

# **SOUTH DAVIS WATER DISTRICT**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 9, 2025**

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

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Ronald Mortensen, Chair
- Kathy Thurston, Trustee

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- Elaine Oaks, Trustee (out of town)

### **DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT:**

- Jake Ferguson, General Manager
- Tracie James, District Clerk

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Greg Smith
- Curt Kofford

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ronald 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.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment was received.

### **2. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**Weber Basin Water District Tour Report:** Chairman Mortensen and Trustee Thurston reported on their recent Weber Basin tour that included visits to Smith and Morehouse, Rockport, and Echo reservoirs. Key highlights included:

- Tour of Echo Dam internal infrastructure and tunnel systems
- Visit to Weber Basin's water treatment facility, which experienced contamination issues this spring due to heavy rains and frozen ground conditions
- Discussion of water rights issues, noting that Utah County secured significant Weber River water rights years ago, requiring water to be pumped over mountains to serve the Provo area
- Observation of power generation facilities at Echo Dam that supply electricity to Bountiful

**Bountiful City Council Race:** Chairman Mortensen reported that Dan Bell is running for Bountiful City Council while serving on both the Bountiful Irrigation Board and Power Commission.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Trustee Thurston moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025 board meeting. Chairman Mortensen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Trustees Mortensen and Thurston voting "aye." (Trustee Oaks absent)

## 4. APPROVAL OF EXPENSE REPORT

The Board reviewed the June 2025 expense report. Chairman Mortensen inquired about various expenditures such as PFAS sampling costs, PRV repair costs, Utah State Fuel Network charges, air compressor tires, work gloves and air conditioning unit relocation.

**MOTION:** Trustee Thurston moved to approve the June 2025 expense report as presented. Chairman Mortensen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Trustees Mortensen and Thurston voting "aye." (Trustee Oaks absent)

## 5. REVIEW OF DISTRICT VULNERABILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Calder Well Incident:** General Manager Ferguson reported on a significant incident involving Bountiful City's Calder Well, located approximately 1,500 feet from the District's North Canyon well. Key details:

- Bountiful City's well began pumping air and requested emergency water supply from District
- District attempted to provide wholesale water but experienced cascading effects in their well
- District's well capacity dropped from 900 gallons per minute to 250 gallons per minute due to air infiltration
- Service to Bountiful City was discontinued after one night to protect District infrastructure
- Incident demonstrates vulnerability from neighboring well operations
- Regional aquifer levels declining at 1.3 feet per year, more than double historical averages

**Potential Opportunities:** Discussion of possible managed aquifer recharge using North Canyon reservoir, pending water quality testing and regulatory approval.

## 6. MANAGER'S REPORT

### A. Application for Exemption of Secondary Metering

- No response received from State Engineer
- Manager may follow up using recent Calder Well incident to emphasize urgency of groundwater concerns

### B. 2900 South CDBG Project Update

- Project proceeding well with pot-holing and tie-ins underway
- Contractor obtaining American-made materials (BABA compliance)
- Approximately 2,000 feet of pipe replacement in aging infrastructure area
- Project addresses frequent breaks when boosters operate to supply upper pressure zones
- Total funding: \$250,000 CDBG grant plus \$700,000 District contribution
- May request Board approval to tap the emergency fund if additional funds are needed to complete the entire project scope

### C. Impact of Water Meters Installed on Churches

- No noticeable impact observed yet
- Approximately 20 church properties metered
- Working with Caselle to integrate meters into automated reading system
- Plan to establish baseline readings and monitor usage patterns
- Churches have historical large water allotments under old contracts

#### **D. Teacup Reservoir Levels**

Current levels as of early July:

- Rockport: 89%
- East Canyon: 89%
- Echo: 84%
- Lost Creek: 81%

#### **E. Water Usage and Conservation Analysis**

- May usage significantly higher than previous year due to dry conditions and early heat
- June usage moderated but still elevated
- July orders have decreased somewhat due to recent rainfall
- Awaiting official June usage data from Weber Basin for complete analysis
- Discussion of potential water conservation measures for excessive users
- Board opted to wait for August meeting with complete June/July data before determining if letters need to be sent to individuals using excess water or if other restrictions are needed.

#### **F. Water Conservation Plan Update**

General Manager Ferguson presented draft of required 5-year water conservation plan update. Key highlights:

- District serves 10,590 residents for culinary water and 10,300 for secondary water
- 2,043 unmetered secondary connections
- Regional aquifer consumption declined 38% from 2000-2022 (18,200 to 11,200 acre-feet)
- District's conservation performance: 192 gallons per capita per day (below 2030 target of 200)
- Current theoretical well capacity: 1,997 acre-feet annually with 30% efficiency factor
- Projected capacity adequate until approximately 2070 based on current decline rates
- Plan emphasizes correlation between reduced irrigation usage and accelerated groundwater decline
- Highlights - need for managed aquifer recharge as primary solution along with culinary meter cellular capabilities rather than bi-monthly, manual readings. Chairman Mortensen asked that the plan clearly reflect that the proposed aquifer recharge program is being evaluated-not a done deal.
- Woods Cross subsidence case study included (20 homes with significant damage, \$204,000 in repair costs)
- Plan due to state by July 15, 2025 (rough draft), with final approval in December 2025

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Mortensen noted no need for a closed session and announced the next meeting scheduled for August 13, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. With all items on the agenda having been addressed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Tracie James, District Clerk