

PAROWAN CITY CULINARY WATER BOARD MINUTES

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 9, 2022

6:00 P.M. – 35 EAST 100 NORTH – PAROWAN CITY OFFICES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Shurtleff (Council Representative), Sam Halterman, Mark Carney, Coy Stowell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Gurr, Don Horton

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Stones (Public Works Superintendent), Cleve Matheson (City Manager/Zoning Officer), Mollie Halterman (Mayor), Heather Shurtleff (Deputy Recorder/Water Board Secretary)

Coy Stowell moved to appoint Sam Halterman as Chair Pro Tempore. Jim Shurtleff seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER: Sam Halterman called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

DO MEMBERS HAVE ANY CONFLICTS TO DECLARE? None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jim Shurtleff moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2022 as written. Coy Stowell seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. The minutes were approved.

TIERS FOR CULINARY WATER USAGE: Cleve Matheson started by saying, the culinary water tiers for Parowan City had remained unchanged for a very long time. The City base rates had been raised over the last few years, but not the tiers (See attached for different communities' rates and tiers). Mr. Matheson talked about Brian Head's residential base rate being the highest, at \$79.00 and their tier system which had the same tiers as the City, with two more tiers added to the top; if the water was over 20,000 gallons the cost went up to \$12.26 per 1,000 gallons. Currently, the City's top tier is \$2.45 per 1,000 gallons.

Cleve Matheson let the board know that since they last met, the City Council approved updating the water master plan. The water master plan had been completed in 2017, but at that time there were no water rights issues; there were also current concerns with very high culinary water overuse by some residents to consider. Some of the high usage was in the neighborhood of 250,000 gallons per month for one residential property. Mr. Matheson asked if the Water Board would recommend a threshold for high usage. The City, schools and other governmental entities could be exempt from an overage fee, because of the nature of the benefit being for the community instead of private use.

Mark Carney offered to put data regarding water usage and fees from other entities into a spreadsheet for comparison. The board discussed other entities' rates, with Cleve Matheson fairly confident that Parowan City's fees would land somewhere right in the middle.

Mr. Matheson and the board thought a comparison spreadsheet would be very helpful, especially with going forward with the water master plan update.

Mark Carney said it was all about conservation. Cleve Matheson agreed, stating the City was looking toward conservation with the possibility of xeriscaping the city office building and pulling up grass along the parking strips and doing something different that wouldn't require as much water; it would at least be a place to start. Mr. Carney suggested restricting the total square footage of natural grass that could be planted going forward, due to the rate of growth in Parowan. Mr. Matheson talked about one of the new legislative bills proposing that no developer could require a household to put in natural grass.

The board discussed keeping a constant eye on HB 242 and other water related legislation; the fight wasn't over.

Cleve Matheson talked about the City having a conservation management plan in Title 7.12 that was a basic, but adjustable, plan that could be molded into something more comprehensive; a living document would be easier to change when needed than an ordinance. Kelly Stones mentioned that the plan had to be updated every 5 years anyway and Mr. Matheson said the plan was most recently updated in 2019.

The board discussed at length some ideas to incentivize excessive culinary water users to conserve, including raising the cost significantly for the water at a certain gallon amount. Sam Halterman believed that most residents in Cedar City were on only culinary water. Cleve Matheson said Cedar City had some irrigation, but the water was cleaner than Parowan's pressurized irrigation. Mark Carney said if the City ever had a forced water conservancy, some individuals would have enough money to use as much water as they wanted; we would want to have fines in place already. Mr. Matheson agreed with Mr. Carney, if a resident had a lot of acreage, they should only be able to water a certain amount with culinary; those in the City could not farm with culinary water. The discussion continued, with the board considering the options of tiers, surcharges and/or fines. Mr. Matheson reminded the board that the tiers would be covered in the water master plan. The board agreed that even if the ideas had to be change, it was important to show movement forward. Mr. Matheson stated that most water users wouldn't be impacted by this fee or surcharge, only the excessive users.

Coy Stowell asked what the average water usage for a residence would be in the month of July. Cleve Matheson said a residence with a .33 acre lot, without pressurized irrigation, averaged between 40,000 and 60,000 gallons per month.

Sam Halterman talked about keeping very good records of the water usage to show conservation measures and how it flowed with the HB 242 exceptions. Mr. Halterman mentioned that the City said they could better regulate the pressurized irrigation usage at the weir than at each connection with dirty water flowing through a meter. Mr. Halterman said the City had better be able to back that claim up with data. Mr. Halterman also talked about culinary water figuring into the pumpers, and making sure the City and the rest of the pumpers were coordinating their water master plans.

Cleve Matheson said right now the City was okay, and the City would be taking measures to be prepared. The majority of the culinary water used in Parowan was pumped and the plans needed to mesh with the entire valley's plans. Mr. Matheson talked about required yearly reports for culinary water which Kelly Stones turned in each year; the data was broken out into categories, i.e., residential, industrial, commercial, county, city, etc. Parowan City and every pumper needed to be accountable for the water they pump.

Kelly Stones said he was going to start a report on the water loss – right now Parowan City was at approximately 16%, which was up from 2019 at 6.9%. Mr. Stones was trying to figure out the difference.

Mark Carney said when looking at increases, the City also needed to have a statement of waiver for certain businesses and/or agricultural. Cleve Matheson said he would give the categories.

The board discussed specifics regarding fines, levies and/or surcharges. Kelly Stones added the daily-read tower would be ready in 2 months, and would read and collect data daily. Alerts could be set at a certain amount used in one day, say 25,000 gallons, to help detect leaks or overuse early. The City would get information about the daily read system out to the residents.

Cleve Matheson spoke briefly about looking at different communities and how they addressed the over use issue. The board discussed the importance of informing the public about the over use and keeping a closer eye on their water usage. Mr. Matheson said second homes could be a problem, but it fell back to the home owner to properly manage their watering systems.

Sam Halterman asked how long it would take to put a fee change into effect. Cleve Matheson said immediately after the City Council made a decision, however, typically those changes were made at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Jim Shurtleff reminded the board that in an emergency situation, which could happen this year with the water, the Mayor could call an emergency meeting of the City Council.

Mark Carney asked Cleve Matheson if the board should be prepared for the next meeting to make a motion to address the excessive use; Cleve Matheson said that would be a good goal to have. Jim Shurtleff said he would like to have something in place before the pressurized irrigation came on in April.

Coy Stowell moved to table the discussion to the next Water Board meeting. Jim Shurtleff seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

FOLLOW-UP FOR OLD BUSINESS: Nothing

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING: Water management plan and surcharges

STAFF AND MEMBER COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Russell Close asked with all this talk about conservation, how do we really know there is a drought and did the City get fined for too much use. Cleve Matheson talked about the Forebay being an 18 acre holding pond, and if the pond filled to excess, part of the City's 25%, went to the downstream users. The trick was to try to keep the water level just under the full level. The City didn't get fined for using too much water. Mr. Close was worried about all of the water going to the Little Salt Lake. Mr. Matheson explained the only time the water reaches the Little Salt Lake was during a storm event; normally the farmers would use any water that spills over the Forebay.

Russell Close was still concerned that residents may get fined for using too much water when he felt that a lot of water was being wasted by going out to the Little Salt Lake with no plan to capture that water. Cleve Matheson said Mr. Close was talking about "apples and oranges". The underground, pumped water was the culinary water the board was discussing, the water that flowed out to the farmers, the downstream users, was surface water through the pressurized irrigation system and the Forebay. Sam Halterman also explained that Parowan City was entitled to 25% of the surface water while the farmers were entitled to 75%, and that the summer thunderstorm water went to the lake bed, not the pressurized irrigation water.

Russell Close wanted it noted for the board that just because somebody, somewhere, said we were in a drought doesn't mean that we are actually in a drought.

Sam Halterman explained about going to great lengths in the last few years, and moving forward, to capture the runoff from storms to enhance recharging the aquifer. The gravel pit at the base of Parowan Canyon and the old sewer lagoon location was helping aid the recharge; other steps were being taken as well.

ADJOURN: Jim Shurtleff moved to adjourn. Mark Carney seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 P.M.

PAROWAN CITY PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION BOARD MINUTES

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 9, 2022

6:00 P.M. – 35 EAST 100 NORTH – PAROWAN CITY OFFICES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Shurtleff (Council Representative), Sam Halterman, Mark Carney, Coy Stowell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Gurr, Don Horton

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Stones (Public Works Superintendent), Cleve Matheson (City Manager/Zoning Officer), Mollie Halterman (Mayor), Heather Shurtleff (Deputy Recorder/Water Board Secretary)

CALL TO ORDER: Sam Halterman called the meeting to order at 6:53 P.M.

DO MEMBERS HAVE ANY CONFLICTS TO DECLARE? None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Coy Stowell moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2022. Jim Shurtleff seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. The minutes were approved.

FOLLOW-UP ON OLD BUSINESS: The consensus of the Water Board was that more water storage was needed, and that was why the City was working on getting Dry Canyon Pond. Mr. Matheson wanted to see the state give money to the City to help with the Dry Canyon Pond, to add capacity and conserve more water, instead of throwing the same grant money at individual metering. Mr. Matheson said Parowan City had won the battle, but the war wasn't over with HB 242.

Cleve Matheson explained that the holding ponds needed to be under 20 acre feet, so dams weren't required; the City didn't have the resources to build a dam. The Forebay was approximately 18 acre feet and the Dry Canyon Pond would be the same size.

FOLLOW-UP ON HB 242: Cleve Matheson said there had been a valiant fight to make changes to amend HB 242. Parowan City wouldn't have to spend \$7 million to meter each pressurized irrigation connection. Cleve Matheson thanked Mayor Halterman for helping with the HB 242 fight. Sam Halterman talked about the important contacts Mayor Halterman made with the drafters of the bill and others. Mr. Halterman talked about HB 242 treating all entities in the state the same, but the entities were all different sizes; what worked for one didn't necessarily work for the other. Mr. Matheson also wanted to thank the Iron County Commissioners and Senator Evan Vickers. Mr. Halterman also expressed frustration that there weren't more small communities represented during that legislative session, only Parowan City.

Cleve Matheson talked about the frustration with the drafters of the bill, as they actually said they planned on using the conserved water to sell more water connections, which was not

conserving at all. Mayor Halterman talked about her conversation with Senator Evan Vickers regarding the language they wanted written into the bill and that selling more water wasn't conservation. Mr. Matheson explained that all surface water wasn't the same, some was much cleaner than Parowan City's, and that the Dry Canyon Pond would make the City's pressurized irrigation water cleaner.

The board talked about water being "the new gold" and the fact that the City's pressurized irrigation was a closed system with restricted days and times to conserve the limited resource. Sam Halterman asked to whom the City reported the water data and Kelly Stones replied the data was reported to the Division of Water Rights (DWR).

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING: None

STAFF AND MEMBER COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURN: Jim Shurtleff moved to adjourn. Mark Carney seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.