



Central Iron County Water Conservancy District
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PRESS RELEASE

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Brent Hunter: 18 Years of Dedicated Service on Water Conservancy District Board

As an agricultural producer, Brent Hunter's livelihood relies on water, and he has had a large part in Cedar Valley water issues for almost 50 years.

Paul Monroe, Central Iron County Water Conservancy District General Manager said that Hunter has served on the District Board of Directors since May 2005 and has created a lasting legacy. This month, Hunter resigned from the District Board to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints with his wife.

"He cares deeply about our community and with strong vision has served selflessly on the Board for 18 years," Monroe said. "He has helped the District accomplish amazing things during his tenure."

The year following Hunter's appointment, the District Board secured water for the future by filing for water rights in the West Desert valleys of Basins 14, 69, and 19. Hunter was a key player in ensuring that water could be used for the Cedar Valley, and water rights for over 26,000 acre-feet in Basins 14 & 69 were awarded to the District in 2019. The Pine Valley Water Supply Project in Basin 14 is currently in the planning and development stages to bring 15,000 acre-feet into Cedar Valley.

"Basin 14 water was filed on under his supervision and with tremendous vision of the needs this valley would have in the future," said Kelly Crane, District Engineer. "Today we should thank this visionary man that has allowed for sustainable growth in the valley so our kids and grandchildren may have the water needed for the next 50 years."

Throughout the years, there have been great strides made in agricultural water optimization, and Cedar Valley is leading the way in those efforts, greatly influenced by Hunter. In the 1970s, he worked with the USDA Farm Service Agency to assist farmers in converting from flood irrigation to sprinkler systems. More recently in the past 5-years, he has allowed the latest technological advancements in irrigation research to be conducted by Utah State University at his farm.

From this research, Hunter helped the District partner with the Enterprise & Iron Soil Conservation District to receive grants from the State for agricultural water optimization. Over \$200,000 was received in 2018 to convert irrigation pivots to more efficient watering systems. To date, over 2,000 acres have been converted, resulting in an approximate savings of 260 to 325 million gallons of water each year.

“Brent Hunter brought with him an agricultural background along with banking foresight and a healthy amount of understanding of how to get things accomplished,” said Crane. “His leadership in seeing the long term needs of the valley and the cities the Water District serves has brought about plans that will be realized many years into the future.”

In 2008, Hunter was appointed as chairman of the CICWCD Board, and has served in that capacity since. Under his leadership, the District has built infrastructure which supplies redundancy to Enoch City and Cedar City, as well as supplying subdivisions in the unincorporated county.

Just recently the District received a grant/loan combination for the District’s water improvement project that will include new wells, tanks, and additional waterlines to help prepare for future growth and continued coordination with local cities.

The creation of several local recharge projects began in 2017, under the direction of the District Board. Since that time, 6.5 billion gallons have been conserved and returned to the aquifer.

Hunter has exemplified a life of service, and doing so has also served as board member for State Bank of Southern Utah, Northwest Field Irrigation Company, Coal Creek Irrigation Company, USDA Farm Service Agency, and Enterprise & Iron Soil Conservation District.

“The impact of Brent’s service in the community and specifically on the District Board is truly immeasurable,” said Monroe. “We will miss his expertise and leadership but wish him lots of luck in his next exciting endeavor.”

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Photo Captions:

#1- Brent Hunter at his last District Board Meeting after 18 years of dedicated service. (L-R Back: Kelly Crane, Justin Wayment, Tyler Allred, Paul Nelson & L-R Front: Andy McCrae, David Harris, Tyler Melling, Brent Hunter, Paul Monroe, Mandi Williams)

#2- Brent Hunter poses in front of a monument during a tour of the Central Arizona Project in 2015. This tour helped spur the creation of local recharge projects.

#3- Brent Hunter in front of a test well. The District is in the planning and development stages of the Pine Valley Water Supply Project in Basin 14.

Who We are:

The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District was created by a vote of Cedar Valley residents more than two decades ago. It has consistently been dedicated to developing and stabilizing the valley’s water supply through conservation, recharge, reuse, and sourcing water for the benefit of all current and future water users in the region. The District utilizes scientists, experts and professionals to understand the valley’s underground aquifer and to determine responsible solutions for the community as it strives to meet local water challenges. For reliable information about Cedar Valley’s water situation, please visit <https://cicwcd.org/>.

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