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Juab County to partner with CUWCD in a water study to benefit county

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

Juab County will partner with the Central Water Conservancy District in a water study that will benefit the county.

Byron Woodland, Juab County Commissioner, sits on the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) board and said that a water study is imperative.

"We have been told by CUWCD that there will be water for the county when it is needed," said Woodland. "The timing is now."

The study will help facilitate the recognition of the need for water to serve Juab County to be developed beginning now.

CUWCD has agreed to pay for 75 percent of the cost and Juab County has agreed to 25 percent.

Woodland said that he is looking for resources to help pay the county's share.

Those representing CUWCD were Richard Tullis, Assistant General Manager CUWCD; David Pitcher, Assistant General Manager CUWCD; Shawn Lambert, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) CUWCD; and Gerard Yates, Water Quality/Treatment Department Manager CUWCD.

"I think it is a blessing that we did not get the water years ago," said Woodland. "We would have been paying for that water many years ago. We didn't need it and we got by. Now we have the need and CUWCD is behind us. We recognize that the water will be expensive."

The future water may be expensive but, said Yates, if a homebuilder wants a home in Mona he has to have water. If it were possible to find water there, it would likely cost \$1,500 an acre foot. So if that same amount of money was put into the development of water it would not be surprising that it would cost that much to bring an acre-foot to the county.

"There is a plan to get water to Juab County," said Yates.

Rick Carlton, commissioner, asked if there would be capacity in the line being built to Santaquin to carry water into Juab County or would it be like I-15 southbound at 4 p.m.? The county needed some assurance that water would pass all the way at times of peak demand.

Yates said that the line to Santaquin was being kept large and was not being ended out. That means that the pipeline will retain capacity to move water into Juab County.

"You have 10,000 acre feet of water in Utah Lake not yet delivered," said Lambert. "We are maintaining the 5-foot water pipe."

Tullis said that there would be capacity available in the line to add Juab County as they mix and match resources.

"That is one of the issues and one of the easiest of the is-



BE AWARE • There is a new four-way stop on 1300 South in Nephi that residents need to be aware of. The signs were put in to mitigate safety hazards for student's traveling to and from Red Cliffs Elementary. After the signs were installed, residents in the area were concerned that the sign for the east bound lane was hidden behind some trees, but it looks like the tree has been cut back and the city has painted the word "stop" on the roadway. Please adhere to all traffic laws; police will be ticketing those who do not obey the stop signs. See story on page 5.

City will sign three-year contract with Dominion Energy for redundant natural gas line connection

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

Nephi City has an opportunity to provide the natural gas main line with a redundant connection via Dominion Energy near the Currant Creek Power Plant in Mona.

Nephi City operates as the agent for the Juab Rural Development Agency (JRDA) natural gas system. As the agent, the city holds title to the main line and is appointed to enter into all necessary contracts to assure the system remains operable.

Travis Worwood, Nephi City Treasurer, and Seth Atkinson, Nephi City Administrator prepared a written memo for council members which was addressed at their meeting on Tuesday.

"This is a time sensitive action that is needed to be decided on right away," said Atkin-

son. Otherwise, he said, he would have first brought the question before the council at a work session.

The council agreed to approve the three-year contract with Dominion and authorize the mayor to sign the documents.

The gate station connection at Payson has now been paid off so that gives the city money to use to provide a second connection to provide natural gas to the communities connected to the system.

"A redundant connection has been discussed for a few years to help with main line maintenance, continuity of natural gas in the event of natural disasters or accidental damage to the main line, and to facilitate future economic development," said Atkinson.

Not only that, but it was difficult to perform maintenance on a line that could not be shut

down. "Last year there was an accident on I-15 and a car was just six-feet away from shearing off one of our block valves," he said.

That valve is now being protected but it pointed out the need for a second line in case of an emergency.

He said that Sunrise Engineering had provided a cost estimate of \$7.5 million in January 2015 to connect to the Kern River Pipeline approximately 12 miles west of Nephi.

"It would be more today," he said. "The line coming from the west would have been 12 miles long and would have required frequent line leak inspections."

Upon discussion with Dominion Energy (formerly known as Questar) it was determined that they can provide a connection near the Currant Creek Power Plant if the city signs a three year transportation agreement.

"This connection has an estimated cost between \$1.5 to \$2 million to construct a facility and connect the pipeline to the main line in Mona," said Atkinson.

Another benefit to the contract would be that there would be no upfront costs.

In addition, the city uses a gas broker to obtain the best gas costs. In the summer, the system uses less gas and in the winter consumer consumption goes up. The purchase path comes from Price so there are lots of connections where the Nephi system can be sold.

Houwelings is also interested in purchasing gas which will be beneficial. Currently the tomato grower uses propane which is more expensive. Since the line will feed in by Mona that will make it possible

See Gas on page 4

Nephi City purchases land for site of new culinary water tank

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

A culinary water tank to add to the system in Nephi is to be built on the south end of the city.

The largest infrastructure project in the history of Nephi took one more step on Tuesday as the council approved purchase of land.

On Tuesday, the council voted in favor of authorizing Mayor Glade Nielson to sign the agreement for land purchase from Rod Shepherd.

"As part of the water project,

staff has been in the process of land acquisition for future water infrastructure," said Seth Atkinson, city administrator.

For the location of a new south side water tank, staff has been in negotiations with Shepherd on land he owns in that area.

In the agreement between Nephi and Shepherd, the city agreed to pay a total of \$10,000 for the real property and easements.

The agreement is between Nephi City and Rodney W. Shepherd and Carolyn T. Shepherd.

"As part of those negotia-

tions, staff has sought for the ability to use an existing natural drainage ditch to discharge water from the tank should the need arise," he said.

One concern raised by Shepherd is the potential erosion of the ditch if the city were to discharge the water from the tank.

This would typically occur for emergency purposes which are quite rare.

If the city uses the drainage ditch within the Shepherd property, the city will accept responsibility for any damage caused by the city discharging water through the ditch.

"The agreement for the land purchase contains a provision that the city would remediate any damage caused by the discharge of the tank water," said Atkinson.

The risks for damage to the ditch beyond what natural erosion processes would do are quite minimal and the frequency with which the city would ever need to discharge water from the tank in significant quantities is very low.

"Because of this provision, staff needs to seek council approval to continue moving forward with the land purchase," said Atkinson.

See Water on page 2



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Deadlines: Monday 12 noon

Phone

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Office Hours

M-F- 9:30 to Noon

1:00 to 5 p.m.

Our Website

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