

PAROWAN CITY CULINARY WATER BOARD MINUTES

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Burton (Council Representative), Sam Halterman, Doug Fox, Kurt Vest

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Gurr, Carolyn Ray, Coy Stowell

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

Doug Fox moved to appoint David Burton chair pro tem. Kurt Vest seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER: David Burton called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

DO MEMBERS HAVE ANY CONFLICTS TO DECLARE? None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Doug Fox moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2023. Sam Halterman seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. The minutes were approved.

UPDATE ON RECHARGE PROJECT: Dan Jessen said the City has been accumulating money to do a recharge project originally conceptualized by Steve Platt, Iron County Engineer, to put recharge water into the pit on 300 East. Mr. Jessen talked to USGS about this project. The best place to put water when you have an alluvial fan is toward the top. This recharge project will benefit the valley as a whole. Mr. Jessen talked about the breakwater being a great site, but it does fill up quickly with silt. In order to have a good site, several things have to happen. The Parowan Pumpers have filed a right on all the high water that gets past the canal companies; there are a lot of points of diversion where they can recharge. A bill was run with Senator Evan Vickers that passed last year, that allows pumpers to file recharge permits with the state, get credit from the state for doing recharge projects. The City doesn't want to infringe on the pumpers water rights. One idea is to take the diversion out at 300 South and do a new diversion before the breakwater to allow the pumpers to take their water before the City takes ours. A second pipeline would run around the cemetery and empty into an open ditch until a pipeline could be installed all the way to the gravel pit.

Kurt Vest asked if the Parowan City recharge permit was still active for recharging the breakwater and the sewer lagoons. It was believed that the recharge permit was still active but it wasn't certain. The board discussed the matter at length.

Dan Jessen said that the City would like to put in a ditch to run the overflow from Mark Evan's pond to the sewer lagoons. The City and the pumpers are working together on a few projects. Mr. Jessen talked about running a radial gate so that the City can have a long, open channel, like a sluice box, with a side exit that will take water off the top; this would allow more of the sand to settle out.

Dan Jessen said Parowan City has \$125,000, \$112,000 from ARPA funds, \$125,000 from an Iron County grant, approximately \$125,000 from the Parowan Pumpers, and the canal company will also contribute (the amount is unknown at this time), \$1 million state infrastructure grant and the Parowan Pumpers are going after \$1 million grant from water optimization. If all the expected money comes together, there will be a total of approximately \$3 million. A rough estimate would be about \$1.5 million to go toward the diversion structure and \$2 million to put in all the pipe. The diversion will help clean the water and help with flood control. Mr. Jessen talked about the existing diversion being toward the end of its life.

Kurt Vest asked about the estimated flow the new diversion can handle. Mr. Jessen said the diversion is estimated to handle a 100 year event of 4,800 cfs. Mr. Vest was concerned that the gravel pit wouldn't take that much water. Mr. Jessen said the county was working with NRCS to do a big flood channel upgrade. Mr. Vest spoke briefly about not wanting any water to get as far as the Little Salt Lake, because once there, the water will just evaporate. Mr. Vest thought a good idea would be to create another reservoir to hold the flood water so the pumpers could use that water in lieu of taking it out of their wells; it would probably need to be an off-line site. The board continued to discuss possibilities to handle flood water and recharging efficiently. No decisions were made.

Dan Jessen spoke briefly of needing to upgrade the sewer treatment plant and streamline and clean up the discharging process.

Kurt Vest said he can see that the City has a vested interest in some of these projects, and some are geared more toward the pumpers.

Dan Jessen talked about these projects helping to keep the curtailments at bay so the City hopefully won't lose 86% of its water rights; which could happen in 35 years if we don't manage the aquifer correctly.

Dan Jessen said the City has gone out to RFP (Request for Proposal) for the engineering; then we will know what we can do. If the diversion at 300 South can be taken out, the City will be

able to deepen the flood channel by about 6 to 10 feet, which will be a game changer for the bridge options on Main Street, and may also lower the cost of the bridge project. Bowen Collins has already done a lot of work and will be bidding the project; Mr. Jessen also sent an invitation for bid out to Platt and Platt Engineering and Alpha Engineering.

David Burton asked Kurt Vest to check into the City's status on the recharge permit. Mr. Vest said he could do that. The board discussed possibilities for the recharge process at the sewer lagoons at length. No decisions were made.

TERMS FOR WATER BOARD MEMBERS: Dan Jessen talked with the board about terms for the board members per City ordinance. The Water Board should be set up as follows:

- Five board members, with a City Council member being the 5th member. The councilmember will be on the board for the same term as his City Council term.
- Can be different people on the culinary and irrigation board, but the City usually has the same members on both, which is allowed.
- The committee works as a board of arbitrators.
- The terms of the current board members will be expired as follows:
Coy Stowell – end of this calendar year
Doug Fox – end of calendar year 2025
Carolyn Ray – end of calendar year 2026
Kurt Vest – end of calendar year 2027
- Any board member is allowed to ask the mayor for permission to continue sitting on a board.
- The City administration is thinking about requiring any board members to live within the Parowan City limits. Currently Coy Stowell and Carolyn Ray are board members who live outside the City limits. The City Council will need to make those decisions.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING: Dan Jessen – updates on recharge project.
Kurt Vest – groundwater management plan, as it effects the City.

STAFF AND MEMBER COMMENTS: Dan Jessen – work has been done on the water code, with the results from Bowen Collins being a .5 acre per ERC (Equivalent Residential Connection). Bowen Collins said to wait to implement until the master plan is done. The Water Board made a recommendation to put the item in front of the City Council. The 6 month moratorium is about over.

The next water source project would be putting in a water treatment plant on the springs.

Talking about developers bringing in water rights, not water development fees. The City shouldn't grow bigger than a safe yield of the water rights will allow the City to grow with the current policies.

Kurt Vest – concerned about potentially losing 86% of the City’s underground water rights. Mr. Vest is concerned about the state engineer pushing too fast. Mr. Vest would like the state to step back and give cities time to explore options; everything can’t be solved with recharge, but recharge can solve a lot of issues.

Once the water gets to the Little Salt Lake, it isn’t usable.

The forest isn’t what it used to be. There used to be a variety of trees and grasses; now it is mostly conifers, which suck water 365 days a year.

Sam Halterman - would like to talk about underground water right acquisition. Dan Jessen said it should be on an agenda item and have a proper discussion. Mr. Jessen said Parowan City is not sitting on cash; if the City wants to acquire water rights it would need to borrow funds. Mr. Halterman also talked about scare tactics that the state is using.

Kelly Stones – talked about feeling good that the City has the spring.

David Burton – would like to see the recharge projects given a chance. Maybe a difference can be made with the restrictions of exchanging use, like implementing a reservoir and shutting off the wells.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURN: Kurt Vest moved to adjourn. Doug Fox seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

PAROWAN CITY PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION BOARD MINUTES

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Burton (Council Representative), Sam Halterman, Doug Fox, Kurt Vest

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Gurr, Carolyn Ray, Coy Stowell

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

CALL TO ORDER: David Burton called the meeting to order at 6:48 P.M.

DO MEMBERS HAVE ANY CONFLICTS TO DECLARE? None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Doug Fox moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2023. Kurt Vest seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. The minutes were approved.

SURFACE WATER ACQUISITION DISCUSSION: Dan Jessen said currently the City will only acquire underground water rights with development, and the City shouldn't accept surface water rights in place of underground water rights. However, Mr. Jessen asked could it be advantageous for the City to acquire surface water rights to the pressurized irrigation system to bolster the available water. Mr. Jessen also talked about a scenario where a developer, who had surface water rights, wanted to create a subdivision and build their own infrastructure for a private irrigation system. Homes that use irrigation use half as much culinary water. Mr. Jessen said that would be better for the City because fewer gallons of water would need to be pumped for that subdivision. Mr. Jessen asked, as the City evolves and thinks about conservation do we want to have smarter policies.

David Burton suggested before any changes happened, that the City should take care of its deficit first; the City has overallocated and needs to bring parity into their own system. Dan Jessen asked how that could be figured out. Mr. Burton said the water would need to be put into the pressurized irrigation system and adjustments made to the weir. Kelly Stones said the City would need to run a new pipe down the canyon because the City is at capacity. Mr. Jessen asked if the Dry Canyon Pond was added, would it make a difference. Mr. Stones said he didn't think it would make a difference, and explained why the current pipe configuration wouldn't really benefit from hooking a pipeline right into the Dry Canyon Pond. Mr. Stones said he thought acquiring the surface water was a good idea; however, for a developer to use the surface water rights in a subdivision, they would need to pipe directly into the canal company's hookups and use their water. Mr. Stones said the pressurized irrigation system was designed for 800 connections, and currently the system has 1,100 to 1,200 connections, which is the problem the City has right now. When Kurt Vest was on the Water Board the first time, he was the person who told the City to stop adding connections to the pressurized irrigation system.

David Burton asked Kelly Stones if the current pressurized irrigation system infrastructure was designed for the 800 connections, and if the 1,100 was in excess as far as capacity. Mr. Stones answered yes.

Dan Jessen posed a question to Kelly Stones; what if a developer had a farm well and asked if he could pump that water into the system. Kurt Vest said the race track well used to be pumped into the pressurized irrigation system; but the discussion then was, if you're pumping into the system, it might as well be culinary. Mr. Stones said the developer would have to hook up his own water and maintain the system; but then would it need to be a special improvement district. The City wouldn't charge the developer for it, but it would alleviate the culinary use.

Mr. Vest said the logical thing for new surface secondary systems would be for them to be on their own diversions. Mr. Stones also added that it would take a major upgrade of the pipes coming down the canyon and in town. Mr. Vest said it's not that it's a good idea, but it is impractical at this time.

Dan Jessen asked if the board had any idea of the value of one surface water right, and the board members present didn't know the value. The board discussed one person who asked the City if it wanted to purchase his surface water rights.

Dan Jessen said nothing says the City can't purchase the surface water rights, it's just that the City isn't doing it now as policy. Kelly Stones said that the Maple Springs and Stillwater Estates community maybe could have used their own hookup and put in their own irrigation system; and their own irrigation system could still possibly be put in with the existing hook up to field water.

The board discussed at length the pros and cons of adjusting the weir, adding the Dry Canyon Pond, and putting a bigger pipe down the canyon. No decisions were made.

The board discussed whether Parowan City has any water rights to the reservoir. Kurt Vest said the Parowan Reservoir Company owned most of the rights in the reservoir. The board also discussed the involvement of Brian Head in the creation of the Forebay. Mr. Vest did say that Parowan City is a 25% stockholder of the Parowan Reservoir Company, so it would follow that Parowan City would also own 25% of the rights to the well. Kelly Stones said if the City knows how many water rights it owns in the well, we could go out over the year and put a meter on it and pump that amount straight into the Forebay, as long as the City didn't pump over the 25%.

Kurt Vest mentioned that Parowan City shuts off the pressurized irrigation system during the day, but the farmers don't. Mr. Vest and Kelly Stones said shutting off the pressurized irrigation system for 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM was the only thing that makes the system work. The board continued the discussion at length, including whomever wants to run the well, pays the power cost to do so. Mr. Stones said putting in a treatment plant would change the flow and the percentage of water the City was able to use. Mr. Stones said a study might have to be done.

Kurt Vest said if the City doesn't pick up those water rights, the other field systems will.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the Valentine Peak fields and whether they are on culinary or pressurized irrigation water. The ball fields are on culinary water to take the pressure off the irrigation system, better timing for the watering schedule, and the cleaner water has made the fields better.

The board talked about the surface water rights would be incorporated into the different streams through different damming and diversion techniques.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING: None

STAFF AND MEMBER COMMENTS: The board talked about the state’s mandated watering. Dan Jessen said that one thing that will keep us exempt is the finalized water management plan. Mr. Jessen hasn’t seen any scary legislation recently, fingers crossed.

Kelly Stones said Mike Adams (Parowan Reservoir Company) said on December 16, 2023, the level at the Yankee Reservoir was 161, and it runs out at 166.5; so, the level is really good.

The board discussed the high level of the Little Salt Lake all summer long. The last time the water was so high was in 2005. When the water is very high, it makes the pivot at the sewer lagoons hard to use; the City may want to look into building up a bank around the lagoons at some point.

Kurt Vest talked about the pumpers possibly filing to build a reservoir and use that water instead of running their wells. The reservoir would need to be listed as an alternate water to their wells. Sam Halterman talked about specific farms that would be included.

Dan is looking for a secondary recharge site.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURN: Kurt Vest moved to adjourn. Doug Fox seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

3/13/2024

Date of minutes approval