SOUTH DAVIS WATER DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Location: District Office, 407 W 3100 S, Bountiful, Utah

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald Mortensen, Chair

Kathy Thurston, Trustee

Elaine Oaks, Trustee (via telephone)

STAFF PRESENT:

Jake Ferguson, General Manager

Tracie James, District Clerk

VISITORS PRESENT:

Greg Smith

Kurt Kofford

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mortensen called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. In compliance with Utah's Open Meeting Laws, the meeting was recorded in its entirety as a public record.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was invited. No formal comments were submitted beyond a general expression of appreciation for the District Employees and the Board's work.

3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Oaks:

- Reported receiving several calls from neighbors about low irrigation water pressure over the past few weeks.
- Low pressure suspected to be due to prolonged landscape watering by the local school, whose sprinklers appear to project heavy streams of water rather than fine spray.
- Discussion among Trustees and staff confirmed that the school's sprinklers were recently replaced with high-volume stream heads.
- The District has spoken to the school's landscape contractor previously; further follow-up will be made, potentially including contacting the principal or superintendent.
- Board agreed to conduct a week-long manual meter read beginning Monday to determine the school's weekly usage, as automated meter data is not yet reliably available.

Chair Mortensen:

- Reported on attendance at the State Privacy Committee meeting.
- Topic discussed: Artificial Intelligence (AI) data privacy risks. Emphasis placed on understanding where data enters third-party AI systems and who has access to it. Advised caution in using AI for sensitive or non-public information.
- Reported on a recent investigative partnership that he had with Fox 13 News on a state spending issue and noted interest from the reporter on doing a report on the South Davis aquifer.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Trustee Thurston moved to approve the July 9, 2025 minutes as presented; Trustee Oaks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Trustees Mortensen, Thurston and Oaks voting "aye".

5. APPROVAL OF EXPENSE REPORT

The Board reviewed the July 2025 expense report. Trustee Oaks inquired about various expenditures such as the monthly auto pay service, chlorine regulator repairs, blue stake marking paint and AI subscriptions.
Motion: Trustee Thurston moved to approve the July 2025 Expense Report; Trustee Mortensen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Trustees Mortensen, Thurston and Oaks voting "aye".

6. STRENGTHS & VULNERABILITIES ANALYSIS – GROUNDWATER & AQUIFER CONDITIONS

General Manager Ferguson presented a draft comprehensive assessment of the Bountiful Sub-Aquifer, highlighting:

- Serving ~110,000 residents across six municipalities.
- Current estimated annual recharge reduced to ~18,300 acre-feet (down ~30% from 1995 estimates of 26,000 acre-feet).
- Ongoing annual aquifer decline of ~1.3 feet despite significant reductions in secondary water use since 2000.
- Risks include saltwater intrusion from the Great Salt Lake (6-ft elevation differential).
- Major recharge reduction factors: multi-decade drought, reduced secondary irrigation return flows, urban development, reduced mountain runoff.
- Potential long-term impacts of secondary metering: increased xeroscaping, shift to culinary drip irrigation, additional aquifer withdrawals.
- Reuse water applications by several cities were previously denied by the State Division of Water Rights—likely to preserve flows to the Great Salt Lake.
- High priority to ensure report accuracy before release to media or public; recommendation for peer review and hydrogeologist input.

Board concurred that aquifer recharge constitutes a major threat in the district's SWOT analysis.

7. CONSIDER APPROVING THE USE OF DISTRICT RESERVE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $120,000 TO REPAIR AND REHABILITATE THE NORTH CANYON WELL

- Estimated rehab cost: $80,000; request for authority to use up to $120,000 in case of unforeseen needs.
- Funding from reserves classified as an emergency under policy.

- Reserve replenishment plan: $244,000 to be allocated to reserves in the FY2026 budget.

  Motion: Trustee Oaks moved to approve use of up to $120,000 from reserves for the North Canyon Well rehabilitation, with unused amounts to remain in reserves. Trustee Mortensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Trustees Mortensen, Thurston and Oaks voting "aye".

8. CONSIDER APPROVING THE USE OF DISTRICT RESERVE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $40,000 FOR ENGINEERING AND APPLICATION FOR THE VAL VERDA PFAS MITIGATION PROJECT.

- Engineering cost: approx. $35,000–$40,000 to support a state grant application (federal funding source).
- Motion included stipulation: any reimbursed or unused funds to be returned to reserves.

  Motion: Trustee Thurston moved to approve up to $40,000 from reserves for PFAS engineering with reimbursement caveat; Trustee Mortensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Trustees Mortensen, Thurston and Oaks voting "aye".

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Secondary Metering Exemption: State denied District application; reason cited was majority supply from Weber Basin. Appeal will be pursued.

B. 2900 South CDBG Project: Construction progressing from Davis Boulevard along 50 West, up 2750 West to Holbrook Road; on track for timely completion.

C. Water Supply & Restrictions:

- Remaining seasonal allocation: ~1,132 acre-feet (35% of season left).
- No further watering restrictions recommended at this time; usage trending downward since early August.

D. Well Operations:

- Val Verda and Bona Vista wells running at higher capacity to compensate for North Canyon downtime; maintaining fire flow requirements.
- PFAS testing: next scheduled for 2026, but interim sampling may be considered to assess dilution effects. Installation of line between Bona Vista and Val Verda wells would improve chlorine distribution system-wide; considered beneficial regardless of PFAS issues.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Mortensen noted no need for a closed session and announced the next meeting scheduled for September 10, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. With all items on the agenda having been addressed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

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Tracie James, District Clerk