

Minutes
February 15, 2011
Parowan Valley Distribution

Sam Halterman opened the meeting at 4:07 p.m. and introduced Lee Simms and Mike Silva from the State of Utah. He also introduced Kurt Vest and Nathan from Water Quality Cedar City office.

Sam read the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve minutes made by Kim Evans, Second by Jeff Wood.

2010 Commissioners Report read by Sam Halterman which is a statement from the USGS.

Sam discussed the recommended water commissioner for the next year, Shayne Scott. Sam described the announcement, application, and interview process. Shayne stood and introduced himself and explained his background and what made him a candidate for this position. Sam entertained a motion to approve. Motion to approve Shayne Scott as Parowan Valley Water Commissioner was made by Mark Halterman and seconded by Jeff Wood.

Mike Silva explained how the Parowan Valley Water Commissioner would operate and the mapping that has been done thus far. Mike discussed merging the spreadsheet of data with the mapping and passed out the spreadsheet of user data divided out by family name.

Mike explained the merging of accounts by family name and that subdivided water rights still operate as a unit but affect some small acreage parcels. Some owners are billed that are not actually the farmers but this listing is as accurate as possible.

Mike explained Buckhorn is treated as a separate area. Mike encouraged everyone to look at the maps. If changes of ownership happen a user must check with the Cedar City office to make the change. Maps are from 2009. Kurt clarified that the aerial photo is from 2009 but the data on the aerial is 2010 data.

Mike explained that he and Shayne will travel the valley to verify accuracy of watering. The acreage listing is a work in progress but members can get a digital copy via email if they desire. Updates are on-going to the spreadsheet.

Mike explained that assessments this year will shift to acres from acre feet. Other factors can influence this. He asked if there were any questions about this but there were none.

A question was asked about enforcement from previous years before the mapping occurred. Kurt explained that the mapping was done in 2009-2010 and then transferred to commission. Mike clarified that enforcement is not the major topic of this meeting.

Mike delivered the snow report which said that even though it looks like we are in good shape now, more snow is needed and we could quickly fall from above average to average. A question was asked by Von Cluff if this snowfall will increase our water table. Mike explained that there is a significant lag time between water and snow levels and changes in the aquifer.

Mike explained that this year individuals will be billed by acres and not by water rights. Users should get to the Cedar office and file temporary changes if they are over or under their allotted amounts. Sam added that the Parowan Valley Water Commissioner should help with this and should be user friendly to be able to help bring users into compliance with watering rights. Mike further explained how Shayne will operate and interact with water users. Sam asked if this is policy or is still evolving and Mike said it is still evolving but now is water use by acres and not acre feet.

Sam introduced John with Farm Bureaus visiting the meeting.

Lee presented the 2010 financial report. Lee went over each line in detail from the report and explained

where the miscellaneous expense came from. A motion was made by Greg Laub to approve the 2010 budget and this motion was seconded by Kelly Judd.

A discussion was led by Sam about the budget for 2011 for the Parowan Valley Water Commissioner position. Costs for software, GPS unit, salary, mileage, and printers were discussed. Sam stated that the Parowan Valley Distribution group has been a very well run organization for 40 years and has been low-cost to operate up to now. The assessment will be higher this year due to the water commissioner position. Sam suggested a fee or surcharge when ownership changes. Sam hopes the cost associated with this will evolve and perhaps be reduced as time goes on and appropriately. The discussion continued on the budget for 2011 and a total budget was set at \$12,447.00. There was a comment about increased budgets and the fear that this group was going the way of the federal government. Sam entertained a motion to approve the budget. A motion was made by Jeff Wood and seconded by Mark Halterman.

Distribution assessment was then discussed to assess \$11,000 that would leave about \$3000 in the budget. This would be about \$.65/acre for an estimated assessment. Motion was made to assess all users a total of \$11,000 by Dennis Burton and seconded by Mark Halterman.

Sam opened up for elections. Lee mentioned that Robin Bradshaw should be replaced due to health problems. The current board members were reviewed. Lee explained what the board does.

Dennis Burton made a motion that Sam Halterman continue to serve.
Alan Adams made a motion to keep Jeff Wood as a committee member.
Alan Adams made a motion to appoint Von Cluff as a committee member.

Mike discussed that large acre farms don't take a lot of management and therefore there may be a different way to assess everyone that is more fair since the bulk of the assessment is to pay for a water commissioner that will ensure fair use. The committee may want to get together and present a more equitable share allotment. Lee clarified that any action the committee wants to take would need to be approved by the state and that they would need to be involved in that process.

John ????? Brought up enforcement and that some inadequate notice was given on penalties incurred by some users. Sam clarified that he hopes things are done different in the future and that changes that were made abruptly before will not be moving forward. Some feel the process was not very efficient. Glen???? Said notice would have alleviated this problem. Jeff Wood said it is good to have a water commissioner that is local that can communicate with water users. Lee clarified that distribution and enforcement are two different processes and that enforcement procedures were followed.

Motion to dismiss made by Dennis Burton, Alan Adams seconded. Meeting Adjourned.