



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

CACHE WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2024

The Cache Water District Board of Trustees convened for a regular meeting on November 4, 2024, 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
Kirt Lindley – At-Large Position
Beth Neilson – Southeast Council District
Jeff Ostermiller - Logan #1 Council District
Max Pierce – North Council District
Bret Randall – Northeast Council District
Regan Wheeler – Agricultural Representative
Jeannie Simmonds – Logan #2 Council District

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD EXCUSED:

Mark Anderson – Logan #3 Council
Brett Roper – At Large Position

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Nate Daugs, B. Hoth, Marcus Simons, Randy Udy, Jacob Ames, Lane Parker, Valerie Harris, Chad Brown, Nancy Huntly, Nolan Gunnell, Jimmie Leishman, Peggy & Dan Rowley, Troy Hawker, David Erickson, James Hawker, Micah Safsten, Tom Nelson

CALL TO ORDER

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

ACTION: Mr. Clawson moved to approve tonight's agenda and the October 7, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Hardman seconded the motion. Motion approved (9-0).

Yea: Clawson, Hardman, Lindley, Neilson, Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Simmonds, Wheeler

Absent: Anderson, Roper

PUBLIC INPUT

No comments.

5:36 p.m. CLOSE SESSION

ACTION: Ms. Simmonds moved to enter a closed session to address personnel issues. Mr. Clawson seconded the motion. Motion approved (9-0).

Yea: Clawson, Hardman, Lindley, Neilson, Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Simmonds, Wheeler

Absent: Anderson, Roper

6:05 p.m. OPEN SESSION

ACTION: Mr. Hardman moved to reopen the public meeting. Mr. Lindley seconded the motion. Motion approved (9-0).

Yea: Clawson, Hardman, Lindley, Neilson, Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Simmonds, Wheeler

Absent: Anderson, Roper

OTHER BUSINESS

A public presentation on the PL-566 Logan River Watershed project will be on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

ACTION: Mr. Clawson moved to adjourn the meeting and move to the Budget Hearing. Mr. Hardman seconded the motion. Motion approved (9-0).

Yea: Clawson, Hardman, Lindley, Neilson, Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Simmonds, Wheeler

Absent: Anderson, Roper

2025 BUDGET HEARING

ACTION: Ms. Simmonds moved to open the 2025 Budget Hearing. Mr. Ostermiller seconded the motion. Motion approved (9-0).

Yea: Clawson, Hardman, Lindley, Neilson, Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Simmonds, Wheeler

Absent: Anderson, Roper

[-See Attachment 1-](#)

Mr. Daugs pointed out a few items on the draft budget.

The PL-566 line item will continue to decrease as the project's EIS are finalized and submitted to NRCS.

The State Grant of \$740,000 was discussed last month and has been included in the budget. It will be spent on water resiliency studies (noted under Project Funding).

Trapper Park is the project that goes through the District with the WaterSMART funding. The contract was signed by Chairman Pierce last week.

Conservation was trimmed down. He reminded members that this is the last year of the Slow the Flow program; the state has a new WaterWays Program that can be considered. Mr. Ostermiller asked if there would be any grant funds available to help with the new outreach coordinator position. Mr. Daug said WaterWays will offer quite a bit of help, especially with public outreach and education.

Mr. Daug recommended changing from mileage reimbursement to a monthly vehicle stipend to offset wear and tear and vehicle maintenance without the significant expense of leasing a vehicle. The federal mileage rate (.67/mile) does not compensate for the upkeep of a personal vehicle; this change would help bridge that gap. Ms. Simmonds likes the idea of taking advantage of the state program so that if other members of the District need to travel, it would be available. Mr. Daug said that it would be a good idea when the Board reaches that point, but it may not make sense yet. Mr. Randall pointed out that the government incentives with dealerships have disappeared. Mr. Daug will put together some figures and options. Mr. Ostermiller said he is not opposed to this idea but would like more details.

Office Supplies has enough to purchase a new printer and laptops for the manager and treasurer this year.

6:17 p.m. Public Hearing Opened

Micah Safsten, lives in Logan and was recently hired to work for the Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner. The Commissioner's Office does not have any input or position on the proposed tax increase; they would be happy to partner with the Water District and explore the possibility of leasing any water purchased by the District that does not have any immediate, beneficial use. Mr. Daug has his contact information.

Jacob Ames, a resident of Millville, asked the District to reconsider purchasing water and leave the market as is. Government involvement could tie up the market and make it more expensive.

6:24 p.m. Public Hearing Closed

Mr. Ostermiller noted that purchasing water rights would only be considered to help protect and keep them in the Valley.

Ms. Simmonds said one of the founding reasons for the Water District is to preserve and protect water in Cache Valley, and money should be kept in the budget to purchase water when available and as needed, as Mr. Ostermiller suggested, to keep and protect it from going outside the Valley.

The budget will be presented and voted on at the December meeting; tonight was just a discussion.

2025 PROPOSED TAX INCREASE HEARING

Chairman Pierce stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments for the proposed tax increase of \$300,000 (97.73% above last year's property tax budgeted revenue excluding eligible new growth).

ACTION: Mr. Hardman, moved to open the 2025 Proposed Tax Increase Hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clawson. Motion approved (9-0).

Yea: Clawson, Hardman, Lindley, Neilson, Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Simmonds, Wheeler

Absent: Anderson, Roper

6:30 p.m. Public Hearing Opened

Nolan Gunnell likes what he has read but would like more information regarding the purchase and holding of water rights and how it would work. He has been trying to purchase rights, which has been a nightmare. It can be hard to tell if it is a good right, and he would like the state to be able to help purchasers.

Randy Hugie feels that the high tax rate increase is not merited based on what he has heard. Hiring someone to run the new "Slow the Flow" program for the County is unjustified.

Jimmie Leishman has lived in her home for 60+ years and it seems like all the tax hikes are increasing the burden, and it feels like they are being forced out of their home.

Tom Nelson, lives on the south end of the Valley, and worked with Bob Fotheringham, to put together the Water District. He was assured that taxes would not be increased. He is concerned about justifying the cost. He would appreciate knowing more information if water will be protected. The increase is quite high.

ACTION: Upon a motion by Mr. Randall, seconded by Mr. Ostermiller the Board voted to close the 2025 Proposed Tax Increase Hearing. Motion approved (9-0).

Yea: Clawson, Hardman, Lindley, Neilson, Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Simmonds, Wheeler

Absent: Anderson, Roper

6:41 p.m. Public Hearing Closed

Mr. Wheeler said the percentage of the increase is too excessive, which he has voiced earlier. He would recommend doing this annually rather than such a big jump at once. Mr. Randall asked what rate Mr. Wheeler would be comfortable with; Mr. Wheeler would be more comfortable with something around 50%. He does not like the idea of carrying taxpayer money in an interest-bearing account if it is needed. He answered for Chairman Pierce that he does support hiring another employee.

Ms. Neilson pointed out that the District would need funds if water rights became available to be purchased. Mr. Wheeler said it would be hard to find water to buy.

Mr. Clawson said this increase will help the District get ahead with preserving the water rights in the Valley and building up reserves. The Hyrum Dam spillway will be a \$120 million project. Not all the local canal companies are prepared to help with that expense. He agrees that people pay a lot of taxes, himself included, but the increase was discussed in detail over time to determine what was needed to move forward.

Ms. Neilson said it is important to understand that the District's job is to protect water in the Cache Valley. As the pressure becomes greater in terms of water requirements, having the capacity to purchase rights and keep them in the Valley potentially is vital. The District needs to be proactive now to ensure we can maintain our way of life.

Mr. Randall said he is aware of the role that Bob Fotheringham had as the Cache County Water Manager and his hand in creating the Water District. The agreement with the inception of CWD was not to raise property (that agreement was for four years, and the District has been established for eight.). He echoed Ms. Neilson's comments and concerns. There have been rumblings from the Wasatch Front for years that they might need an allocation from Cache Valley. Having a "shoestring budget" will not be sufficient to preserve and protect water. He explained that while the rate seems high, the resident increase would only be \$5.28 more per year. Preserving water is important, and increasing taxes is necessary. The Board intends to protect water and water rights in the Valley.

Mr. Clawson explained that as home values increase, the mil levy is decreased. Most communities have to increase taxes to maintain; however, the Water District has never proposed raising taxes before now.

Mr. Hardman said Mr. Wheeler's concern is valid, and moving forward, if the District sees a critical need, smaller increases over time should be considered. There is quite a bit of water legislation happening now, and on the horizon, so there is a need for it.

Ms. Simmonds has been part of CWD since its inception. The District was built from scratch, whereas other districts had help from the federal government (e.g., Weber, SLC, Jordan River Valley, etc.) that helped them establish and move forward. Initially, the District was funded by Cache County, after which the District could apply for the same amount the County had been financing through property taxes. Now is a turning point because CWD is actively engaged in trying to preserve and protect Cache Valley's water and water rights. The District can be the Valley's spokesperson to help guide

legislation and determine how it will affect Cache Valley. Collectively, the District is trying to grow awareness and protection.

Mr. Ostermiller has been involved in water resources for decades. The Great Salt Lake water issues have become quite an important topic in the last few years. As the Valley continues to grow, it is critically important to have representation and a voice in water legislation. Growth and the quality of life depend on water resources and how they are used. CWD is at an impasse and cannot keep up with and/or move forward in a productive way without this increase in funding.

ACTION: Ms. Simmonds moved to approve the resolution for the proposed tax increase by 95.73% above last year's property tax budgeted revenue excluding eligible new growth as advertised and discussed. Mr. Clawson seconded the motion. Motion approved (8-1).

Yea: Clawson, Hardman, Lindley, Neilson, Ostermiller, Pierce, Randall, Simmonds

Nay: Wheeler

Absent: Anderson, Roper

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:58

-Attachment 1-

**DRAFT BUDGET
Cache Water District 2025**

Income	Taxes	\$ 613,000
	Cloud Seeding	\$ 28,000
	Trapper Park	\$1,500,000
	State Grant	\$ 740,000
	PL-566	\$ 250,000
Transfer from Reserves	-	
Total Income		\$3,131,000
Expenses		
	Personnel	
	Salary & Benefits	\$ 270,000
	Travel	\$ 10,000
	Attorney Services	\$ 10,000
	Financial Services	\$ 5,000
	Admin. Services	\$ 1,500
	Audit	\$ 10,000
	Total Personnel	\$306,500
	Outreach	
	Conservation Programs	\$ 15,000
	Dues	\$ 2,500
	Training	\$ 5,000
	Website	\$ 2,000
	Sponsorships	\$ 2,500
	Total Outreach	\$ 27,000
	Operations	
	Insurance/Bonding	\$ 5,000
	Publications	\$ 3,000
	Vehicle	\$ 10,000
	Fuel	\$ -
	Technology	\$ 4,000
	Rent	\$ 5,500
	Office Supplies	\$ 2,000
	Total Office	\$ 29,500
	Project Funding	
	Cloud Seeding	\$ 63,000
	Water Studies	\$ 60,000
	Water Resiliency Study	\$ 740,000
	Water Purchases	\$ 150,000
	Crockett	\$ 100,000
	Trapper Park	\$1,500,000
	Logan Observatory	\$ 5,000
	Wellsville/Mendon	\$ 150,000
	Total Project Funding	\$2,768,000
Balance		-