CITY OF MOAB
WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2021

The Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board held its regular meeting on the above date. Consistent with provisions of the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act, Utah Code Ann. §54-2-207(4), the Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board Chair has issued written determinations supporting the decision to convene electronic meetings of the Board without a physical anchor location. Due to the health and safety risks related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and considering public health orders limiting in-person gatherings, the Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board will continue to hold meetings by electronic means. An anchor location was not provided. An audio recording of the meeting is archived at http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html. A video recording is archived at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ugo5y07CcW4.

Regular Meeting—Call to Order and Attendance:
Water Board Chair Jeremy Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM. Participating remotely were Water Board Members Arne Hultquist, Kara Dohrenwend, Kyle Bailey, Steve Getz, Mike Duncan, and Eve Tallman. City staff participating remotely were Sustainability Director Mila Dunbar-Irwin, Recorder Sommar Johnson, and Deputy Recorder Kerri Kirk. City Engineer Chuck Williams and Public Works Director Levi Jones joined the meeting at 2:11 PM.

Written Determination to Conduct Electronic Meetings:
Board Chair Lynch read the written determination into the minutes.

Approval of Minutes: July 14, 2021, Regular Meeting
Motion: Board Member Tallman moved to approve the minutes as written. Board Member Duncan seconded the motion.
Discussion: Board Vice Chair Hultquist requested an edit to remove Board Member Dohrenwend from the vote to approve the minutes last time, since she was absent from the meeting. Board Chair Lynch inquired if Board Member Tallman would amend her motion to include that revision. Board Member Tallman indicated that she agreed with that amendment.
Vote: The amended motion passed 7-0 with Board Members Lynch, Hultquist, Getz, Duncan, Tallman, Bailey, and Dohrenwend voting aye.

Board and Staff Reports:
Board Chair Lynch said the following discussion item on the agenda would be deferred to later in the meeting so that Assistant City Manager Castle could hopefully provide an update.

Board Member Tallman reported sending out the originating ordinance for the Water Board prior to the start of the meeting, since it was not included in the agenda packet.

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin reported receiving the work proposal from the WaterNow Alliance regarding the greywater and landscape ordinances. She said their estimated completion date would be in February. She said the first task will be the needs assessment, and they will be contacting members of the Water Board for assistance.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist inquired if the draft water conservation plan was submitted to the state; Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin confirmed it was. She said the draft would be returned from the state within a couple of weeks. Board Vice Chair Hultquist requested that the
revised document be available for review at least two weeks prior to the Water Board meeting. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said she will review the state’s comments and work to address or incorporate them in the plan before submitting it to the Water Board for a final review.

City Engineer Williams reported that Well #12 is underway, and they are supposed to start the borehole this week. He said they went to 400 feet and got water. He added that UGS came down and did some downhill geophysical logging, and the project is moving forward. Board Vice Chair Hultquist inquired about financing for the extended drawdown test. City Engineer Williams said the standard drawdown test will be completed. He said they are trying to figure out a monitoring system during that test to observe how the other wells and springs are impacted.

**Discussion Item: Water Board Purpose and Future—Deferred to later in the meeting**

**Potential Action Item: Bylaws Amendment – Quorum**

**Discussion:** Board Chair Lynch said this topic has been discussed at a few meetings. He said the bylaws currently require a three-member quorum, and the consideration is for increasing that number to four. Board Vice Chair Hultquist said a quorum should require at least half of the board, so he recommended increasing the quorum to four. Board Member Dohrenwend said an even number could be rough. Board Member Tallman agreed with Board Vice Chair Hultquist. Board Member Getz said Robert’s Rules of Order requires a quorum to be 50% or more, so the number would need to increase to four.

Board Member Tallman also suggested an amendment to the bylaws to continue having electronic meetings. City Recorder Johnson stated that Resolution #01-2020 was adopted by the Water Board last year to conduct electronic meetings.

**Motion:** Board Vice Chair Hultquist moved to amend the bylaws to include, not only move to change the quorum from three to four, but also that the bylaws state we have the opportunity for electronic meetings if we so choose. Board Member Getz seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-0 with Board Members Getz, Duncan, Dohrenwend, Hultquist, Tallman, Lynch, and Bailey voting aye.

**Discussion Item: WaterSMART Grant for MIC System Upgrades**

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said she was researching this grant in relation to the Moab Irrigation Company (MIC). She said the grant is for upgrades to systems like the MIC and it’s specifically designed to support efficiency. She said the challenge is that the grant requires a 50% match. Board Member Duncan provided information about the MIC’s current setup and the cost to upgrade their system. Board Vice Chair Hultquist said that any avenue to get more secondary water use in the city would be beneficial in the long run. Board Member Tallman requested a cover page for agenda items to detail what is expected of the Water Board.

City Engineer Williams said the city, GWSSA, and the San Juan Spanish Valley Special Service District are proceeding with a valley-wide water utility resource management plan. He said they want to include the MIC, but the understanding is that they are not set up for that type of funding at this time. He said the plan will include secondary water uses and opportunities. There was a discussion about precipitation gauges.

**Discussion Item: Concepts of Yield**

Board Vice Chair Hultquist said there was a discussion at the MAWP meeting regarding safe yield and the state engineer’s interpretation of it. He said there are alternative methods to
determine safe yield, and the community could determine the affordable amount of environmental degradation. Board Member Getz offered to research what communities in Arizona, Nevada, and Colorado have done when safe yield was reached. There was a discussion about paper and wet water rights. City Engineer Williams said the city is working on developing a legally compliant ordinance that will require developers to bring water to the table.

**Discussion Item: Water Board Purpose and Future**

Board Chair Lynch requested input regarding the purpose and future of the Water Board. There was a discussion about the effectiveness of the board, and whether a two-hour meeting every month is a meaningful contribution to the city. There was a discussion about the board developing recommendations for conservation policies. Board Member Getz inquired about the open meeting policy procedures for emails. Board Member Dohrenwend said there cannot be a quorum having discussions and making up their minds prior to an actual meeting. Board Vice Chair Hultquist added that documents can be shared outside of the meetings, but there cannot be discussions about the documents outside of a Water Board meeting.

Board Member Tallman provided the history of the board’s operations.

Board Chair Lynch reviewed the suggestions for the board’s structure and the possibility of not meeting regularly. He said the meetings could be scheduled based on the needs of the city instead. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said it would be helpful to have the board’s input regarding the conservation policies and the community’s priorities.

Board Chair Lynch said there are no items for next month’s agenda.

Board Member Tallman inquired about the sustainability budget and the creation of the valley wide water resource management plan. City Engineer Williams confirmed the plan is underway. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin reported acquiring some project funding for ads and mailings. She said another option is to create a fund for the savings from efficiency improvements which can be used for further improvements. She said she did obtain a $25,000 technical assistance grant for writing the landscape and greywater ordinances.

Board Chair Lynch said it appears there are opportunities for meaningful discussions and contributions by the Water Board, but the meetings may not occur with regularity. He said it would be a matter of determining on a monthly basis if there are particular items to discuss that would result in meaningful contributions. There was a discussion about assisting with the final draft of the updated water conservation plan. Board Chair Lynch recommended cancelling the meeting in September. The Water Board and city staff supported the recommendation. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin suggested discussing the water section of the sustainability action plan at the October meeting.

**Adjournment:** Board Chair Lynch adjourned the meeting at 3:49 PM.