



City of La Verkin

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LA VERKIN CITY WATER BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, June 23, 2022, 3:00 pm.

111 South Main Street, La Verkin, UT

Present: Kyle Gubler, Kelly Wilson, Derek Imlay, John Valenti, Kenneth Cox, Don Halterman, and Christy Ballard.
Richard Prince was excused.

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Don Halterman at 3:00 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes: February 24, 2022, minutes.

The motion was made by John Valenti to approve the February 24, 2022, minutes, second by Ken Cox. Wilson-yes, Imlay-yes, Gubler-yes, Valenti-yes, Cox-yes, Halterman-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Reports:

A. Water Purchase:

Kyle passed out the water purchase reports. One report is a list of irrigation shares purchased by the City. The second sheet is a list of people who are interested in selling their water shares and a list of people who have delinquent irrigation accounts.

B. Culinary Water Management update:

Derek passed out two papers with essentially the same information, but one is listed in gallons and the other in acre-feet. They show the amount of water the City owns in the springs and the amount coming out of each spring.

The City takes first from the Toquerville Springs to avoid the pumping and chlorination costs associated with Ash Creek Springs. The water rights to Ash Creek Springs are for both Hurricane and La Verkin, so we split the cost by the number of shares.

The paper also shows the total amount of water used compared to previous years. The usage has consistently increased over the last four years. However, we did decrease by 2 million gallons in May 2022. We still leave a lot of water in the River, which will help to finish the build-out of the City.

Mayor Wilson reported Zach Renstrom from the Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) would like to meet with La Verkin City regarding this. He feels the City is not able to use that water.

Derek continued with his report. There have been multiple breaks, including a main line break in SR17. Budgeting-wise, we did well this year and were able to purchase additional 4G meters to get the entire City switched over.

There was a discussion on Lake Mead and Lake Powell's water situation.

C. Irrigation Water Management update

Derek passed out a paper with irrigation water usage.

La Verkin City has 2,620 total acre-feet of available water in the Virgin River. We have never come close to going over, but we have been "riding high" on the amount of cubic feet of water going through our system over the last couple of weeks.

We are not sure what the difference is. The big water users aren't using it when it's been high. He is not sure where the water is going, but he is trying to find it.

Stage 1 doesn't have any enforcement to it. It is just a recommendation and education stage. Derek's crew has been contacting the heavy water users and people who are watering out of the recommended watering time, and they are telling them they don't care.

The State has issued a call on the River. Everything 1901 and later no longer can take anything out of the Virgin River. The majority of La Verkin City's water shares are older than that. We are in the number 7 position on the Virgin River.

He has never seen a call on the River this dramatic. It is taking $\frac{3}{4}$ of the water shareholders offline.

Derek included a copy of a presentation from the May 26, 2022, Drought Contingency Plan Stakeholder Meeting in the packet. Included in the presentation was the number of acre-feet of water each month in the Virgin River from 1930 to 2021. It is color-coded how the heat affects that number.

This information is what the Stakeholders are following to evenly divide the water if that time ever comes.

Ken asked about a solution to the increased water usage.

Derek said the City is not valved well enough to isolate a potential leak. They are going to focus on Confluence Park. There is a water line under the Virgin River that we wouldn't know had a leak without specifically checking it.

This is a significant break to be going through this amount of water.

D. Report on the Water Conservancy District meeting

Mayor Wilson reported the City is using all but 85 million gallons of water from the springs. The average usage is about 90,000 gallons per year. The average household use is .28-acre feet of water from the springs.

According to the City's water rights, La Verkin City has water available for new construction on the bench. There is concern that there isn't enough water to sustain the growth rate in Washington County. If we apply the water conservation ideas proposed, we should be okay for ten years.

La Verkin is in the best position of all Washington County Water Conservancy District communities.

He presented the WCWCD Water Supply Shortage Sharing Plan. The County estimates the average household uses .78-acre feet of culinary water per year.

La Verkin has access to irrigation water, so we aren't watering yards with culinary water.

The Districts goal is to get all new construction using .59 or fewer acre-feet per year. They want each community to adopt the WCWCD Conservation Plan.

Mayor Wilson proposes to adopt the District's conservation plan and exclude the La Verkin bench because we have a secondary system. We are already under the .59-acre-feet per household.

It would only apply to the topside. When developed, the water for that area would need to be purchased from the Conservancy District.

There has been a proposal submitted for 1500-1800 homes up there.

The City has a signed document stating the WCWCD will provide us with 1,000 acre-feet of water from the Cottam Well. The document is good for 50 years, and we are in the 24th year.

Kyle reported he and Derek are meeting with the WCWCD and the bank to discuss the water tank on top of the hill.

Mayor Wilson stated the Sewer District needs to be involved in that meeting.

Most of the County does not have a secondary water system which is why the conservation plan needs to be extreme for new construction. Santa Clara has adopted the County's plan with the exclusion of where they have secondary water available. He feels La Verkin should adopt it the same way and exclude the bench area.

He asked if the Water Board was in favor of presenting the conservation plan to the City Council. There is still some finalizing work that needs to be done before it's ready to be presented, but he wanted to know if the Board members were in favor of moving forward.

The motion was made by Ken Cox to recommend approval to the City Council of the Washington County Water Conservancy Districts Water Conservation Plan, excluding the La Verkin bench area that has access to a secondary water system, second by John Valenti. Gubler-yes, Wilson-yes, Imlay-yes, Valenti-yes, Cox-yes, and Halterman-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson said the District is proposing all residents stay at or under .59 acre feet, including indoor and outdoor use. La Verkin residents average .38-acre-feet per month for indoor/outdoor use. The County is planning on utilizing re-use water throughout the entire County. Warner Valley Lake is part of that plan.

Don asked if the City had a way to use secondary water for culinary water use?

Mayor Wilson explained the City would run the water into Quail Lake and Sand Hollow where it would go through the treatment plant and get sent back to us.

The County is aware of that possibility and is installing a line from the treatment plant to the Cottam Well area. Once the treatment facility is built in La Verkin, we need to use all the water so it isn't going down the River. Anything not used will go to Toquerville Lake.

Ken reported the non-potable water from the Las Vegas area goes into Lake Mead, and all the culinary water for Las Vegas and Henderson comes out of Lake Mead.

The treatment process makes it cleaner than Virgin River water.

Mayor Wilson reported staff would present the County's Municipal Landscape Ordinance to the City Council. The District is also implementing an excess water surcharge. If residents use more water than they are allotted, they will be charged an extra fee. That price hasn't been set, but they want it to be painful enough that people pay attention.

Another item the District is doing is a Will Serve Letter to each subdivision approved by a city. Once that letter is issued, the lots in the subdivision will begin paying the base rate. This should prevent people from hoarding lots and not developing them.

Once the water has been committed to a lot, it is the District and City's responsibility to deliver water as soon as it is ready.

La Verkin has a monthly base rate, plus the citizen pays for all water used. Not all communities do it that way. The County will send the will serve letter.

Derek would like that in writing from the WCWCD.

The Mayor will set a meeting with Zach Renstrom to discuss these items.

Mayor Wilson continued that the District is also planning on giving conservation incentives.

The City has until the end of the year to have these items adopted into our water plan.

La Verkin does plan to exclude the bench in these items because of our secondary water system.

The District has also acknowledged La Verkin needs to upgrade the irrigation system and is willing (as they should be) to help with that cost.

The City also needs to have a water conservation plan, which we already do.

Kyle asked if the City still has the developer of the topside install a dry irrigation system.

Derek and Mayor Wilson both replied we should. You never know if that water could become available. There are several communities in Washington County that do it that way.

There was a discussion on what a PID covers typically. The water and sewer are the main items installed under a PID.

IV. Business:

A. Discussion and possible action to recommend moving to Water Conservation Stage 2.

Derek explained the City moves into stage 1 once the irrigation water goes back into the system. This encourages watering from 6:00 pm to 11:00 am. Stage 2 moves that watering time from 8:00 pm to 8:00 am. He does not think we need to move to that yet but wanted the okay from the Water Board to make that recommendation to the Council when staff feels it's time.

Stage 1 is more of an educational stage; Stage 2 imposes violation fees.

This ordinance covers both culinary and irrigation water.

Ken asked if this applies to agriculture.

Derek replied it applies to everyone.

Mayor Wilson stated he doesn't feel we are there yet, but we may need to in the future.

The motion was made by Ken Cox to recommend to the City Council the City move into Stage 2 of the Water Conservation Plan when Mayor Wilson and staff deem it necessary, second by Kyle Gubler.

Valenti-yes, Cox-yes, Halterman-yes, Wilson-yes, Imlay-yes, Gubler-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

No comments were made.

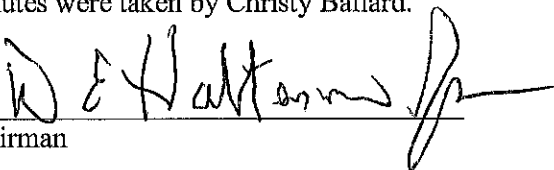
VI. Board Member Concerns:

No comments were made.

VII. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Kyle Gubler to adjourn, second by Don Halterman. Gubler-yes, Wilson-yes, Halterman-yes, Cox-yes, Imlay-yes, Valenti-yes. The motion carried unanimously at 4:05 pm.

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.


Chairman