

**CITY OF MOAB**  
**WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 8, 2020**

**Regular Meeting and Attendance:** The Moab City Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board held a Regular Meeting on the above date in the City Council Chambers at the Moab City Center, located at 217 East Center Street, Moab, Utah. An audio recording of the meeting is archived at: <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>. A video recording is the archived at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bl8gLGMFrik&t=223s>

**Call to Order:** Board Chair Kara Dohrenwend called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM in the City Council Chambers located at 217 East Center Street in Moab. In attendance were Board members Arne Hultquist, Mike Duncan, Kyle Bailey, Kara Dohrenwend, Jeremy Lynch, Denver Perkins and John Gould. Staff in were Assistant City Manager Carly Castle, Assistant City Engineer Eric Johanson and Deputy Recorder Joey Allred. One member of the public or media was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Board member Hultquist moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2019, October 2, 2019 and October 9, 2019. Board Members Lynch seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Board members Dohrenwend, Perkins, Duncan, Lynch, Bailey and Hultquist voting aye. The November 13, 2019 meeting minutes were tabled until the February 12, 2020 meeting for edits.

**Citizens to be Heard:** There were no citizens to be heard.

**Board and Staff Reports:**

Board Member Hultquist said that the meeting with Mark Stillson in November on the groundwater monitoring went well. Stillson mentioned that one of the things he believes is missing from the North end of the valley is a gauge at at least one of the springs that discharge. Board Member Hultquist also noted that there will be a meeting next week directly after the MAWP meeting from 2:30 -3:30 PM at the Grand Center where they will discuss what groundwater monitoring is currently taking place in the middle section of the valley. Board Member Hultquist said that one thing that will be necessary to consider is monitoring of one of the springs that discharges at the bottom end of the Glen Canyon group to determine whether less water is coming out of that spring over the years. It was suggested at that meeting that the City provide said monitoring as they have water rights to that spring. Stillson insinuated that the City wasn't taking measurements there for the entire flow, only what is being diverted. Johanson confirmed that he believed that to be the case. Board Member Duncan mentioned the USGS report and what it had said about the Glen Canyon Aquifer. He was informed that the report is done, but they are doing some revisions for formatting purposes. Board Member Hultquist is on a list to get a copy of the report as soon as it is accepted. Assistant Engineer Johanson stated that staff is going with the Ken Kolm report rather than the USGS report. Board Member Hultquist asked Johanson how the peer review on the Kolm report was going. Johanson said that City Engineer Williams has been the one dealing with that.

**Nomination and Selection of Board Chair:**

**Discussion:**

**Motion and Vote:** Board Member Hultquist moved to table this agenda item. Board Member Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 with Board Members Bailey, Hultquist, Dohrenwend, Lynch, Duncan, Perkins and Gould voting aye.

***Adopt 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule:***

***Discussion:*** There was no discussion

***Motion and Vote:*** Board Member Hultquist moved to approve the 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule on the second Wednesday of every month at 2:00 PM. Board Member Lynch seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 with Board Members Bailey, Hultquist, Dohrenwend, Lynch, Duncan, Perkins and Gould voting aye.

***Presentation and Discussion of Role of the Advisory Board:***

Assistant City Manager Castle provided a presentation on the Role of the Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board according to Moab City Municipal Code 2.90.40. In the City's Current form of government all the powers of the Municipal Government rests with the City Council. It exercises legislative, administrative and quasi-judicial powers. They employ a City Manager to act as Chief Executive Officer of the City. The Planning Commission has quasi-judicial and administrative powers as well. There is also opportunity to exercise legislative authority, such as when they are developing new zoning standards or preparing a General Plan. However, none of these decisions are final. Everything must go through City Council for final approval. Advisory Boards such as this body have purely persuasive authority. They advise, and unlike the Planning Commission, the Board doesn't have legislative or quasi-judicial authority. The role of this body is to develop recommended policy and programming and to give advice on specific topics or issues. An advisory board's purview is limited by the mechanism that created the board. This Board was created by an ordinance that outlines the scope of what the board can offer advise on. It would be good to review the ordinance regularly to make sure that the board is remaining within the scope of what the City Council has given them the authority to advise on. Castle has read through the ordinance and the bylaws of the board and sees the board as having a very water specific mission. Number seven of the ordinance shows that it's not about advising City Council, it's about providing advice or technical guidance to City staff on technical issues on water related utility planning. Castle believes that one of the things that the board is struggling with is that they are often discussing water resource management which is much broader than water conservation. Water conservation is one component of water resource management. Water conservation is how people use the supply of water. Water resource management is a function of the City manager, City Engineer and Public Works Director with guidance and input from the Council. The City has a Water Resource Manager, but not a Conservation Manager. Without a Water Conservation Manager, the City can't achieve any water Conservation Goals from the Water Conservation Plan. That is the value of this plan is that the City Water Conservation Board that fills the position of a Water Conservation Manager as the board is a cross section of the community with a variety of expertise and experience. Board member Perkins asked if that wasn't what the Sustainability Director does? Castle explained that the Sustainability Director is multifaceted and not just water conservation. Board member Perkins believes that number six of the ordinance "Perform strategic planning and annual program evaluations for the Moab water conservation and drought management program," because he is concerned about the Board's role. There was discussion over whether the board is just supposed to advise for minor water conservation or if they can look at something like the USGS report and advise on what they might or might not agree with and why. Castle said that the USGS report is something for a Water Resources Manager to look at and say, what does this mean for my supply and demand? Can I manage the supply that I have? The answer that would come back from staff may be no and that they need a water conservation plan and programming to meet

specific goals depending on the supply. This board should look at the USGS report and be informed and they should be setting water conservation goals based on the information that is provided by such reports. The answer won't only be that they need to conserve more, it will include such things as the need to build redundancy into their system, the need to stop emitting so much carbon into the atmosphere and the need to identify sources of drinking water. There are a large amount of actions and recommendations that will come from that type of information. Castle said that what this board has is, "what kind of conservation programming do we need to reach the conservation goals." The state and the City already have recommended conservation goals that have been set. Castle believes that the City needs a lot of help with water conservation programming and that is where is board comes in. This board provides valuable information to staff. There are topics that she believes could be workshopped in this board such as updating the water conservation plan by next year, developing ordinance for the water shortage and drought contingencies, advising City staff and consultants on conservation pricing for updated water rates, developing more robust water conservation-related outreach and education for the community. Board Member Baily said that Council has expected more from the board in the past. Board Member Hultquist said that his prior conversations with Councilmembers indicated that they wanted the board to assist with water resource management. Board Member Lynch saw that updating the water conservation plan could include all the topics that they have discussed into a template of research that could be reviewed as opposed to having the issues dispersed. Castle recommended that the venue by which that can stay within the code would be to update the text of the plan. Castle explained that the members of the board have such expertise in different areas that they could propose their goal, explain what the board's vision is, what they would like to see happen, how it relates to other goals and how it will help them achieve their mission statement and bigger goals. Then they might pull planning, engineering and/or finance aside and possibly workshop the matter to make it a well thought out proposal. Board Chair Dohrenwend had concerns with this volunteer board drafting the conservation plan and she didn't see that as being functional. Castle said that they would start with the current draft and identify specific policies and programs that they want to implement. Board Chair Dohrenwend asked if there was someone on City staff that would be able to do that revision? Castle said that she would be staffing the board for the foreseeable future. Board member Duncan thought that the name of the board should be broadened, and the name changed to Water Advisory Board that would include these topics but would also include water quantity issues. The Board agreed. Castle explained that the City Council are the ones that can change an ordinance, not an advisory board. The board would need to speak to council and explain that they would like to expand the board. Board Chair Dohrenwend reminded the board of how they came into being and how they have done things that have been reactive, in part, because it is difficult to make conservation recommendations if you don't know what supply you have. She hopes that this meeting can give the board some clarity and decide what comes next. She said that what the board has been doing to this point doesn't match what is in the code and that the code should match what they do, or they should match the code. She believed that they needed to address the questions of what are they as a Board and what does the City need? Castle cautioned that if they broaden the mission of this board, they may need to forsake their positions on other boards that they might on as this is a small community where many people where many hats and they could easily find themselves in a situation at another meeting where they are discussion something that would require that they must notice it as one of this board's meetings. Board member Perkins stated that he thought that the most important thing that they could do for City Council is to help them with their water resources. The City already has two full-time groups of staff (the engineering department

and the Sustainability Director). that manage the day-to-day water conservation. He thought that the part that the board needed to play is to determine the safe yield of water. Board member Lynch thought that the board should be able to present information to the Council and City staff can absorb it affectively. There was extensive discussion regarding what their roles as board members are, the process of how to proceed and the possibility of amending the ordinance to broaden their roles. Johanson stated that the City staff is engaged in the process of determining the water quantity and are working on a ground water management plan for the entire valley. It was made clear that Castle would be the person staffing this board and the one that would be pulling the updated Water Conservation Plan together. Board Member Hultquist reminded the board that they did not have the attention of water rights that the community could be running out of water or of San Juan County and that there may not be enough water to do what they want to do. Everyone is now aware that there is a limited supply of water at this time and they are working hard to get the community at a reasonable supply of what their sustainable yield is. The Division of Water Rights will set that goal. The extra peer review that this board has done on of the information they have received has been well worth it and has been very helpful in keeping everyone on track and keep in the spotlight, that this needs to get done before they can allocate more water. Castle told the board that the City is updating their water rates and conservation and demand often have to do with pricing of water to have some signaling. She asked the board if they would like City staff or their consultants to go before them and if they would like to provide insight into pricing. The Board will be working on updating the Water Conservation Plan.

***2020 Visioning and Goal Setting Workshop and Discussion:***

Board Chair Dohrenwend provided a list of what she felt were good topics for visioning and goal setting for next year to the board. She saw three major task Categories as follows:

***Big Ideas:***

Tasks that she felt they needed to deal with: Some of the immediate goals as she saw them, were Updating the Water Conservation Plan, water conservation ordinance recommendations, developing ordinances for water shortage and drought contingencies, advising City staff and consultants on conservation pricing for updated water rates and developing more robust water conservation-related outreach and education. Other things that were brought up in this meeting were water pricing, possibly expand the purpose or intent of the board as defined in the ordinance to make sure that they are not losing water quantity focus, Groundwater Management Plan input, what their water budget is, develop a community engagement plan, provide Council with information regarding the translation of empirical data regarding water management and workable politically acceptable policies, encourage the City to provide a groundwater monitoring plan and then work on monitoring surface water, identify partners, collaborative efforts, relationship building with City staff, reinforce the information flow and develop the means to do so, and form smaller informal working groups and collaborate through Castle.

***Finite tasks:*** There were no finite tasks.

***Housekeeping:***

Address the mission statement. Meet with City Council regarding what Council expects from this board.

Board Chair Dohrenwend will pull all this information and put into a cohesive form and go over it with Castle to put it in a format that can be included in the board's packet for next month's meeting.

Board member Duncan had to leave the meeting at 3:53 PM.

***Adjournment:*** Board member Bailey moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:44 PM. Board Member Hultquist notified the board that he would not be able to attend the next meeting. Board member Hultquist seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 with Board members Bailey, Hultquist, Dohrenwend, Lynch, Perkins and Gould voting aye.