

City of La Verkin

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LA VERKIN CITY WATER BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, October 27, 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: June 23, 2022, minutes

The motion was made by Kyle Gubler to approve the June 23, 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 over the last two years. 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.

Kyle explained the City actually owns all shares. It is a delivery contract "shareholders" have. This is a good thing; it prevents people from buying our shares and moving them to other communities.

Kyle also reported the amount of irrigation water necessary for properties might change. The City has discussed creating a formula to more accurately determine the acre-feet of water needed to water specific-sized properties with a home.

B. Culinary Water Management update:

Derek passed out two papers with essentially the same information. One is in graph form, and the other is a spreadsheet. In 2022 the usage has been lower than last year through August. In September the irrigation water was out of the system, and he thinks people were using culinary water in the yard, causing the increase. The City does have enough water to finish building out the bench.

There was a discussion on the Anderson Junction Reservoir and where the water will come from. There was also a discussion on the water from the Blackridge, which will be part of the reservoir.

C. Irrigation Water Management update

Derek passed out a paper with irrigation water usage in the same format as the culinary water report (graph and spreadsheet). The usage has increased, which is what we were hoping for. That increase coincides with the decrease in culinary water usage. The City has 2,600-acre-feet of water to use annually. Over the last twelve years, we have had an average usage of 1,900 acre-feet.

Derek reported that all three filters would need to be rebuilt this winter because water is leaking from the shaft. This will be the first time they need to be rebuilt since they were purchased in 2013.

He explained how the filter station works, from the pre-filtering to the filter cycling.

The water will go out of the system on November 15.

D. Report on the Water Conservancy District meeting

Mayor Wilson reported he had attended several conservation meetings hosted by the Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD). The District asked all communities to pass a conservation ordinance, which La Verkin has done.

The District is also updating the agreement between them and the cities. We have received and reviewed that agreement and will be meeting with them on Monday, October 31, to go over some questions we have. The District claims with all the conservation ordinances getting passed by the communities, the County will have enough water for six years. Re-use water and the Anderson Junction Reservoir will help extend that timeframe.

Don mentioned hearing there is a water source, if we drill deep enough, that will keep this valley going for years.

Mayor Wilson reported there is some water in an old oil well (McCulloch Well) that he feels the District should look into. It would require them to pump it, but the log states they ran it for one month and didn't lose the flow.

IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

No comments were made.

V. Board Member Concerns:

Kyle reported the WCWCD purchased 30 shares of La Verkin water. They think that water can be moved. He feels the City may need to contact a water attorney to ensure those shares stay in the City.

Mayor Wilson said that would be part of the meeting on Monday and agreed we need to ensure that water doesn't leave La Verkin City limits.

Ken agreed that is a concern and would be willing to make a motion for that if necessary.

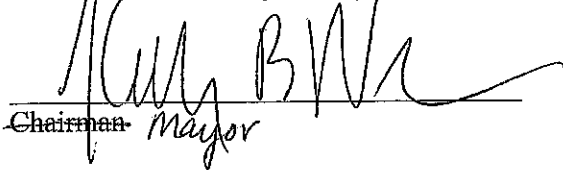
Mayor Wilson reported Zach Renstrom contacted him to let him know the US Fish and Wildlife Service is reevaluating the biology report along the Virgin River. Zach didn't feel La Verkin needed to worry about it because our water rights are some of the best on the River.

Kyle also stated that if the City ever trades Virgin River water for Anderson Junction Reservoir water, we need to ensure the City's rights in the Virgin River are not relinquished in that trade. Our water right is too good, and he would not be in favor of doing anything to jeopardize that.

VI. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Derek Imlay to adjourn, second by Ken Cox. Gubler-yes, Wilson-yes, Halterman-yes, Cox-yes, Imlay-yes, Valenti-yes. The motion carried unanimously at 3:36 pm.

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.


~~Chairman~~ Mayor