Moab City Council Agenda Item
Meeting Date: July 13th, 2021

Title: Water Conservation Plan Update Draft Presentation / Discussion
Presenter: Mila Dunbar-Irwin, Sustainability Director
Attachment(s): Draft Water Conservation Plan Update 2021; Water Conservation Plan 2016

Recommended Motion: N/A

Background/Summary:

The Water Conservation Plan Act (73-10-32, UCA) requires every water conservancy district and public water system with over 500 connections to submit a water conservation plan to the Division of Water Resources every five years. The City of Moab last submitted a plan in 2016. The state has asked for a draft for review on or around July 15th, with adoption by City Council required by December 31st of this year.

The Water Conservation and Drought Management Board, City Engineering staff, Public Works Director, and the Sustainability Director have worked together to write this draft Water Conservation Plan for 2021. It is presented to Council for initial review and feedback today, with the expectation that there will be additional opportunities between now and December to make any requested changes, as well as to review any changes the State recommends.

Much of the information in the plan is required by the state, and is not up for debate – this includes the majority of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The area of the plan most in need of Council feedback is Section 6 regarding conservation policy, goals, and intentions. A summary sheet with proposed ideas is attached.

Utah DWR established Regional Conservation Goals in November 2019 which have replaced the statewide 25% reduction target previously set by the Governor. The Regional Goal for Moab is 267 gallons / person / day, or a 20% reduction from current regional average, by 2030. Moab is currently at 278GCPD, well on the way to meet this goal, and we have proposed a more ambitious, and still achievable, target instead - cutting outdoor irrigation by 50% by 2030 and, taking into account population projections, keeping our current total residential water use at the same level as it is in 2021. This conservative approach allows for the uncertainty in the aquifer measurements, and insists that new development not use any more water than is already available, while reducing current wasteful outdoor watering practices.