

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE JORDAN VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

(Approved October 9, 2023)

September 11, 2023

A regular meeting of the Conservation Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD or District) was held on Monday September 11, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at the District office located at 8215 South 1300 West, West Jordan, Utah.

This meeting was conducted electronically in accordance with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act (Utah Code Ann. (1953) §§ 52-4-1 et seq.) and Chapter 7.12 of the Administrative Policy and Procedures Manual ("Electronic Meetings").

**Trustees Present:**

Sherrie Ohrn, Chair  
Reed Gibby  
Zach Jacob (electronic, joined at 3:15 p.m.)  
Corey L. Rushton  
John H. Taylor (electronic)  
Barbara Townsend (electronic)

**Trustees Not Present:**

Karen Lang  
Dawn Ramsey  
Mick Sudbury

**Staff Present:**

Alan Packard, General Manager  
Jacob Young, Deputy General Manager  
Dave Martin, CFO/Treasurer  
Shazelle Terry, Assistant General Manager  
Matt Olsen, Assistant General Manager  
Gordon Batt, Operations Department Manager  
Jason Brown, Information Systems Department Manager  
Brian Callister, Maintenance Department Manager  
Shane Swensen, Engineering Department Manager  
Martin Feil, Database Administrator  
Mark Stratford, General Counsel  
Kurt Ashworth, Human Resources Manager  
Beverly Parry, Executive Assistant  
Mindy Keeling, Administrative Assistant  
Alicia Sekiller, Administrative Assistant  
Courtney Brown, Conservation Division Manager  
Kelly Good, Communications Division Manager  
Clifton Smith, Senior Business Data Analyst  
Shaun Moser, Conservation Garden Park Manager  
Eric Wermel, Conservation Coordinator  
Cynthia Bee, Public Information Officer  
Amanda Strack, Conservation Supervisor  
Valerie Millette, Conservation Coordinator (electronic)  
Sam Mingo, Business Data Analyst (electronic)

### **Others Present:**

Greg Christensen, Kearns Improvement District Trustee

The meeting was brought to order at 3:00 p.m. by Ms. Sherrie Ohrn.

### **Approval of the minutes of the Conservation Committee meeting held July 10, 2023**

Ms. Sherrie Ohrn called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023, Conservation Committee meeting. Mr. Gibby moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Rushton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as follows:

Ms. Barbara Townsend – aye

Ms. Sherrie Ohrn – aye

Ms. Dawn Ramsey – not present

Mr. Zach Jacob – not present

Mr. Reed Gibby – aye

Mr. Mick Sudbury – not present

Mr. Corey Rushton – aye

Mr. John Taylor – aye

Ms. Karen Lang – not present

### **Public Comments**

No public comments.

### **Discuss the Locascapes Rewards Program for Homebuilders**

Mr. Brown gave background on the Locascapes Homebuilder Program (Program) which began as a way to incentivize homebuilders to install Locascapes as part of initial construction of new subdivisions. The first payments were made in 2019. The Program began to be phased out in 2022 due to widescale adoption of Water Efficiency Standards (WES) and more emphasis was placed on retrofits. As it can take many years to complete subdivisions, many are still wanting to use the program because they were approved prior to the cities' adoption of WES. Mr. Brown reviewed items to consider when determining whether to continue the Program. These are:

- Water-efficient landscaping is more expensive and can introduce changes in the construction timeline and suppliers needed.
- Some builders were early adopters of Locascapes and have come to rely on the incentive to help with cost difference.
- Some of the subdivisions are large and will take many years to develop.
- The Program is included in the budget for the current fiscal year and can be discussed again during the next budget cycle.
- The incentive is paid at around \$0.25 per square foot for lawn prevented.
- Staff is recommending continuing to provide funding to homebuilders in areas that are not subject to the WES and deemphasize the program in marketing and advertising materials and eventually phase out as these developments are completed.

Mr. Brown said there are three homebuilders actively participating in the Program: Ivory Homes, Garbett Homes, and Alpine Homes. There are eleven subdivisions in Member Agency cities that are not subject to the WES for various reasons and are eligible for Program funding.

Mr. Brown reviewed the process required to determine incentive amounts provided through the Program. He said that staff is looking to change how the incentive is calculated by moving to a fixed amount per square foot of lawn prevented. Currently the incentives can average anywhere from \$0.25 to \$0.50 per square foot and he suggested the amount could be fixed at \$0.30. Mr.

Rushton suggested that the incentive amount might need to be lowered instead of raised. Mr. Olsen clarified that \$0.25 per square foot was at the low end and they are more typically paid between \$0.30 and \$0.50 per square foot.

Ms. Ohrn said she feels that this program should be phased out as the WES continue to be adopted by Member Agency cities. Mr. Taylor asked if staff knows the cost difference between putting waterwise landscaping in new construction versus the previous landscaping practices. Ms. Ohrn suggested the cost difference is because of new equipment and practices needed by landscapers rather than the actual cost of installation of a waterwise landscape. Mr. Gibby asked how the amount of square footage to be incentivized in new construction is determined. Mr. Brown explained that the lawn area, planter area, and hardscape areas are measured. The lawn area is not eligible for an incentive and the reimbursement for planter and hardscape areas is determined at different amounts based on expected water savings.

Mr. Brown reviewed the Ivory Homes submittal for reimbursement through the Program which will be brought before the Board for approval at the September 13 Board Meeting. He summed up the submittal which includes 4 subdivisions, 27 lots, 133,468 square feet of lawn prevented, and a total payment of \$76,572.

Mr. Olsen said he would appreciate the Board's feedback on whether to continue this Program past the current fiscal. Ms. Ohrn said this Program was intended to be a bridge until WES were adopted by Member Agency cities. Mr. Rushton asked staff to bring information to the Board on their suggested future plans for the Program during the next fiscal year budget process.

### **Reporting Items**

Ms. Ohrn asked the Board to peruse the reporting items and forego reviewing the items at the meeting.

- a. 2023 Garden Education Programs Report
- b. 2023 Landscape Leadership Grant Update
- c. 2023 Utah Water Savers Program Update
- d. Member Agency Grant Program Update
- e. Fundraising Progress Report
- f. Foundation Activities Report

### **Adjourn**

Ms. Ohrn asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Townsend moved to adjourn. Mr. Gibby seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.



Sherrie L. Ohrn, Conservation Committee Chair

10.9.2023

Date



Matthew D. Olsen, Assistant General Manager

10/10/2023

Date