

Ute Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting
September 13, 2023

Meeting No. 987 of the Ute Water Conservancy District's Board of Directors and the Ute Water Activity Enterprise was called to order by President, Greg Green, at 5:30 p.m. at the District office.

ROLL CALL

Board Members: Briana Board, Pat Brennan, Newt Burkhalter, Carl Conner, Dan Cronk, Tammy Eret, Robert Foster, Greg Green, Ken Henry, and Bob Wilson were present. Sally Huddle and Troy Waters participated remotely. Ben Miller and Bruce Talbott were absent.

Ute Water employees at the meeting included: Justin Bates, Nick Bierman, Sam Briscoe, Larry Clever, Gary Coup, John Eklund, Jamie George, Ben Hoffman, Jesse Klingler, Andrea Lopez, Jeremy Lyon, Justin Marchun, Tim Moore, Scott Olsen, Dave Payne, Dave Priske, Rick Stengel, and Greg Williams. Ute Water's general counselors, Chris Geiger and Sara Dunn, were also in attendance. Ms. Dunn attended remotely. The District's lobbyist, Kathleen Curry, was also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Tammy Eret to approve the August board meeting minutes, No. 986. Robert Foster seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the August board meeting minutes.

BILLS

A motion was made by Briana Board to approve the August bills. The motion to approve the bills was seconded by Carl Conner. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the August bills.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Bob Wilson to approve the Finance Committee minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Tammy Eret. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the Finance Committee minutes.

WATER & CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Newt Burkhalter to approve the Water and Construction Committee minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Bob Wilson. The board voted unanimously in favor of approving the Water & Construction Committee minutes.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REPORT

District Engineer, Dave Priske, introduced the District's new Project Engineer, John Eklund. Mr. Eklund comes to Ute Water from the City of Grand Junction, and, prior to his time in the city, Mr. Eklund worked for an engineering consulting firm in the Denver area.

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Distribution Superintendent, Tim Moore, gave an update on the progress of the potholing to inspect service lines for their material type, in compliance with the new Lead and Copper Rule. The Lead

and Copper Crew inspected 133 service lines in August. No lead has been found. Since efforts began several years ago, 5,746 service lines have been inspected.

TREATMENT & SOURCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Manager, Dave Payne, stated that the District's third round of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule resulted in non-detections of the presence of PFOA and PFAS in the District's source water. Mr. Payne stated that if the District shows non-detections in the fourth quarter samples, all four of the District's samples will show non-detections for PFOA and PFAS, which is being considered for regulation. Mr. Payne also informed the board that the Environmental Working Group's (EWG) interactive PFAS map shows that there are three areas in Mesa County that have quantifiable results for PFAS, two of those locations are shown to be in the District's distribution system. In actuality, the locations are for water systems that are in Boulder County, not in Mesa County. Mr. Payne and his team have contacted the EWG and asked them to remove the false positive marker within the District's service area.

Mr. Payne also provided the board with a brief update on Senate Bill 23-295, known as the Colorado River Task Force, and the work that he and Randi Kim, the City of Grand Junction's Utilities Director have been jointly working on to serve as representatives for the Western Slope constituents.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director, Scott Olsen, informed the board that the 2024 budget process has begun. Mr. Olsen reminded the board that the Finance Committee will meet on September 19th, with a focus on revenue projections.

Mr. Olsen provided an update on the auditor search process. Mr. Olsen announced that after meeting with four firms for interviews, the District has selected Squire and Company, based in Orem, Utah.

HUMAN RESOURCES/RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT

Human Resources/Risk Manager, Jamie George, gave the board a brief update on the timelines for the open enrollment process. Mrs. George will provide a wage and benefits provider recommendation to the board in conjunction with the October 17th Joint Finance and Wage & Benefits Committee meeting.

Mrs. George also thanked Kylie Williams, the Summer Office Intern, for her help in assisting the Human Resources department with filing and scanning this summer.

Director Wilson complimented Mrs. George and Mr. Olsen on the process of interviewing and selecting the auditors and appreciated the organization that Mrs. George and Mr. Olsen brought to the process.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director Henry asked if the Children's Water Festival was working towards including Garfield County area schools again, as in years past. External Affairs Manager, Andrea Lopez, stated that for every class that attends, additional presenters need to be recruited. Ms. Lopez explained that historically these schools were able to participate when the festival was located at Colorado Mesa University, since each class visited an Exhibit Hall, which allowed multiple classes to be in the hall at the same time. Since the festival has moved to Las Colonias, the Exhibit Hall is no longer an option,

which impacts how many schools are able to attend, based on presenter commitment. Ms. Lopez stated that School District 51 students and teachers will have priority since the District directly provides water services to them.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager, Larry Clever, provided updates on Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Lake Powell is 36.86 percent full. Inflows to Lake Powell are approximately 11 million acre-feet, and outflows of approximately 8 million acre-feet. Lake Mead is 34.04 percent full. Inflows to Lake Mead are approximately 9 million acre-feet, and outflows of approximately 7 million acre-feet.

Mr. Clever also informed the board that the Colorado Mesa University Water Center met to discuss the future of the Water Center. According to Mr. Clever, several members of the committee had a conversation prior to the meeting with the university about funding for the Water Center, and the university was not able to provide funding to support the center. Mr. Clever informed the board that the Water Center was looking to hire a grant writer to secure funding for the future of the center. Mr. Clever stated that 36 percent of the District's workforce are Colorado Mesa University graduates. Assistant Manager, Dave Payne, stated that the District sponsors a mechanical engineering project each year to give students exposure to partnering with the District to solve real-world issues. HR/Risk Manager, Jamie George, stated that in terms of recruitment with the university, the District is aggressive in efforts to advertise positions on the university's job connection platforms, as well as making an effort to make personal connections with professors.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel, Chris Geiger, gave the board a brief update on the progress of the active cases his firm is working on.

GENERAL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

The District's lobbyist, Kathleen Curry, gave the board an update on the interim Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee.

There was no additional information or discussion.

President, Greg Green, adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Briana Board, Secretary