

EMIGRATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019

EMIGRATION CANYON FIRE STATION
5025 EMIGRATION CANYON ROAD
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Regular Meeting

Board Members in Attendance: Mike Hughes – Chair, Brent Tippetts – Co-Chair, David Bradford – Secretary/Clerk

Ex Officio: Eric Hawkes—District Manager, Don Barnett – Barnett Intermountain Consulting

Chair Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Consent Approval - Minutes for February 21, 2019

MOTION: David Bradford made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2019 Trustee Meeting as written. Brent Tippetts seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of the motion.

2. Financial Considerations & Report

Mr. Hawkes gave a summary of the monthly financial considerations and reports.

3. In Memory of Fred Smolka 1937 -- 2019

The Board paid tribute to the passing of Fred Smolka, an influential past board member. He was a great servant of the community and the Board expressed appreciation for his contributions.

4. Public Relations Discussion

Mr. Bill Cutting, a retired public relations professional and canyon resident, discussed with the Board how he can help the EID improve the conceptions of canyon residents. The work which the District does is of great interest to many people, and they would love to be up-to-date on what the District is working on. However, this information must be distributed in a clear and concise way. This would improve the relations between the EID and the other canyon residents. As a resident, Mr. Cutting is aware of the misconceptions that many other residents have, and he would like to help clear up those ideas. One way to accomplish this is to create communications that are relevant, and the information needs to be communicated with some personality. Mr. Bradford suggested that the EID lower the cost by doing the initial drafts among the District and then Mr. Cutting would edit it. Working together they could hone the content and create a style and personality. The conversation focused on how to accomplish this and begin immediately. The work Mr. Cutting will do will be primarily front-loaded. He emphasized using social media—FaceBook, Instagram, Next Door. In addition, he urged the District to put out an annual report that is relatable and succinct. They agreed to work together in the next few days, especially focusing on an upcoming newsletter. Along with that, Mr. Tippets suggested several ways in which the EID can become more of a vehicle of conservation--encourage and educate residents in water conservation. He spoke of having Jordan Valley Conservation come to Firewise and give a class on conservation. Don Barnett will talk to them and arrange it. Eric Hawkes brought up the possibility of moving to ECID, Emigration Canyon Improvement District, instead of EID.

Due to great questions and comments from audience members Willy Stokeman and Mindy McAnulty, there was much conversation about private well testing. The Board explained that they are wanting to help residents know the quality of water in their private wells and how this will be accomplished. They and the Board also discussed how to help fix faulty septic systems. The Board explained the history of what they have been doing with the Department of Water Quality to fix the quality of the stream. The Board recognizes the impact that faulty septic systems have on the creek. The EID would like to get grants to offset costs to do cluster systems for homes that do not have sufficient land to put in proper drainage and distance between their septic and the creek.

5. Contract with SLCo for Elections Services 2019

Mr. Hawkes said it is an estimated \$1,900 to contract with the County to do the elections.

MOTION: David Bradford made a motion to contract with Salt Lake County to do the upcoming District elections. Brent Tippets seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of the motion

6. Water Levels Report

Don Barnett gave the water levels report. Water usage last month was higher than normal. Someone opened a hose bib and left it running and it is unknown how long it was left on. The Board would like to fix that so it cannot happen again. Mr. Barnett gave the graphs that show how exceptionally dry last year was—in some cases, the very driest year on record. This year looks much more promising; we are already above average. Answering a question from the audience, Mr. Barnett stated that it takes the District's wells about a year to recharge after an extremely dry year. He explained how the aquifers are formed in the canyon. Ms. McAnulty asked if it would be financially efficient to drill currently existing wells deeper instead of drilling new wells. Willy Stokeman asked if it would be wise to take water from the bottom of the canyon and pump it back up. The Board explained that they do that essentially--the water from the Upper Freeze Creek well is water that historically was discharged at the mouth of the canyon. They pump the water as it goes by, and don't have the exorbitant cost of pumping the water against gravity back up the canyon. This is water that otherwise would be draining out the bottom of the canyon. There was discussion about the purpose of monitoring wells and that they show zero impact from the District's well to the levels along the creek. Ms. Stokeman then asked about a 5th monitoring well that went dry, to which the District replied that that well was dry the day it was drilled. To Ms. Stokeman's point, she is concerned about the stream flow. The District stated that they are the solution to the stream flow, not the problem. The reason they drill so far away from the stream and so deep is because they are extremely concerned about the stream flow as well. Every home that connects to the EID water system means that they are using water from a source completely removed from the stream, water that generally wouldn't surface until the bottom of the canyon. But the private wells along the stream impact the stream flow dramatically. In addition, the main exporter of water from the canyon is Salt Lake City. The Board stated that Salt Lake City uses 15 times the canyon water that EID does, but the water the EID uses stays in the canyon to some extent—it waters people's lawns, goes into their drain fields, etc. Whereas when Salt Lake City takes the water, it is just exported, and it leaves the canyon. The District then explained why they chose the sites listed on the change applications. Ms. Stokeman asked if it would be possible to augment the stream. The District agreed that they could wait until a dry time of year and turn on the water and see how much makes it to the creek. If it is a lot, then it would be worth considering.

7. Maintenance Report

Well 1 needs to be repaired. It is most likely the pump motor. Getting access to it is difficult right now because of the snow.

There was a leaky hydrant up Killyons. It will be repaired this week.

The District needs to remove the meter box and setter at Pioneer Ridge Rd for the installation of a culvert and drain pipe. They removed the unused meter box and setter and capped off the supply line, so Salt Lake County could install the culvert pipe along the edge of the road for drainage.

Mr. Hawkes will arrange to have fire hydrants dug out from the snow.

8. Any Items by Visiting Public, Dismiss Public

Ms. McAnulty asked about a continued leak in the reservoir. There is no leak. That's a perpetuated myth. The Board spoke about the importance of redundancy, and that every responsible water district must have multiple water sources to ensure they are able to deliver water to the residents. Mr. Barnett spoke to the effect that the District has multiple wells to use to supply water to the canyon. The Board must balance the costs of having redundancy, and how much to have. To the question about groundwater mining, the District replied that they do not. Other areas of Utah do groundwater mining, but the District's levels are not dropping more than they are replenishing. They do this by pulling water as it goes by, and not water from a bucket. The Board members explained the rationale behind some of the potential sites from the change application. The District emphasized that Salt Lake City is the biggest threat to water in the canyon and that it is the EID that protects the individual water rights in the canyon from that of SLC. Ms. Stokeman's last concern was that of sustainability. What is the long-term plan? They discussed the zoning in the canyon and that the District does not hold any zoning authority. By law, they are to supply water to the residents in the canyon, but they do not get to decide how many homes are in the canyon. The Metro Township is beginning a revision of the general plan.

9. Closed Session

MOTION: Board Member David Bradford made a motion to convene in closed session to discuss pending and imminent litigation. Brent Tippets seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Board of Trustees met in closed session from 9:51 p.m. to 10:08 p.m. Those present included the Board of Trustees, Eric Hawkes, Don Barnett, Joe Smolka.

MOTION: Board Member Bradford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Hughes seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of the motion

The regular meeting of the Emigration Improvement District adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Minutes Approved