that we have put water conservation measures out in the city newsletter and social media, using Slow the Flow information. Cl. Jensen mentioned that the city council has chosen not to do any water restrictions because residents tend to use more water.

Mr. Stapley stated that we did have a problem with our new well (400 S #2) recently - Mr. Barker explained what happened. The new motor that had gone in for warranty work over the winter failed on us. We pulled the motor and it was rebuilt under warranty. It's back online now. While it was offline, we were able to keep everyone in water with the other wells. Mr. Stapley mentioned that we were still able to function in record heat without our biggest well. We probably wouldn't have made it without secondary water in the west fields. Our weak link right now is our storage capacity. Building the new tank will be helpful. We have emergency storage built in to our master plan, which is not required by the State.

Mr. Hotchkiss asked how the aquifer is performing. Mr. Barker reported a drop in levels, around 10-18 feet. We're still well above the pump levels. Mr. Stapley said we're in the less than 20 feet range. We're in good shape. Central Utah Water Conservancy District is looking at the ground water study the State will be doing.

Discussion on Tiered Water Rates - Mr. Stapley explained how we address water conservation through tiered rates. He displayed an interactive "Tier Investigation" spreadsheet, which showed the rates and tiers for culinary water. Does the water board feel like we should make the tiers different for large water users because they are using more water to make their bigger lot look nice for the city? Should we shrink the tiers down for conservation, which would hurt the big users even more?

Mr. Hatch asked where this is coming from? Mr. Stapley said the bigger users are asking city council to look at the rates. He has even looked at charging people by lot size, but that would be difficult to do. Mr. Hatch explained how the City's winter usage is a small fraction of the summer usage. Irrigation drives our infrastructure development. The capacity of the system is driven completely by infrastructure issues, and running out of water is not an option. We cannot hit one of those days where we don't have it. So we always have to have infrastructure to supply the high end. The large water users represent about 10% of users and 40% of water usage. That's a lot of infrastructure and maintenance this is caused by those biggest users (small percentage of users).

Mr. Stapley asked, "What is the principle the water board wants to take back to administration and city council." Mr. Andrew stated that Springville is unique in Utah because of the springs, but some cities in Utah are considering stopping outdoor watering altogether before the end of the season. He mentioned that the Great Salt Lake is lower than it ever has been. We can't ignore the bigger picture that Utah is a desert and we have a water problem. He is reluctant to give the big users a break. They typically have more money. We have a responsibility to the whole community. The smaller lots should not have to carry the weight of bigger lots. Mr. Stapley remembers we set the base rate to 5,000 gallons/month to help the "widow" or lower income residents. That rate was to protect them. Mr. Hyer agrees with Mr. Stapley's car analogy - if you buy a 4-cylinder car, you will get better gas mileage than a bigger 6-cylinder car. You might not go up hills as fast and it might not be as nice, but that's a choice you make. It's a choice to have a big lot and maintain that. Mr. Hyer would be interested to see who those big users are. Mr. Boshell thinks the flood gates will open if we come up with different options. Mr. Stapley mentioned that people start to feel entitled when they have had water, like Plat "A" Irrigation or Highline Ditch. Mr. Hatch mentioned that we use to be one of the lower cities on water rates before we came up with tiered rates, then we moved to middle-high, but now we're back down as being low as other cities have increased their rates. Mr. Stapley said we can shrink the tiers down and encourage conservation or help people with larger lots, but that doesn't encourage conservation. Mr. Hotchkiss doesn't believe people with bigger lots are doing it for the city, but out of their own choice. He is not in favor of lowering the rates for higher water users. We can tinker with this, but the bigger picture is the area under the income curve is probably going to be about the same. You can change anything and everything you want to, but this a more permanent change, and for the conditions we're under right now, other cities have gone to water restrictions to conserve, which is temporary. Mr. Stapley believes that if we go through another winter like we just had, next year we'll be sitting here looking at those tiers and shrinking them. Cl. Jensen prefers shrinking tiers than implementing restrictions.

Mr. Stapley mentioned the new tank will help us significantly, but it won't be built and operational until summer 2023. The tanks take the peaks off a day's demand. Taking people off Highline Ditch (around 67 users) will increase our culinary demand because they will still be watering those areas. We may have to dip into our emergency storage, which is not required by the State, to help offset building more tanks.

Mr. Stapley stated that we have a lot of flexibility to move water around through our water zones. But as water use goes up on a day-to-day basis, our flexibility is limited by our tank storage.

Mr. Hotchkiss explained that the last time we reviewed water rates as a water board, it took 6 months or so. So, we're looking at a year out. Is there a contingency plan? Mr. Stapley said we could use the same data as before and plug it in to where our users are within the tiers and how changes would affect them. We may not be out of water next year, but we need to look at it. Our biggest problem will be with secondary water. If there's not

enough water in the creek to supply, we will have to use Strawberry Water. If there's no Strawberry Water, all those people in the west fields will have no water to irrigate.

Mr. Hotchkiss asked if there is there potential for another Bartholomew pond? Mr. Stapley said the pond is sized for buildout in the west fields, so it's adequate. It's not storage that is the problem, but supply. We have access to ULS Water, but it's expensive. Our agreement is to pay about \$2 million/year for 50 years for that water.

Mr. Stapley reiterated that the Water Board feels the tiers that have been set are good. There was brief discussion on the image Springville portrays to other communities.

Mr. Hotchkiss would like more information on SUVMWA (South Utah Valley Municipal Water Association) and other water sources. Mr. Hatch mentioned the "Localscapes" program that other water districts have done to increase conservation with landscaping, in conjunction with the Slow-the-Flow program.

Future agenda - look at other conservation incentives. Mr. Hatch mentioned that it might be possible to get the people who run the program to come talk to us.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Boshell moved to adjourn. Mr. Andrew seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 a.m.