



Iron County Water Stewards

Recognizing Terri Hartley, Tyler Melling, and David Harris – City Council Members & CICWCD Board Members

Representation from the Cedar City and Enoch city councils is an important element of the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District's Board of Directors, ensuring each city is involved as the District works to find solutions for the area's water future.

Terri Hartley, Tyler Melling and David Harris are elected city council members, serving on the Board of the regional Water Conservancy District. All three believe the District should continue to pursue the Pine Valley Water Supply Project, which will bring 15,000 acre-feet of water to the Cedar Valley from Pine Valley, about 60 miles northwest of Cedar City.



The project is currently in the Environmental Impact Statement process with the Bureau of Land Management.

Melling, a Cedar City Council Member, called the project "the most financially -and environmentally- sustainable option for Cedar City's future."



The water challenges in the area are no secret, said Harris, who serves on the Enoch City Council. The water table continues to drop as more water is used than replenished, and the community is continuing to grow. In addition, to address the overdrawn aquifer, the State Engineer has established a Groundwater Management Plan, designed to effectively "cut" water rights to reduce usage to sustainable levels.

Hartley, a Cedar City Council Member, said while efforts are being made to optimize all the water in the valley, those efforts are not enough without importing water.

"Re-use of our wastewater, recharge and conservation will not provide the needed water to replace those rights that may be taken

from Iron County under the State's Groundwater Management Plan," she said.

Harris said he sees the Pine Valley Water Supply Project as the best way to provide residents with the water they need, maintain the area's agricultural heritage, and allow people to "move here and be a part of our great community."

Hartley said the Utah Division of Natural Resources has set aggressive conservation goals for the valley, and additional water conservation will be an important component of meeting future demands.

"However, conservation alone will not solve the water issues in our county," she said. "It is imperative we secure and locate additional water resources for our valley" in addition to other efforts.

The project will have a substantial price tag, but the District is working with local municipalities to create a feasible financial plan. It hopes to fund the project through a combination of grants, loans, impact fees, user fees, and property taxes.

Harris said residents have enjoyed some of the least expensive water probably anywhere in the west, and costs will increase, but he doesn't expect those increases to be astronomical. As the Pine Valley Water Supply Project's planning has moved forward they have continually found new, better and more efficient and affordable ways to do the project, and he believes that will continue.

"I am confident that we can accomplish this in a way that keeps things affordable for the citizens of Iron County," Harris said. "We don't want to create a burden for those in our community."

Melling said Cedar City has been working with stakeholders this year to ensure household water remains affordable.

The three city council members said the District has done its due diligence to make sure the environment will not be harmed and the project will be sustainable

The District is working with scientists and engineers from the companies Transcon Environmental and Formation Environmental, as well as leading scientists from the United States Geological Survey and the Bureau of Land Management. Their latest report uses the best and most current science available, and shows that springs in the area of Pine Valley or in Nevada will not be measurably affected by the project.

Hartley said over the past year, alliances have been formed to combine information, resources and best practices, as the Pine Valley Water Supply Project will require a combined effort of all stakeholders.



"It is critical our local municipalities and Water Conservancy District continue to work together to solve the water issues in our valley," she said.

All community members are invited to learn more about the Pine Valley Water Supply Project by attending a Community Briefing on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall at the SUU Hunter Conference Center.

The purpose of the Iron County Water Stewards program is to recognize community members for contributing to the effort to optimize every drop of water in Iron County. The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District (CICWCD) is actively engaged in education, conservation, reuse and import projects to meet the growing demands on local water supply.

For every effort you make to conserve, we consider you a water steward, too. To Get to Know Your H₂O, visit <https://cicwcd.org/>.

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