**Our Water. Our Future. Our Choice.**

The District’s purposes include planning for and facilitating the long-term conservation, development, protection, distribution, management, and stabilization of water rights and water supplies for domestic, irrigation, power, manufacturing, municipal, recreational, and other beneficial uses, including the natural stream environment, in a cost-effective way to meet the needs of the residents and growing population of Cache County.

[www.cachewaterdistrict.com](http://www.cachewaterdistrict.com)

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**CACHE WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 2, 2025**

The Cache Water District Board of Trustees convened for a meeting on June 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Cache County Historic Courthouse Council Chambers, 199 North Main Street, Logan, Utah.

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jared Clawson – At-Large Position

Jonathan Hardman – South Council District

Beth Neilson – Southeast Council District

Jeff Ostermiller - Logan #1 Council District

Max Pierce – Northeast Council District

Bret Randall – Northeast Council District

Brett Roper – At Large Position

Jeannie Simmonds – Logan #2 Council District

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD EXCUSED:**

Mark Anderson – Logan #3 Council

Kirt Lindley – At-Large Position

Regan Wheeler – Agricultural Representative

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Seth Thompson, Bryan Dixon, Jacob Ames, Debbie Zilles

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Clawson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ACTION: Mr. Randall moved to approve the agenda for tonight and the minutes from May 5, 2025. Mr. Ostermiller seconded the motion. The motion was approved (7-0).**

**Yea:**Clawson,Hardman**,** Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Roper

**Absent**: Anderson, Lindley, Simmonds, Wheeler

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

See – **Attachment 1** -

5:35 p.m. Ms. Simmonds arrived.

Mr. Roper asked about the Net Income line on page 2 of the Profit & Loss Budget v. Actual report and why it indicates that income is -$2,500.00 and -20,546.8% of the budget. He would like to gain a better understanding of the details. Ms. Simmonds will look into why it was figured like that and send out a revised edition. She also noted that project funding does not come in regularly. Mr. Roper thinks the public should be able to clearly understand how everything is outlined.

**CALENDAR**

* + - June 5 – Great Salt Lake Rendezvous 8:30 a.m. (Grow The Flow sponsor) - SLC
		- June 6 - Ag. Water Optimization (Mr. Daugs will send out the link).
			* June 11 – Utah Water Task Force @ 1:00 p.m.
			* June 16 – APO Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m. (Conservation)
			* July 7 – Regular CWD Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.
			* July 12 – Utah Watersheds Council @ 1:00 p.m.

**MANAGER REPORT**

**PL-566 Project Update**

Utah NRCS has requested a progress report from both the PL-566 projects - how much money has been spent, the percentage of completion, and how committed the sponsors of each project are to completing the project(s). Emily Fife, the State Conservationist with NRCS, would like to be prepared in case there is a cut in federal funding. Utah has more projects than any other state.

The Logan River project is 97% spent. NRCS reviewed the draft EIS, and comments are being addressed. JUB Engineers has committed to finishing the EIS document.

The Wellsville/Mendon project is 100% spent. Last August, several engineering firms attended an NRCS training and were informed that some requirements were added that were not included in the original project scope. NRCS explained that there was a process for requesting additional funding to complete these extra requirements. That step began in December 2024; however, by February of 2025 (due to the new national administration), that process/funding was no longer available. Franson Engineering had already completed the work and now has no avenue to recoup the costs. This project is approximately $100,000 over budget, with an additional $50,000 required to complete the EIS. Franson Engineering is committed to completing the study. Mr. Daugs met with the six (6) co-sponsors of the project, who have all committed that they will double their original contribution, which should be ~$52,000. CWD’s portion would be $5,000 (totaling $10,000 overall).

Mr. Roper stated that the Executive Order stipulates that if an action is not specified in the regulations, it should not be taken, which should reduce costs. He asked if the engineering firms have looked into this tighter regulatory framework. Mr. Daugs said NRCS is still evaluating some of these issues. Another aspect was the fact that the projects required a change from an EA to an EIS, which significantly increased the costs. Mr. Roper inquired about the requirements for the infrastructure (railroad tracks). Mr. Daugs has not yet seen anything from NRCS’s evaluation process.

Ms. Simmonds wondered if Franson Engineering had completed the NRCS requirements, which are no longer required. Mr. Daugs said that could potentially be the case; however, at the time of the training they attended, they were advised that the requirements were in place. Mr. Roper said this would be an interpretation, more than a regulation. Mr. Daugs said that NRCS acknowledges this directive was given; however, there is no avenue now to request additional reimbursement. Ms. Simmonds said it is important that CWD helps bridge the financial gap. Mr. Daugs said it would have to be the Board’s decision. He explained that if funding for the design and construction of the project is not available, a completed EIS would allow the co-sponsors to seek funding for their portion of the project. Mr. Roper would like to have an expense record of what has been done. Mr. Daugs said an addendum can be added to the original contract if more funding is provided (a list of expectations). Ms. Simmonds said it seems like the extra work was not due to anything on their end, but rather, something that was imposed upon them by NRCS, and questioned whether CWD had any obligation beyond an additional $5,000 to offset those costs. Mr. Daugs said that it is a valid question; however, there is no legal obligation. Mr. Clawson appreciated Ms. Simmonds’ concern for the moral obligation.

Mr. Randall would like a brief explanation for both projects from the engineering firms. Mr. Daugs said JUB has not submitted a request for additional funding.

Mr. Pierce questioned why additional funding had not been requested prior to the completion of the additional requirements. Mr. Daugs said it was an effort to prevent the project from stopping. Mr. Pierce said that was a risk, Mr. Daugs agreed, which is why both firms have agreed to complete the documents. Mr. Pierce is confused why the original scope of the project could not move forward without implementing the additional requirement(s). Mr. Daugs said he does not have all those specific details. Mr. Pierce noted that this was not the best approach. Mr. Daugs will schedule Franson Engineering to provide a brief overview at the next meeting and answer questions.

**Water Supply Studies**

Seth Thompson, from Sunrise Engineering, is the lead on the Northern Cities study. A meeting with city officials is scheduled for tomorrow.

The Bureau has requested more documentation for the Hyrum Dam study. A new non-disclosure agreement will need to be signed. Some of the data may be difficult to find, as a significant amount has been sent out for digitization.

Ms. Simmonds asked how the $740,000 funding would be allocated between the projects (Blacksmith Fork dam sites, Hyrum Reservoir, and the Northern Cities water study). Mr. Daugs said they can be broken down into individual projects or costs.

Mr. Daugs said that the National Water Users Association has asked for sponsorships for the Utah conference (July 29-31). The Board agreed to approve $250.00 (which will be taken out of the Conservation budget line item).

**ACTION: Mr. Randall moved to approve a sponsor donation of $250.00 to the National Water Users Association. Ms. Neilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved (8-0).**

**Yea:**Clawson,Hardman**,** Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Roper, Simmonds

**Absent**: Anderson, Lindley, Wheeler

**2025 District Goals**

Conservation

Public Outreach and Education goals reached include the Spring Water Conference and the hiring of an Outreach Education Coordinator.

Three (3) water studies as previously discussed (Blacksmith Fork dam sites, Hyrum Reservoir Study, and northern cities study).

Water Legislation

Continuing to work with the Utah representatives on water bills.

2026 goals will be established at the fall workshop.

**Education Outreach Coordinator**

Mr. Daugs said 13 applications were received and six people were initially interviewed. Autumn Zierenberg was chosen as the top candidate. She is well-qualified for the position and is eager to start on a conservation outreach program. She briefly introduced herself, stating that she is passionate about water conservation and getting people involved in conservation issues.

**CLOSED MEETING – DISCUSS NEW EMPLOYEE**

**ACTION: Ms. Simmonds moved to close the public meeting and convene a closed meeting at 6:23 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Hardman seconded the motion. The motion was approved (8-0).**

**Yea:**Clawson,Hardman**,** Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Roper, Simmonds

**Absent**: Anderson, Lindley, Wheeler

**ACTION: Ms. Simmonds moved to re-open the public meeting at 6:39 p.m. Mr. Hardman seconded the motion. The motion was approved (8-0).**

**Yea:**Clawson,Hardman**,** Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Roper, Simmonds

**Absent**: Anderson, Lindley, Wheeler

**NEW EMPLOYEE SELECTION/INTRODUCTION**

**ACTION: Ms. Simmonds moved to offer the position of Outreach Coordinator to Autumn Zierenberg. Ms. Neilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved (8-0).**

**Yea:**Clawson,Hardman**,** Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Roper, Simmonds

**Absent**: Anderson, Lindley, Wheeler

**OTHER**

Ms. Neilson recently had a meeting with all the city managers, providing an update on the groundwater study. They were all pleasantly engaged and excited about the project, which is very encouraging. Mr. Randall said cities would likely help fund the collection of that type of data. Mr. Ostermiller said getting everyone to collect data similarly is challenging.

Ms. Neilson was congratulated on her new position as the Director of the USU Utah Water Research Lab.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

– **Attachment 1** –



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