DECEMBER 8, 2021
WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING 2:00 P.M.
THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY
IN ACCORDANCE WITH UCA52-4-207(5)(A), AN ANCHOR LOCATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND THE OPEN PORTIONS OF THE MEETING. MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE REQUIRED IN ALL CITY FACILITIES.

City Council Chambers
217 East Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

1. Call To Order
2. Approval Of Minutes
   2.I. October 13, 2021
   Documents:
   WB-MIN-2021-10-13 DRAFT.PDF
3. Board And Staff Reports
4. Action Item: Water Board Letter To City Council
   Documents:
   WATER BOARD LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL-DEC 1 DRAFT.PDF
5. Discussion Item: WaterNOW Presentation Regarding Greywater And Landscaping
6. Adjournment

Special Accommodations:
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations during this meeting should notify the Recorder’s Office at 217 East Center Street, Moab, Utah 84532; or phone (435) 259-5121 at least three (3) working days prior to the meeting.
Check our website for updates at: www.moabcity.org
The Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board held its regular meeting on the above date at the Moonstone Gallery, located at 217 East Center Street. An audio recording of the meeting is archived at http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html.

**Regular Meeting—Call to Order and Attendance:**
Water Board Chair Jeremy Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM. In attendance were Water Board Members Kara Dohrenwend, Eve Tallman, Arne Hultquist, and Mike Duncan. Water Board Members Kyle Bailey and Steve Getz were absent. City staff participating remotely were Sustainability Director Mila Dunbar-Irwin, Recorder Sommar Johnson, and Deputy Recorder Kerri Kirk.

**Approval of Minutes: August 11, 2021**

*Motion:* Board Member Tallman moved to approve the minutes of August 11, 2021. Board Member Dohrenwend seconded the motion.

*Discussion:* Board Member Tallman said the minutes were really well done. Board Vice Chair Hultquist agreed.

*Vote:* The motion passed 5-0 with Board Members Lynch, Hultquist, Duncan, Tallman, and Dohrenwend voting aye. Board Members Bailey and Getz were absent for the vote.

**Board and Staff Reports:**

Board Vice Chair Hultquist reported the Utah Water Task Force will meet today to discuss the Water Conservation Plan requirements. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said the discussion will include modifying the deadlines for future water conservation plans. There was a discussion about the state’s level of control for the conservation goal amounts.

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin reported that the public hearing for the Water Conservation Plan update will be during the next City Council meeting on October 26. Board Member Dohrenwend inquired about the timeline for suggested modifications to the plan. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said the update plan has not changed since the Water Board reviewed it last, but there is still time to review it prior to the December deadline.

Board Member Duncan reported that Well #12 is able to produce 700 gallons/minute. He said more tests are being run by USGS on that well.

Board Member Tallman reported following the municipal election candidates and their opinions regarding water conservation. She said it is generally uplifting to know that a number of candidates view water as a top concern.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist said there is a legislative committee for water and a Utah Water Task Force. He said Representative Lyman is part of the legislative committee. He said the committee’s list of priorities includes a pipeline from Colorado River to Ken’s Lake. Board Member Dohrenwend requested a copy of the committee’s priorities for the Water Board to review.

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin reported that the Utah Water Conservation Forum will meet in Moab on October 15 to review green infrastructure, greywater, and creeks.
Action Item: Water Board Future

Discussion: Board Chair Lynch introduced the topic and requested input from the Water Board. Board Member Tallman said the structure of the Water Board is determined by City Council. She said one municipal election candidate has expressed concern about the Water Board being suspended in the future. She said that, in her opinion, city staff has usurped the Water Board’s responsibilities. There was a discussion about forming a recommendation for City Council regarding the Water Board’s structure and direction going forward. There was discussion about how often to meet and which topics need focused on. Board Member Dohrenwend said the focus should be on education and outreach for water conservation. Board Member Duncan expressed frustration about the different opinions for Moab’s water supply.

Board Member Dohrenwend suggested asking for direction from Council regarding the Water Board’s structure and focus. She expressed frustration about the level of support from city staff. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said she would like direction from Council as well.

Board Chair Lynch reviewed the options for the future of the Water Board. There was a discussion about how often the meetings should occur. Board Member Tallman said Council has a visioning meeting at the beginning of the year and Water Board could present priorities at that time.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist said the Water Board has suggested conservation efforts to city staff in the past, but nothing came to fruition. He agreed that too much time has been spent on the issue of water supply. He said the focus should be on social engineering. He said bi-monthly meetings would be the minimum requirement to be effective. There was a discussion about staff support and communication expectations between meetings.

Board Member Tallman proposed meeting with Council in January to redefine expectations for the year. Board Chair Lynch suggested a December Water Board meeting to refine the expectations and direction needed from Council. Board Vice Chair Hultquist suggested the meeting take place in the council chambers. There was a discussion about making it a hybrid meeting.

Board Member Tallman offered to draft the Water Board’s accomplishments for the next meeting. There was discussion about including the board’s top priorities, seeking direction from Council, and requesting coordination with city staff and Council. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin offered to summarize the staff perspective and communication pathways for the next meeting. There was a discussion about the OPMA (Open and Public Meetings Act) while preparing the documents for the December meeting.

Action Item: Adopt Amended Bylaws

Discussion: Board Vice Chair Hultquist said the redlined document was difficult to understand, but it looked like everything was included in the amended bylaws. Motion: Board Vice Chair Hultquist moved to approve the bylaws as amended. Board Member Dohrenwend seconded the motion. Discussion: Board Member Tallman said the bylaws appeared to be amended as was discussed previously. Vote: The motion passed 5-0 with Board Members Lynch, Hultquist, Duncan, Tallman, and Dohrenwend voting aye. Board Members Bailey and Getz were absent for the vote.

Discussion Item: Sustainability Action Plan Water Section

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin introduced the Sustainability Action Plan and said this is
the beginning of the process. She said there will be five technical advisory groups to review and contribute to particular sections of the plan. She said the information in the water section is from the Water Conservation Plan update. There was discussion about the timeline, prioritization, and potential topics to include in the plan. Board Chair Lynch suggested a big gesture to get people’s attention, such as changing the grass at the parks to green infrastructure. Board Vice Chair Hultquist suggested involving Dr. Kristina Young, USU Extension Assistant Professor, with the education and outreach. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin confirmed that Dr. Young will be involved.

**Discussion Item: Final Draft Water Conservation Plan Update**  
(1:35:59)  
Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said all of the requirements are included in the updated plan. Board Member Dohrenwend said the tables and charts were not included in the document. She suggested edits to the Mill Creek and Pack Creek sections of the plan. There was a discussion about the build-out amount. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin welcomed comments and suggestions via email after the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Board Chair Lynch adjourned the meeting at 3:52 PM.
Welcome and thank you for your service to the citizens and ecosystems of Moab.

The Moab City Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board (often shortened to Water Advisory Board, WAB, Water Board or herein simply the “board”) is a volunteer citizen advisory group with a responsibility to inform Council on policies and practices to ensure a quality water supply for current and future residents of Moab. The seven-member board is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. Many boardmembers have participated since the inception of the group in 2017.

An important exercise in which the City engages is to produce a state-mandated Water Conservation Plan every five years. The 2021 Plan was recently adopted by Council in December. The prior (2016) Plan laid out several goals and objectives which have been accomplished over the past five years, namely:

- forming the board;
- hiring a full-time Sustainability Director;
- hiring a water rights attorney; and
- developing a public education campaign regarding outdoor landscape watering.

The board contributed to many milestones including:

- provided input on draft Manti-La Sal Forest Management Plan (the Forest encompasses most of Moab’s watershed);
- advocated for graywater reuse systems and green infrastructure;
- developed, with the Sustainability Director, water saving tips for overnight accommodations, public restrooms and the MRAC;
- encouraged Council to engage a consultant to study Moab’s aquifer and estimate supply;
- sought to understand Moab’s “water budget”;
- embarked on a review of Moab City’s water rights;
- endorsed code revisions regarding efficient plumbing fixtures, use of culinary water for non-culinary purposes and reducing impact on water supply.

In addition, the board has considered secondary water sources (non-potable irrigation water); and has raised awareness of challenges to the City’s water supply, primarily driven by unchecked development in the valley.

Separately from the board, City staff have launched an effort to create a regional water authority, which is ultimately the purview of the Division of Water Rights (DWR). More work needs to be done to ensure an appropriate group of stakeholders participate in such a coalition. The board has developed informational materials for Council and other decision-makers to understand the regional water situation including the area’s water resources, ownership and over-allocation of the water rights, limits to production, potential future sources and more.

The 2021 Water Conservation Plan outlines several goals that the board is considering investigating this coming year with Council’s approbation and direction. Broadly speaking, the board’s historical interests can be classified into either “conservation” or “water quantity” or “supply” topics. Among the proposed projects are:

- Conservation techniques, education programs and initiatives for the public.
- Estimating water demand impacts and sanitary sewer capacity for forthcoming developments at Powerhouse Lane, Lionsback, USU/SITLA housing, and a potential Kane Creek subdivision, as well as smaller amounts of in-fill and ADU density increases.
- Updating existing mathematical models by ensuring proper monitoring of spring flow and well levels to determine if and when our aquifers are being overdrawn.
- Researching new water sources.
- Understanding how to delay implementation of new culinary water sources, including exploration of tighter conservation standards for new development and incentives for existing users; reduction of residential and/or commercial development; and substitution of secondary (nonpotable) water instead of culinary water for landscaping uses where not already implemented.

Essential to the board’s effectiveness is meaningful City staff coordination and resource allocation to support our deliberations, suggestions and recommendations. Current board members believe this discussion around coordination, support and direction should open a broader conversation on board priorities in 2022 and beyond.

The board greatly appreciates your thoughts, questions, opinions and direction. We look forward to meeting in person to discuss these foundational needs and our recommendations moving forward.