

CICWCD Conservation Advisory Board formed

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By Kristen Daniel – Iron County Today

CEDAR CITY – The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District has officially founded the Water Conservation Advisory Board and approved \$7,000 to begin its ultimate mission of seeing citizens and public institutions conserve water every day in the Cedar Valley, where the aquifer is over-mined by about 4,000 acre feet each year.

Citizen activist Doug Hall, who founded the Iron County Association of Taxpayers and who regularly attends the CICWCD monthly board meetings, was appointed chair of the Water Conservation Advisory Board.

CICWCD General Manager Paul Monroe and other district staff, including Candace Schaible, horticulture and water-wise educator for the CICWCD and Iron County Utah State University Extension Office, met with Hall in order to develop a list of the top 12 prioritized suggestions from the advisory board on how to begin an effective conservation effort in the district.

Hall gave a presentation to the CICWCD Board of Directors at its June 20 meeting during which he suggested the district begin working with large, non-agricultural outdoor water users such as Cedar and Enoch Cities, Southern Utah University, and Iron County schools and churches to determine what water conservation activities are in place and what improvements can be made.

Monroe said they will begin with some trial partnerships with the school district at Three Peaks Elementary School in Enoch and an area such as East Canyon Park in Cedar City, and install water-smart sprinklers and modules in large grassy areas to demonstrate the amount of water and money saved and to serve as an example to the public.

“We want to work with the city and the school district to see how we can help them conserve water,” Monroe said. “And then, in turn show the average citizens how they can save money on their yards while conserving precious water.”

Other suggestions offered by Hall were to construct an outdoor audit form to help citizens identify how much water they are using and how to improve their systems and to work with the Iron County Home Builders Association to assist in formulating a strong water conservation policy for new home construction.

The board approved spending \$7,000 for conservation projects in the district.

Hall will be joined on the advisory board by at least 11 other citizens who hail from different corners of the community and have experience or concern for conservation. So far Schaible, Blake DeMille of Rocky Ridge Landscape Rock, Garth Green of Southwest plumbing, Chris Gale of Southern Utah University, Hunter Sheehan, associated with Iron County School District, and Ryan Marshall with the Cedar City Corporation have been invited and agreed to join the advisory board.