

**CITY OF MOAB**  
**WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 10, 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=cGPLLq3KEhw>.

***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, Kyle Bailey, Steve Getz, Eve Tallman, and Mike Duncan. Water Board Member Kara Dohrenwend was absent. City staff participating remotely were Assistant City Manager Carly Castle, City Engineer Chuck Williams, Public Works Director Levi Jones, Communications and Engagement Manager Lisa Church, Recorder Sommar Johnson, and Deputy Recorder Kerri Kirk. Guest Orion Rogers, Environmental Health Director for the Southeastern Utah Health Department, also participated remotely.

***Written Determination to Conduct Electronic Meetings:***

Board Chair Lynch read the written determination into the minutes.

***Approval of Minutes: February 10, 2021***

***Discussion:*** Board Chair Lynch inquired if anyone had revisions for the minutes. Board Vice Chair Hultquist said he did not have any substantial edits.

***Motion:*** Board Member Duncan moved to accept the minutes as written. Board Vice Chair Hultquist seconded the motion.

***Vote:*** The motion passed 5-0 with Board Members Hultquist, Duncan, Lynch, Getz, and Bailey voting aye. Board Member Tallman abstained from voting since she was not a member of the board during the last meeting. Board Member Dohrenwend was not present for the vote.

***Board and Staff Reports:***

Board Vice Chair Hultquist said the “State of Groundwater in Spanish Valley Science Discussion” will take place on March 17 at the MAWP meeting.

Board Member Duncan reported participating in an interview with a KUER journalist regarding aquifer supply and safe yield. He reported visiting the Kayenta Heights subdivision to probe a well with Board Vice Chair Hultquist and Utah Division of Water Rights Regional Engineer Marc Stilson.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist reported participating in an interview with a KUER journalist which will be aired on March 18. He said the camera sent down the well with Utah Division of Water Rights Regional Engineer Stilson and Board Member Duncan presented an interesting discussion. He reported participating in a tour of the Skakel springs, Moab Ranch springs, and water park springs with the UGS. He reported spending a couple days in the Matheson Wetlands

Preserve. He said that Stilson has monitoring questions about the wetlands to help determine safe yield. He said Stilson has divided the valley into three areas, one of which is the Matheson Wetlands Preserve. He stated the UGS and Stilson will be presenting at the MAWP meeting about the monitoring plan. He said there will be continuous monitoring of the entire springs at Skakel and Moab Ranch.

City Engineer Williams reported attending a meeting with City staff, Stilson, and DWR staff to reach an agreement on the number of water rights the City owns which equals 9,739-acre feet. He reported there will be a Council meeting on March 23 with a public hearing for the culinary water system bond. He said that, if the bond is approved, the projects include installation of Well #12, another mile of new distribution line on Mill Creek Drive, and beginning the process of system optimization. Board Vice Chair Hultquist inquired if the bond includes the new tank. City Engineer Williams said the bond includes local cost share for the tank. He said the application for the drinking water board to share the cost of the tank is almost 95% complete and should be submitted by June. Board Vice Chair Hultquist inquired if the Mill Creek Drive project will include a connection to GWSSA. City Engineer Williams said there will be an interconnect, either as part of the Mill Creek Drive project or as a separate project. Board Vice Chair Hultquist and City Engineer Williams agreed that the interconnect will help with the spring overflow. Board Member Duncan inquired about the new tank's location. City Engineer Williams said there was a feasibility and conceptual design study completed in 2016. He said there will be landscaping around the sides and over the tank in an effort to reduce visual impacts. He said the residents located near the tank's site will have their concerns addressed again in the design phase.

#### **Presentation of and Discussion About Graywater Regulations by the Southeastern Utah Health Department:**

Environmental Health Director Rogers said the graywater rule that he helped rewrite passed the state water board last spring. He said different types of graywater systems are possible now, including branch-to-drain systems. He said there has been concern about the additional cost of graywater systems; he reported that graywater systems have been included in several Community Rebuilds homes. He said the cost for the interior to get as far as a stub out is a few hundred dollars. He said a permit is not required for very simple graywater systems.

There was a discussion about graywater systems for residential versus commercial use. There was a discussion about stubbing out versus installing the whole graywater system. Board Member Getz inquired about homes that currently use graywater systems. Environmental Health Director Rogers said a few homes have been observed and the system is working very well. There was a discussion about the maintenance requirements of graywater systems. Board Member Duncan inquired about the sources for graywater in a home. Environmental Health Director Rogers said showers, hand sinks in the restrooms, laundry facilities, and bathtubs are considered graywater.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist inquired about how many graywater systems are functioning in the Moab/Spanish Valley area. Environmental Health Director Rogers said there are about ten systems. City Engineer Williams inquired if they are all gravity systems; Environmental Health Director Rogers said yes. Board Member Getz inquired about commercial applications for graywater systems. There was a discussion about sewer system capability if the amount of fluid is reduced by graywater systems.

Board Member Tallman inquired about the types of soap needed for graywater systems. Environmental Health Director Rogers said the right kinds of plants will not have an issue with

various types of soap.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist confirmed that residents can turn off the graywater system if they do not want to use it.

Assistant City Manager Castle said the water conservation plan includes a plan to develop graywater. Board Chair Lynch said this topic will be revisited to review what Board Vice Chair Hultquist has drafted regarding graywater.

Environmental Health Director Rogers said the Utah On-Site Wastewater Association is holding their conference in Moab next February, and the conference will include discussion about graywater.

### **[Water Conservation Plan Update: Review and Discussion of Draft Conservation Policies](#)**

Board Chair Lynch said the assignments will be discussed to include new Board Members. Assistant City Manager Castle provided history on the plan updates thus far. She said Board Member Duncan has worked on the groundwater management plan and aquifer health. She reported working on auditing high quantity users. She said Council has given approval to proceed on the Time of Day/Day of the Week Water Resource Management Ordinance. There was discussion about the future Sustainability Director's role in updating the plan and the potential for utilizing Board Member Tallman's skills to assist with writing the plan update.

Board Member Getz requested to be part of the aquifer planning. There was a discussion about collaboration with Grand County, San Juan County, and the City regarding the groundwater management plan.

There was discussion about Board Member Duncan's contribution to the plan update and evaluating alternative irrigation water sources. Board Member Tallman requested a shared drive for the plan update documents.

There was discussion about auditing the City water system, formally developing a water loss control program, and finalizing an intervention process for water losses. There was discussion about the different types of water losses: leaks, spring overflow, and billing mistakes.

Board Chair Lynch inquired if Board Vice Chair Hultquist would be able to present the graywater portion of the plan update at the next meeting. He also requested touching base with Board Member Dohrenwend regarding presenting the landscaping ordinance at the next meeting.

### **[Draft Time of Day/Day of the Week Water Resource Management Ordinance:](#)**

Assistant City Manager Castle said the intent of the ordinance will apply to turf with spray irrigation. Board Member Bailey inquired if the county will apply a similar ordinance. Assistant City Manager Castle said that Moab Irrigation Company already has a policy like this in place, but she does not know about GWSSA. City Engineer Williams said this ordinance will apply to people who use culinary water from the City of Moab. Board Member Bailey expressed concern about GWSSA not restricting their use of water while the City will be restricting theirs.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist said this ordinance should be included in the water conservation plan, but it does not need to be implemented immediately. City Engineer Williams said good management practices should be implemented, and the state of Utah says the City could save

10-15% of our water by using this ordinance. Board Member Getz agreed this is an important step that needs to be implemented this year. Board Member Duncan said the ordinance will help educate people regarding water as a finite resource. Board Member Bailey said there should be discussion with GWSSA about implementing similar water conservation measures. Assistant City Manager Castle said the purpose of this ordinance is to avoid catastrophe by making it so resources are used as prudently and efficiently as possible.

Assistant City Manager Castle said she is seeking input about the type of public engagement the Board might be looking for regarding this ordinance. She said there will be a survey, a website explaining the ordinance, and possibly some public hearings as well. Board Member Tallman suggested utilizing Board Member Dohrenwend's knowledge to help develop the survey. Board Chair Lynch said the Board could email questions for the public engagement to Communications and Engagement Manager Church.

**Adjournment:** Board Chair Lynch adjourned the meeting at 4:06 PM.