

ASHLEY VALLEY WATER  
& SEWER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
609 WEST MAIN  
VERNAL UTAH

Minutes of the Ashley Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District Board Meeting, held on Tuesday October 21, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. in the conference room of Naples City Office, located at 1420 E 2850 S, Vernal Utah.

IN ATTENDANCE

Boyd Workman	Chairperson
Brownie Tomlinson	Vice-Chairperson
Max Haslem	Trustee
Dean Baker	Trustee
David Hatch	Trustee
Ryan Goodrich	District Manager
Nora Garcia	District Clerk
Allen Hacking	Assistant Manager

**Chairperson Workman opened meeting at 12:00 p.m.**

Present for today's meeting; Trudy Wheeler with Jensen Water, Wayne Simper, Jeff McCarty with Sunrise Engineering, David Brinkerhoff, Georgene Cook, Mr. Cook, and Jason Blankenagle, Brigg Edwards and Logan Palacios with BHI.

**No conflicts were stated.**

**Minutes**

Brownie made the motion to approve the September 16, and October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes, seconded by Max, passed unanimously.

**Project Updates**

**New Administrative Building**

BHI reported that foundation work is being done and the wash bay has been moved. Satisfactory progress is being made and the project is on schedule. Brownie asked how thick the gravel was poured; four inches. A change order in the amount of \$2,538.00 was recommended by Ryan to be approved. The change order request was due to the need to remove mud from the foundation and add gravel after the heavy rains during the month. The gravel addition allows the contractor to get concrete poured

before colder temperatures. The change order also adds four calendar days to the project. Pay request #1 is in the amount of \$177,128.45. Max made the motion to approve Pay request #1, and the change order. Dave seconded the motion. Those voting yes to the above motion: Dean, Dave, Max, Brownie, and Boyd.

**Desert Sage** No updates.

### **Uintah County General Plan Update (Matt Cazier)**

Matt Cazier was present to discuss the county's draft Water Use and Preservation Plan. This plan requirement has been mandated by the State of Utah and Matt has been working with Ryan on this. The county is required to have a completed plan element by January 1, 2026. Matt is here to present the draft. Horrocks Engineering is doing the work for the county. The Uintah County's Water Use and Preservation Element establishes a comprehensive framework for managing water resources considering projected population growth, climate variability, and evolving state requirements. The Element identifies seven (7) key components: Background and purpose, existing water sources and use, projected growth and demand, water conservation goals, implementation policies, compliance with state law, and plan integration and conclusion. After a lengthy discussion the board will go over this draft copy; and get comments and changes to Ryan. Ryan will then pass comments on to Matt.

### **Water Supply Update**

Ryan reported and presented the water supply update. The Ashley Creek Distribution System report is received monthly from the River Commissioner. At the end of September, the balance of water in A.F is 334.104, this is in surplus; water that was not used. From March to September the total use is 1074.404 A.F.

### **Rescind Water Conservation Rate**

Max made the motion to go back to the base rate, beginning October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, rescinding the water conservation rate. The second was made by Brownie. Those voting yes to this motion, Dave, Dean, Max, Brownie, and Boyd.

### **Uintah Conservancy Water District (Green River Pumping)**

Last week on the 14th, at Uintah Water Conservancy District meeting, a large portion of time was set aside to discuss the Green Water Pumping. Representatives from the Federal Government's Bureau of Reclamation were in attendance. A frank conversation was held about the timing, and the ability to get this water. The bureau's response is that they have a mandate to complete the project, yet during the process will be looking to ensure that all efforts are being made currently to use the water already in the valley efficiently. This includes water conservation efforts, water reuse, and irrigation conversion to municipal use. William Merkley, district manager for UWCD, reported that UWCD had applied for funding for the Environmental Impact Study to the CIB, and had been awarded a combination of grant and loan funds. Many of the board members of UWCD feel that any loan funds for this project should be paid back solely by the culinary companies, claiming that irrigation companies will receive no benefit from the additional 12,000 AF of water in the valley. At the end of the meeting Uintah Water

Conservancy voted to not accept the funding from the CIB. UWCD voted to wait for the budget package that comes from the Federal Government to see if it would fund the EIS. The EIS first step in a long process that will take years to complete.

### **Propane Bid**

Save-on Propane and Mountain West Propane submitted written proposals on propane per gallon. Save-on is \$0.75 per gallon, Mountain West Propane is \$0.885 per gallon. Max made the motion to accept Save-on Propane at the \$0.75 per gallon, seconded by Brownie; passed unanimously.

### **Water Rights Study Update Proposal**

Horrocks Engineering submitted a proposal to update our Water Rights Study. The total estimate fee is \$21,000.00. Dean made the motion to accept this proposal, seconded by Brownie. Those voting yes to this motion; Dave, Dean, Max, Brownie, and Boyd.

### **Water Source Development Study--Partnership with Vernal City**

Vernal City is going to seek funding from the CIB for a Water Source Development Study. The study is to look for alternative water sources, such as wells, or other water exchanges. Vernal City does not have a firm number of costs. Vernal City has asked if AVWSID would like to partner with them. Vernal City anticipates asking for \$90,000-\$100,000, half grant, half match. AVWSID would go in on the application with Vernal City. Costs could be lower if Maeser Water or Jensen Water wants to participate. Brownie made the motion to approve moving forward with the CIB application, Ryan to return with the cost, seconded by Dave. Those voting yes to the above motion; Dave, Dean, Max, Brownie, and Boyd.

### **First Draft Budget 2025**

Ryan reported on a first draft budget. Next month the tentative budget will be adopted. Highlights on the 2026 budget. No proposed rate increased, \*conservation rates also to remain the same and will be enacted as triggers are reached. If DDW/Governor approve the proposed fee schedule, (\$0.03/per 1,000), then that rate will be passed directly to customers without a rate hearing. Keep an eye on HB280 proposed fees, currently hovering around \$0.60/per 1,000 gallons, with funds going to directly to the State of Utah.

Health insurance renewal at 5.8%, budgets accounts for a 2.5% COLA and 2.5% merit possibility. Both subject to change.

Significant staff changes expected. Two (2) employees retiring, and adding two (2), to accommodate the four (4) hires.

The budget includes continuing to replace failing registers and meters.

Long term liability payments are included as an O&M expense, and depreciation is fully funded.

Manager would like to recommend to the board that several studies be completed this upcoming year. To include an updated master meter plan, impact fee study, Risk Management and Cyber Security Plan, and the Water Source Study with Vernal City.

Contact Ryan with comments, feedback and requested changes.

### **UASSD Conference**

Attending this year's conference is Dave, Dean, Mel, and Ryan.

### **October 2025 Expenditures**

Nora reported that the expenditures on the seventh of October came to a total of \$50,867.90. October 16, total is \$123,741.82 received today \$35,499.44, for a total of \$370,222.55. Dean made the motion to approve this month's expenditure, seconded by Brownie. Those voting yes to the above motion; Dave, Dean, Max, Brownie, and Boyd.

**Dean made the motion to enter closed session at 2:04 p.m., seconded by Brownie. passed unanimously.**

**Returned to open session at 4:15 p.m.**

**Brownie made the motion to adjourn at 4:20 p.m.**