

CITY OF MOAB
WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2021

The Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board held its regular meeting electronically on the above date. An audio recording of the meeting is archived at <http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>, and a video recording is archived <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pt7xrCFTHMQ>.

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 Kara Dohrenwend, Steve Getz, Mike Duncan, and Eve Tallman. Board Member Kyle Bailey was absent. City staff participating remotely were Sustainability Director Mila Dunbar-Irwin, Public Works Director Levi Jones, City Engineer Chuck Williams, and Recorder Sommar Johnson. Board Vice Chair Arne Hultquist joined the meeting at 2:10 PM. Presenters Victoria Arling and Lindsay Rogers participated remotely at 2:45 PM.

Approval of Minutes: October 13, 2021

Motion: Board Member Tallman moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting without changes. Board Member Duncan seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0 with Board Members Lynch, Getz, Duncan, Dohrenwend, and Tallman voting aye. Board Members Hultquist and Bailey were not present for the vote.

Board and Staff Reports:

Board Member Duncan reported attending a meeting with Mayor-Elect Langianese and Councilmember Derasary about water and the Water Board. He said that he offered to run numbers for new developments to see how close Moab is to the water threshold.

City Engineer Williams reported meeting with the consultant for Well #12. He said the summary of the well is not complete yet, but the completed summary will be sent to the Water Board and City Council in a couple of weeks.

Board Member Duncan requested that Public Works Director Jones fix the sidewalk on 100 North. Public Works Director Jones said the repair is scheduled for this week. He said the delay was due to moisture.

Board Member Duncan inquired about the Pack Creek bridge that had been closed off. Public Works Director Jones said the bridge is still closed, but it is passable if you use caution.

Action Item: Water Board Letter to City Council

Discussion: Board Chair Lynch introduced the topic and thanked Board Member Tallman for drafting the letter. Board Member Tallman suggested a couple of edits to the letter. Board Vice Chair Hultquist said he thought the main emphasis of the letter was to engage City Council to request support from City staff. There was discussion about presenting the letter to City Council at their second meeting in January.

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin requested a discussion on the letter's content to be consistent with OPMA (Open & Public Meetings Act). Board Chair Lynch and Board Member Tallman reviewed the purpose and contents of the letter.

Board Chair Lynch requested direction on presenting the letter to the mayor. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin suggested that City staff discuss the topic with the mayor in January to determine when it will be presented. Board Chair Lynch requested that Board Member Tallman finalize the letter with any edits that have been discussed. Board Member Tallman requested a revision from Board Vice Chair Lynch to simplify the water facts portion of the letter.

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said an Americorps Vista will start work mid-January, and he can assist with the document's design.

Board Member Tallman assured everyone that she followed OPMA when drafting the letter.

While waiting for the presenters of the next agenda item, the Water Board discussed topics for the next month's agenda. City Recorder Johnson said the following Water Board terms are expiring at the end of the year: Board Chair Lynch, and Board Members Duncan and Bailey. There was discussion about which Board Members would renew their terms in January. Board Chair Lynch proposed an eight-minute break to give the presenters time to join the meeting.

Discussion Item: WaterNOW Presentation Regarding Greywater and Landscaping

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin introduced the topic. She said this is a research collaboration with Western Resource Advocates and the WaterNOW Alliance. Victoria Arling, Colorado Basin Program Manager for the WaterNOW Alliance, shared a presentation. She introduced the other presenter as Lindsay Rogers, a Water Policy Analyst for Western Resource Advocates. First, Arling asked everyone to introduce themselves. Next, Arling and Rogers presented options and requested feedback on water-wise landscaping and greywater code modifications. There was discussion about usable turf, plant lists that are applicable for Moab, organic matter soil amendments, mulch, vegetable gardens, greywater requirements, and rainwater harvesting concerns. Board Member Dohrenwend suggested a highly active outreach and education program to coincide with the landscaping and greywater recommendations/requirements. There was a discussion about native versus drought tolerant plants. Board Member Getz requested that the updates to the code come as recommended practices instead of strict requirements. Board Chair Lynch suggested adding a financial incentive with the recommendations. Board Member Dohrenwend suggested taking photos of landscapes that exemplify low water use to show the diverse ways to accomplish this. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said there will be ecological block parties where people on a particular block will switch to water-wise landscapes, which will provide more fitting examples for the community. Both presenters shared their contact information: va@waternow.org and lindsay.rogers@westernresources.org.

Adjournment: Board Chair Lynch adjourned the meeting at 4:02 PM.