

PAROWAN CITY CULINARY WATER BOARD MINUTES

MARCH 13, 2024

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Gurr

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Stones (Public Works Superintendent), Heather Shurtleff (Deputy Recorder/Water Board Secretary)

CITY STAFF ABSENT: Dan Jessen (City Manager/Zoning Officer), Mollie Halterman (Mayor)

Carolyn Ray moved to appoint Kurt Vest as Chair Pro Temp. Doug Fox seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER: Kurt Vest called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

DO MEMBERS HAVE ANY CONFLICTS TO DECLARE? Kurt Vest declared that he has been hired by someone in conjunction with Buckhorn water.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sam Halterman moved to approve the minutes of February 20, 2024. Coy Stowell seconded the motion.

Kurt Vest said he misspoke in the last meeting and wanted the error fixed. David Burton wanted a percentage corrected.

With the changes, all members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. The minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION – GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN – KURT VEST: David Burton said Dan Jessen wanted a letter read at the meeting, but a copy of the letter had not been given to the board or Deputy Recorder. The board agreed to discuss the matter and get with Mr. Jessen later.

Kurt Vest said he thought there were some big concerns with the Ground Water Management Plan. 1) the process was moving too quickly. 2) the engineers don't seem to be listening to concerns and they are just pushing it through.

Kurt Vest talked at length about a previous experience where a management plan was aggressively pushed through in a short amount of time which was very difficult. Dennis Stowell

stepped in and took over and slowed the process down a little. Mr. Vest's take away from the experience is that it took 80 years to get into the situation, the situation wouldn't be solved overnight.

Kurt Vest talked about the Cedar and Beryl/Enterprise basin, and the farmers planting types of grain that helped offset the stress on the aquifer and also helped stave off the possible curtailments. The commissioners monitor the types of crops planted every year.

Kurt Vest said the safe yield for Parowan Valley was 2,200 acre feet, with about 3,200 acre feet of water rights. Parowan is complicated, because there are two basins and the state engineer has been administering the basins as separate (the Buckhorn, and the rest of the valley); they are definitely different aquifers because of the hydraulic conductivity differences. The Buckhorn basin is much more transmissive; therefore, the wells there are the best in the valley.

Kurt Vest believes that what needs to be cut in the Parowan Valley can be managed by groundwater recharge and minor adjustments in crop type. Mr. Vest explained that alfalfa in the Parowan consumes 2.4 acre feet per acre, whereas corn consumes 1.3 acre feet per acre. Gardens typically consume 1.1 acre feet per acre, pasture consumes 1.8 acre feet per acre and turf grass consumes 1.6 acre feet per acre. Alfalfa is the most consumptive crop planted in the valley. Approximately 13,300 acres are being irrigated in the Parowan Valley. If we could provide about 6,000 acres of recharge and include some projects, the valley could have approximately 26,000 acre feet for agriculture. Mr. Vest said if 60% of the agriculture was alfalfa and 40% was corn, the yield would come out at exactly 26,000 acre feet.

The discussion continued at length, which included the following points:

- Feelings are pretty tense between agriculture in the two basins, and could potentially divide the valley.
- Water rights are real property, bought and sold for years with no mention of priority dates or cutting back on watering.
- The state engineer allowed this to go on for 60 years and should share in the responsibility for the issue.
- Mr. Vest feels that the present groundwater management plan could end up with us in court, arguing the takings issue and the history of management and hydrologic data.
- Mr. Vest would rather have a discussion about recharge and minor crop type than have people lose their livelihood.
- Parowan City stands to lose the majority of its underground water rights, which will burden residents to get a new water source.
- Sam Halterman mentioned the first date of enforcement was delayed 7 years ago.

- Parowan City should slow the groundwater management plan process down and take a more reasonable approach; if Parowan and Paragonah come together and ask for more control, someone will listen.
- Parowan needs more time to pursue a recharge project.
- The board discussed recharge credits and if the state might ever provide financial compensation.
- Possible avenues to help the aquifer are recharge, sewer lagoons, storage reservoirs and farmers using effluent.
- The board discussed there only being a slight connection between the Parowan Valley and Buckhorn basins.
- Brief discussion about the political side of possible curtailments.
- Everyone working together is the only way to work it out with a positive outcome.
- Surface water had always been administered with prior appropriation, but ground water has never been administered with prior appropriation until now.
- Discussed the grant money and funds from other entities that has been collected/set aside so far for the recharge project, approximately \$3 million.
- David Burton said the City will meet today to hire an engineer for the recharge project, and the decision will happen next Thursday. The City is taking the recharge project very seriously.
- David Burton said Iron County is still reluctant to let Parowan City use the gravel pit on 300 East for a recharge basin because the County is still using the pit. Iron County is possibly looking to create another gravel pit on 20 acres of land they own to the east of the existing pit, and let Parowan City put water in the existing gravel pit.
- David Burton talked about the City putting the 6 Mile Spring back into operation and including a treatment facility. Kelly Stones said it will be expensive to get the spring working again, but could yield 900 gallons per minute from that spring.
- Kelly Stones talked at length about his concerns with pumping recharge water into the 300 East gravel pit – the 300 East Well has a source protection radius, and Mr. Stones would hate to have the pit leak sideways and contaminate the 300 East Well. The recharge in the pit could help Parowan City, but could also potentially ruin the well.
- Kurt Vest recognized that there are three members of the Water Board who are also members of the Parowan Valley Pumpers. Mr. Vest would hate to see the whole valley divided over water.
- The board discussed ways to be proactive with measures to stave off the curtailments, including contacting our legislative representatives and bringing in the Parowan City Attorney as a good resource.

- The board discussed getting the legislative bodies to come to a combined meeting or a city council meeting to hear what everyone in the #73 basin has to say; also, possibly to hold a public hearing.

UPDATE ON THE DIVERSION/RECHARGE PROJECT: Dan Jessen was not present and the board decided to table the discussion.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING: Work on getting the legislators to come to Parowan for a combined meeting to hear concerns from all parties, including the Buckhorn pumpers.

STAFF AND MEMBER COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURN: Coy Stowell moved to adjourn. Doug Fox seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

PAROWAN CITY PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION BOARD MINUTES

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 13, 2024

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Gurr

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Stones (Public Works Superintendent), Heather Shurtleff (Deputy Recorder/Water Board Secretary)

CITY STAFF ABSENT: Dan Jessen (City Manager/Zoning Officer, Mollie Halterman (Mayor)

CALL TO ORDER: Kurt Vest called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

DO MEMBERS HAVE ANY CONFLICTS TO DECLARE? None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Doug Fox moved to approve the minutes of February 20, 2024. Carolyn Ray seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The minutes were approved.

PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION TURN ON DATE – KELLY STONES: Kelly Stones would turn the pressurized irrigation on April 16, 2024 if the weather was conducive. The watering schedule

would be alternated between odd and even house numbers like last year. The City, schools, parks and churches always stay on Mondays/Wednesdays; this year, odd house numbers will be Tuesdays/Fridays and even house numbers will be Wednesdays/Saturdays. Mr. Stones said he was anticipating a good water year again this year.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING: None

STAFF AND MEMBER COMMENTS: Coy Stowell mentioned contacting Senator Evan Vickers.

David Burton asked who has the water rights to the Forebay well. Kelly Stones and Kurt Vest both helped answer the question. The Parowan Reservoir Company owns the rights and the farmers have the first right of refusal, but Parowan City also has the right to 25% of the water. The City pays the well utility bill. Mr. Stones talked about repairs on the well and that the flood pretty much took the well out. The Forebay well is essentially pulling water out of the creek at a rate of approximately 300 to 400 gallons per minutes, which isn't a lot but it helps.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURN: Doug Fox moved to adjourn. Carolyn Ray seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 P.M.

5/8/2024

Date minutes were approved