

CITY OF MOAB
WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 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=seOPSa--028&t=1072s>.

Written Determination to Convene Electronic Meetings:

Water Board Chair Dohrenwend read the written determination to convene electronic meetings into the record.

Regular Meeting—Call to Order and Attendance:

Water Board Chair Kara Dohrenwend called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm. Participating remotely were Water Board Members Jeremy Lynch, John Gould, Arne Hultquist, Kyle Bailey, and Mike Duncan. City staff in attendance were Assistant City Manager Carly Castle, City Engineer Chuck Williams, Public Works Director Levi Jones, Recorder Sommar Johnson, and Deputy Recorder Kerri Kirk. Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency (GWSSA) Manager Dana Van Horn participated remotely.

Approval of Minutes: December 9, 2020

Motion: Board Member Duncan moved to approve the minutes. Board Member Hultquist seconded the motion.

Discussion: Board Member Hultquist said the minutes looked really good.

Vote: The motion passed 6-0 with Board Members Hultquist, Dohrenwend, Duncan, Lynch, Gould, and Bailey voting aye.

Board and Staff Reports

Board Member Duncan reported sharing his presentation with the City Council and County Planning Commission.

City Engineer Williams reported meeting with USGS, DWR, and UGS to create a tentative cost-sharing agreement for testing during development of replacement well #12. He said the agreement needs Council's review and approval. He said the testing will provide geochemical data.

Board Member Duncan reported that Utah Division of Water Rights Regional Engineer Marc Stilson is working with Nature Conservancy's Canyonlands Region Program Manager Linda Whitham to study the area in the lower valley adjacent to the wetlands. Board Member Hultquist reported coordinating the meetings with Stilson, Whitham and UGS. He said the biggest cost will be the capitol expenses associated with implementing the plan and the ongoing annual expense would be relatively inexpensive.

Discussion Regarding Appointment of New Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board Members

Discussion: Board Chair Dohrenwend said that Board Member Perkin's vacant seat has not been filled yet. Board Member Gould said he was going to let his term expire. Board Chair Dohrenwend said there are two open spots that will need to be filled. Assistant City Manager Castle said there have been no applicants yet, and it was advertised in the paper. She asked the Board if they had any suggestions.

Board Chair Dohrenwend clarified the minimum number of Board Members required, which is four. She said that Board Member Gould is the county representative, so his seat could be filled by another county resident.

Board Member Duncan said Beth Malloy has expressed a lot of interest in water matters lately. Board Chair Dohrenwend said she will ask USGS Biologist Natalie Day if she is interested in joining the Board. Assistant City Manager Castle and Board Chair Dohrenwend asked GWSSA Manager Van Horn for suggestions of possible Board members living in Grand County. Board Member Hultquist inquired about conflicts of interest if a candidate is already a member on another board. Assistant City Manager Castle said the person might have to be recused during certain topics, but could still participate on Water Board.

Board Member Hultquist reiterated that the candidates will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting, so at least four members of the Board will need to be present.

Nomination and Selection of Board Chair and Vice-Chair

Motion: Board Member Hultquist nominated Board Vice Chair Lynch to become Board Chair. Board Chair Dohrenwend seconded the motion.

Discussion: Board Vice Chair Lynch said he is willing to step up and become Board Chair. Board Member Hultquist indicated interest in becoming Board Vice Chair. Board Chair Dohrenwend inquired if both positions should be made in one motion, or handled separately.

Motion: Board Member Bailey nominated Board Vice Chair Lynch to become Board Chair and Board Member Hultquist to become Board Vice Chair. Board Member Gould seconded the motion.

Discussion: Board Member Hultquist inquired if new members could become Board Vice Chair in February or March. Assistant City Manager Castle said the current Vice Chair could resign if that is the case.

Vote: The motion passed 6-0 with Board Members Hultquist, Dohrenwend, Duncan, Lynch, Gould, and Bailey voting aye.

Adoption of 2021 Regular Meeting Schedule

Discussion: Board Chair Lynch inquired if there were any recommendations regarding the schedule for 2021. Board Member Duncan said the schedule looks good with the second Wednesday of every month at 2 PM.

Motion: Board Member Duncan moved to adopt the meeting schedule as presented in the agenda packet summary. Board Vice Chair Hultquist seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed 6-0 with Board Members Hultquist, Dohrenwend, Duncan, Lynch, Gould, and Bailey voting aye.

Review of City Council Water Meeting on December 16, 2020

Board Member Duncan said there were presentations at the meeting by City Engineer Williams, Assistant City Manager Castle, and himself. He said he would like to have an in-person meeting

in the future with USGS, UGS, Stilson, and Kolm to determine safe yield of the Glen Canyon Aquifer.

City Engineer Williams said the presentations are available as links on the agenda. He reported presenting a comparison on the numbers from the four different studies. He said the water system needs maintenance as well. He also presented an overview of projects in the future, including projects that were approved when the rates increased.

Assistant City Manager Castle said there are multiple priorities with water resource management. She said City Council's direction was not to wait for the safe yield number before taking action. She said there will be discussion about immediate measures to be implemented as soon as possible.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist said the UGS and USGS have been reaching out to put a "state of the science" discussion on groundwater availability in Spanish Valley on the agenda for the MAWP's virtual meeting in March.

Board Member Duncan said people have raised concern about conserving water that will go towards more hotels. Board Vice Chair Hultquist said the City should continue to act like they will develop the water to its full potential for the next 40 years. He said the City and Grand County should look at what they want the community to look like and then determine the water resources needed to make that happen.

Board Member Dohrenwend said the Jordan Valley Water District is a great example of finding things that make conservation more of a win-win.

[Discussion and Selection of Priorities and Tasks for the Water Conservation and Drought Management Board in 2021](#)

[Updating Water Conservation Plan](#)

Board Chair Lynch said the topic responsibilities should be reiterated for the new year. Assistant City Manager Castle said staff will take care of the technical background information. She said the Board will develop policies moving forward. She said the plan is due in the fall for review by the state. She said she will work with Board Chair Lynch to set a timeline for policy development.

[Development of Conservation Ordinances](#)

Assistant City Manager Castle said people are concerned about the water outlook for this year. She said meaningful conservation ordinances will help mitigate this rough year. She said the state website has a time-of-day suggested ordinance. She said other ideas include a day-of-the-week ordinance and a shortage contingency plan ordinance.

City Engineer Williams said it was recommended in the current water conservation plan to implement a time-of-day ordinance. He said the shortage contingency plan is an important educational policy.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist said the time-of-day ordinance is a tried-and-true measure that makes complete sense. He said there are a couple of issues: City cannot regulate Moab Irrigation Company, GWSSA's boundaries are in the city limits and would be affected, and alfalfa fields need watered for twenty-four hours at a time in July to get the water to the roots. He inquired about the water bank account for a long-term drought

and if water would be shut off to all City parks in that scenario. He inquired if the amount of saved water with that scenario would be enough to mitigate the shortages due to long term drought.

Assistant City Manager Castle said the time-of-day ordinance is mostly educational; people will not be fined if they water in the no-watering times. She said the ordinance should be implemented to mitigate the impact of a drought. There was a discussion about individual water holders versus protecting the City's water supply.

Board Member Dohrenwend said the nursery requires watering in the middle of the day to keep the plants alive. She said education and outreach will be critical. She said the ordinance is more relevant for spray irrigation as opposed to drip irrigation. She suggested the City coordinate with GWSSA. She also suggested providing incentives to keep people invested in the time-of-day ordinance.

City Engineer Williams said it would be easy to separate businesses and outside water users on this ordinance. Board Member Duncan said the ordinance applies only to sprinkled water; since many people use flood irrigation, this ordinance would not apply. There was a discussion about which type of watering is more efficient.

City Engineer Williams said the process is moving forward to present policies that are more fleshed out at the next City Council meeting.

Board Member Duncan inquired about the City water pipes that leak and how much water is lost. City Engineer Williams said there was an analysis of losses in the system about a year and a half ago and the loss was less than 5%. Public Works Director Jones said the department tries to respond to leaks quickly and keep the loss as minimal as possible.

Landscaping Policies and Resources

Assistant City Manager Castle said resources and education need to be provided to help people approach landscaping from a waterwise perspective. Board Member Dohrenwend said providing a very specific plant list for what works here would be beneficial. She recommended looking at the Jordan Valley Water District Localscapes program. She said that how you irrigate and how you zone your irrigation is really critical. There was a discussion about watering trees.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist said irrigation systems are complicated and the idea of a landscaping policy is great for new development.

Water Shortage and Drought Contingency Plan

Board Chair Lynch said this topic has been discussed previously in the meeting.

Groundwater Monitoring Efforts

City Engineer Williams said he provided information on this topic in his staff report.

Graywater Requirements for New Developments

Board Member Duncan said graywater requirement have typically shown up as a new standard for overnight accommodations. Board Vice Chair Hultquist said the state has rewritten their graywater rules and it makes it easier for people to have graywater. He said that requiring graywater piping does not mean that it has to be used. There was a discussion about what types of household water qualify as graywater.

Board Chair Lynch inquired about commercial secondary water use. Assistant City Manager Castle said the requirements would be applicable for overnight accommodations and institutional developments.

Irrigation Workshops

Board Member Dohrenwend said this topic is beneficial with coordination and collaboration between the different entities. GWSSA Manager Van Horn suggested ensuring that the shortage contingency plan matches the water department's emergency response plan. She expressed concern about the impact of graywater requirements on affordable housing developments. She said GWSSA finished their conservation management plan, which includes a state-required school education program. She said that, since the City will have the same requirement, it would be beneficial if the City and GWSSA worked together on this objective. She added that Canyonlands Field Institute (CFI) Founding Director Karla Vanderzanden has volunteered to assist with the school education efforts. She discussed the importance of leak detection. She said GWSSA will partner with landscapers to provide education to their clients about water conservation options. There was a discussion about the availability and effectiveness of smart watering systems in Moab.

Developing More Robust Water Conservation-Related Outreach and Education for the Community

Board Member Dohrenwend expressed interest in participating in irrigation workshops and ordinances. Board Chair Lynch said community resources should be used for educational outreach. GWSSA Manager Van Horn said a target age group should be agreed upon for the educational outreach.

GWSSA Manager Van Horn said another state requirement is the per capita per day use calculation. She suggesting submitting the City's plan in August for a cursory review.

Other Items from the Board and Staff

Board Chair Lynch inquired about future agenda items. Assistant City Manager Castle said there will hopefully be an update on new membership, and bringing back three policies/ordinances: shortage policy, water waste, and time-of-day. Board Vice Chair Hultquist stressed the importance of a water bank account as opposed to using ordinances for water conservation. Assistant City Manager Castle said the shortage policy will be tiered depending on the severity of the shortage.

Board Member Dohrenwend thanked Board Member Gould for his service on the Board.

Adjournment: Board Chair Lynch adjourned the meeting at 3:52 PM.