Ivins City Staff Report
City Council Meeting 12/19/2024

Agenda Item: Discuss and consider expenditure for dam rock facing of Ivins Reservoir

Submitted by: Charles R. Gillette, P.E., Public Works Director and City Engineer

Recommended City Council Action:
Staff has no recommendation for this item

BACKGROUND:

Ivins Reservoir Dam is an earthfill dam, and State of Utah Dam Safety has identified the need for it to be covered with a rock facing to prevent erosion and deter burrowing animals from compromising its integrity.

The Washington County Water Conservancy District is responsible for maintaining the dam and installing the new rock facing. They have determined that the most economical solution is to use crushed lava rock, which gives the dam a grey appearance. The District has asked either the City or the adjacent property owner to cover any additional costs if a different type of rock is desired.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

Alternative rock materials have been identified for use on the Ivins Reservoir Dam, along with their associated costs:

- **Crushed Lava Basalt (Baseline):** $32,000
- **Purplish Rock Option:** $45,000 *(pending testing to confirm its suitability)*
- **Rebel Red Option:** $78,000

Terry and Matt Marten of Kayenta initially expressed a preference for the Rebel Red option. However, due to its significantly higher cost, they have indicated a willingness to support the Purplish Rock option instead. They remain opposed to the use of crushed lava basalt. Choosing the Purplish Rock option would result in an additional expense of $13,000.

Kayenta has stated their willingness to contribute a portion of the additional cost but believes the expense should not be borne solely by them, as the dam improvements provide benefits to the broader community. As such, they are requesting financial participation from either the District, the City, or both to support the Purplish Rock option.

Staff has been in discussions with the District to secure additional cost-sharing commitments. However, as of the preparation of this report, no confirmation has been received. Efforts are ongoing, and staff anticipates receiving a response prior to the upcoming Council meeting.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:
Picture of Purple Rock

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
Up to $13,000

Respectfully Submitted:

Charles Gillette, P.E., Public Works Director & City Engineer

Content Review:

Dale Coulam, City Manager