

Moab City Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: April 12, 2022

Title: Approval of a Task Order to develop a Water Utility Resource Management Plan

Disposition: Discussion and possible action

Staff Presenter: Chuck Williams, City Engineer

Attachment(s):

Attachment 1 – Task Order for the Water Utility Resource Management Plan

Recommended Motion:

“I move to approve the Task Order for Hansen, Allen & Luce, Inc. to develop the Water Utility Resource Management Plan and authorize the Mayor to sign it.”

Background/Summary:

There are 3 primary Public Water Systems in the Moab/Spanish Valley (Valley). They are:

1. City of Moab
2. Grand Water & Sewer Services Agency
3. San Juan County Special Services District

These agencies have authorities and responsibilities as authorized by the Utah Safe Drinking Water Act (Title 19, Chapter 4 of the Utah Code) and other applicable statutes.

Part of the Vision of the State Division of Drinking Water (DDW) is “to empower water systems to be more resilient, proactive, and with a greater financial and technical capacity; to be able to plan for and provide Utahns with access to safe and reliable drinking water now and into the future.” The planning effort being proposed within this document is consistent with this Vision.

Over the last five years several scientific studies have been completed regarding existing and future water supply in the Valley. Based on the studies and subsequent analysis City staff and the Utah Division of Water Rights (UDWR) staff agree that the Valley has not exceeded safe yield, the condition whereby the aquifer is being consumed more than it is being recharged. If safe yield had been exceeded UDWR has the authority to conduct a state led Groundwater Management Plan. UDWR has chosen not to do that at this time.

In the interest of being proactive in managing the water resource in the Valley under their purview the 3 Primary Water Systems have formed a Coalition to collaboratively work together on water issues as they relate to their statutory responsibilities. The Water Utility Resource Management Plan (Plan) is the result of discussions with the Coalition and UDWR over the last 6 months. This plan will assist these agencies in implementing policies intended to ensure resilient water resource management for residents, visitors, and businesses for the next 100 years. The Plan will be prepared by Hansen, Allen & Luce, one

of the premier Water Resource firms in the state and a firm that is on our On-Call Professional Services list.

Since the two Districts do not have land use authority that may be beneficial in implementing the Plan, Grand and San Juan County have also agreed to participate in the Plan process. The City has not only Primary Water System status but also has land use authority.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) previously approved by Council provides for sharing of the costs for development of the Plan. The City has the money for the study budgeted as part of the 2021 Water Bond. The sharing of costs is based on a five-year average of culinary water use by the Coalition partners.

City staff recommends approval of the Task Order as it will allow for development of a locally led and adopted Water Utility Resource Management Plan that will evaluate policies and projects that will provide for water in the Valley for the next 100-years.