

CITY OF MOAB
WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 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=clcoobND1KU>.

Regular Meeting—Call to Order and Attendance:

Water Board Chair Jeremy Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. Participating remotely were Water Board Members Arne Hultquist, Kyle Bailey, Steve Getz, Eve Tallman, Kara Dohrenwend, and Mike Duncan. City staff participating remotely were Assistant City Manager Carly Castle, City Engineer Chuck Williams, Public Works Director Levi Jones, Sustainability Director Mila Dunbar-Irwin, City Attorney Laurie Simonson, Recorder Sommar Johnson, and Deputy Recorder Kerri Kirk.

Written Determination to Conduct Electronic Meetings:

Board Chair Lynch read the written determination into the minutes.

Annual Open and Public Meetings Act Training:

City Attorney Simonson presented the annual training for the Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA). Board Member Tallman inquired about the bylaws stating that a quorum equals three people. She said that a quorum should be more than half of the board members, which would equal four. City Attorney Simonson said that, sometimes, a quorum is less than half of the total board members when it is difficult to get minimum attendance at the meetings. She said the quorum number in the bylaws would be verified.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist inquired about the Citizens to be Heard section of the agenda, since it has not been on the agendas for quite some time. Assistant City Manager Castle said that agenda item was removed at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it could be reinstated at any time. There was a discussion about permitting citizens to be heard even if it is not an agenda item. Board Vice Chair Hultquist requested that Citizens to be Heard be added back onto the agendas going forward.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist inquired about how many Water Board members could attend MAWP meetings. City Attorney Simonson and Assistant City Manager Castle said they would review the bylaws and get back to him.

Approval of Minutes: March 10, 2021

Discussion: Board Chair Lynch said that there were a few edits to the minutes. He inquired if anyone else had changes.

Motion: Board Vice Chair Hultquist moved to approve the minutes as they stand. Board Member Tallman seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed 7-0 with Board Members Hultquist, Duncan, Lynch, Getz, Tallman, Dohrenwend, and Bailey voting aye.

Board and Staff Reports:

Board Vice Chair Hultquist reported attending the Utah Conservation District 7 Zone Meeting on March 30 in Green River. He said Grand County is getting two extension agents instead of one. One will be responsible for landscaping and water programs and the other will focus on other USU extension programs. He said he will attend a meeting tomorrow with the Utah Division of Water Resources regarding watershed councils. He stated there will be a virtual BDA workshop on April 20. He stated there will be Utah water conservation forums on May 6 and May 13 at 10 AM. He said there will be a stream restoration webinar by the Utah Division of Water Rights on May 7. He said there will be a water conservation training on May 20 by the Rural Water Association of Utah. Board Chair Lynch left the meeting at 2:45 PM.

Assistant City Manager Castle inquired about in-person meeting options for the Water Board. She reported that City Council will return to in-person meetings in May, when staff and Councilmembers have been fully vaccinated. There was a discussion about hybrid meetings vs. in-person meetings. Board Member Dohrenwend inquired about the mask policy for in-person meetings. Board Member Tallman recommended waiting to switch to in-person meetings until June when the Grand County mask mandate ends. Board Vice Chair Hultquist said he is in favor of switching to in-person meetings in May. Board Member Dohrenwend said an in-person meeting in May is fine as long as mask expectations are clear to the public. She also inquired about an air purification system for the Council chambers.

Introduction of Sustainability Director:

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin introduced herself. Board Member Duncan requested that Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin review additional water consumption from hotels and subdivisions that were not included in the last survey. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin reviewed some of the tasks on the City's sustainability priority list. There was a discussion about safe yield estimates.

Water Conservation Plan Update: Review and Discussion of Draft Conservation Policies:

Catch-Up Session: Board Member Tallman stated having a copy of the 2016 Water Conservation Plan with notes that will be shared with Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin. She inquired about personnel assignments for the Water Conservation Plan update. Board Member Dohrenwend reviewed the sections and notes that were generated with Water Board input last year. Board Member Tallman inquired about the process moving forward to completion. Assistant City Manager Castle said Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin will be in charge of the production, format and tone of the Water Conservation Plan update. She said the Water Board will assist with developing new programs and policies for the plan update. There was a discussion about the landscape ordinance process.

Review and Discussion of Draft Conservation Policies: Board Vice Chair Hultquist stated that his draft of the graywater ordinance section of the plan is complete. Board Member Dohrenwend inquired what Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin prefers for the Water Board's participation in the plan update. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin stated that she prefers the Water Board to have discussions while she takes notes for the plan update. Board Member Duncan inquired who would be the publisher of the plan update. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said that she is the responsible party.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist inquired if the City already has a water shortage contingency plan.

Assistant City Manager Castle clarified that the current emergency plan is for extreme circumstances to protect fire flow and essential basic culinary needs. She said the water shortage contingency plan will have several stages due to different water level thresholds. Board Member Getz inquired about a monitoring program for the aquifer water levels. There was a discussion about a two-year delay for water levels due to snowpack.

Board Member Getz inquired about the effect of a graywater ordinance on commercial businesses. He also inquired about the amount of water needed from graywater for the landscaping portion of the site plan for developments. There was a discussion about landscaping and graywater.

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin reported having information about landscape ordinances, which she can compile to share at a future meeting. There was a discussion about how specific or general the landscape ordinances would need to be. Board Member Tallman requested winning examples of landscape ordinances from other cities that will point Moab in the right direction. There was a discussion about the percent of water that's used for irrigating crops in Utah. Board Member Dohrenwend requested that landscaping be included in the education and outreach section of the Water Conservation Plan update.

Adjournment: Board Vice Chair Hultquist adjourned the meeting at 4:01 PM.