

# UPPER SURFACE CREEK DOMESTIC WATER USERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting  
December 12, 2023

Deb Christner called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Call to the Meeting:** Amber McPherson read the call to meeting; notice was published in the *Delta County Independent* on November 22, 29 and December 6, 2023 issues.

**Secretary Treasurer Report:** Amber McPherson reported we have a quorum. We need 97 members to make up a quorum. We had 73 members present and 54 valid proxies for a total of 127 registered members.

**Board of Directors Introduction:** Deb Christner introduced herself and told the members what a great crew USCDWUA has now. Each of the Board Members introduced themselves: Steve Hanson representing Surface Creek, Bryan Klaseen representing Redlands Mesa, John Walker representing Surface Creek, Travis Holton representing Cedar Mesa, Ken Besel representing Cedar Mesa, and Kacy Stillings Member at Large. Amber McPherson Office Manager/Secretary/Treasurer and Kurt Jones Operations Manager also introduced themselves.

**2022 Annual Meeting Minutes:** Were distributed to the members prior to the meeting.

MOVED BY Sue Whittlesey to accept the December 13, 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes as written.

SECONDED BY Richard Phillips

MOTION CARRIED with no opposing votes.

**Operations Report:** Kurt Jones informed the members the Cactus Park Road water line is almost completed. Currently working on Ute Trail Rd; Milk Creek is almost 2/3 of the way done. The shop and area around the shop were also cleaned up and organized.

**Treasurer's Financial Report:** Amber McPherson presented the financial report for 2023. Amber discussed all the challenges USCDWUA had this past year. In May, we had a Sanitary Survey done by CDPHE. Every three years the state does a survey. Unbeknownst to us, our Monitoring Plan, Backflow Plan, and our last tank inspections had not been completed. The Monitoring Plan and Backflow Plan had been incomplete since 2013; this was the first time it had been mentioned. We spent a lot of time correcting the violations from the Sanitary Survey. We were scheduled to have the tanks dived this year, so while they were here we scheduled them to fix all the problems from the last inspection. We also had violations with HAA5 and Lead/Copper. The year has been spent on mailing notices and trying to correct the problems. Another issue we have found is the amount of lines that small lines feed bigger lines and multiple lines which cause pressure issues. We try to fix those as we can to improve service for everyone.

MOVED BY Richard Phillips to accept the 2023 Financial Report.

SECONDED BY Sue Whittlesey

MOTION CARRIED with no opposing votes.

**2024 Budget:** Amber presented the proposed Budget for 2024. Taps for 2024 are conservatively budgeted at 6. We budgeted \$58,000 for Engineering Fees to address the Lead and Copper violation and the HAA5 violations. Reserve Budget is budgeted \$150,000. We really don't know what the treatment for HAA5 and Lead/Copper will cost but we have estimated it at \$150,000. We are also working with Colorado Rural Water for a grant/loan to get funding from USDA to help repair the system and plant. Part of the Engineering fees are to do a PER for the grant.

MOVED BY Sue Whittlesey to accept the 2024 Budget.

SECONDED BY Richard Phillips

MOTION CARRIED with no opposing votes.

**Election of Directors:** Board members are elected to a two-year term. Board members whose terms expire 2023 are Bryan Klaseen (Redlands Mesa), Ken Besel (Cedar Mesa), Kacy Stillings (Member at Large) and John Walker (Surface Creek). Travis Holton is fulfilling the remainder of Bob Halley's term.

MOTION BY Reg Cridler to elect the current members by acclimation.

SECONDED BY Jan Myers

MOTION CARRIED with no opposing votes.

**Other Business:** Questions were brought forth by the members.

Q1. Do you see a time when we will have to limit taps?

A1. John Walker answered all of our water for this valley comes from one source to keep in mind for the future.

Q2. Why do we have to pay a monthly water bill when we don't use water?

A2. Amber answered it is part of the application fee when receiving water you agree to pay the monthly water bill regardless if water is used, not used, installed or uninstalled etc. The reason for this is we are a private water company, we do not receive tax money. In lieu of the tax money, everyone just pays the monthly bill.

Q3. What reservoir does our water come from?

A3. John Walker answered there are 105 Reservoirs on Grand Mesa and we own shares in a lot of the reservoirs but do not own a reservoir. The water is administered as a pool. Ken Besel added the Fire Resiliency from the US Forest Service has a lot of money to help protect the water shed in the area.

Q4. Do we foresee the SCPP happening to the western side of the state like it did the Eastern Side?

A4. Deb Christner answered in Eagle Valley, it was tried and what happened was all the small water companies banded together to stop it. John Walker stated most if not all our water rights are pre-compact and so we are protected. The Colorado Supreme Court would have to change the law. What we are in danger of is outsiders buying water and trying to send it downstream. There is a federal tax program called System Conservation Pilot Program and they are offering \$500 an acre foot to fallow fields. This puts extreme pressure on water owners to sell the water.

Q5. How is the snow looking for next year?

A5. John Walker answered that there was 48% carryover; which is more than we normally have in a good year.

No other questions were forthcoming.

MOVED BY: Sue Whittlesey to adjourn.

SECONDED BY: Fred Grutzmacher

MOTION CARRIED with no opposing votes.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:12 p.m.

Refreshments were served following the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Amber McPherson, Secretary-Treasurer