

CITY OF MOAB
WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 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=NiEXvvPrdU>.

Regular Meeting—Call to Order and Attendance:

Water Board Chair Jeremy Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM. Participating remotely were Water Board Members Arne Hultquist, Kyle Bailey, Steve Getz, Mike Duncan, and Eve Tallman. Board Member Kara Dohrenwend was absent. City staff participating remotely were Deputy City Manager Carly Castle, City Engineer Chuck Williams, Public Works Director Levi Jones, Parks, Recreation, and Trails Director Annie McVay, Sustainability Director Mila Dunbar-Irwin, Recorder Sommar Johnson, and Deputy Recorder Kerri Kirk.

Written Determination to Conduct Electronic Meetings:

Board Chair Lynch read the written determination into the minutes.

Approval of Minutes: June 9, 2021

Motion: Board Member Tallman moved to approve the minutes without any changes. Board Vice Chair Hultquist seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed 6-0 with Board Members Hultquist, Lynch, Getz, Duncan, Tallman, and Bailey voting aye. Board Member Dohrenwend was not present for the vote.

Board and Staff Reports:

Pack Creek Fire Mitigation – Carly Castle, Deputy City Manager

Deputy City Manager Castle reported mapping of the fire to determine the impact on the watershed. She said the majority of the impact affected the Pack Creek watershed, and there was some impact on the Mill Creek watershed. She said there is concern about the potential for flooding, debris flow and sediment. She said there are two federal reports being completed to assess the damage and recommend whether some permanent infrastructure needs to be put in place to protect the community from flooding. She said Grand County and San Juan County will review the completed reports and determine a plan of action, if necessary. She said there are ongoing meetings with emergency management personnel to monitor the potential for flooding. She said the springs are also being monitored for potential contamination.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist added that the MAWP meeting next Wednesday will review the possible impacts to the drinking water sources and the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) will review a map of the severity of the burn.

City Parks Watering – Annie McVay, Parks, Recreation, and Trails

Director

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Director McVay reviewed the watering days and times for the parks. There was a discussion about smart timers and moisture sensors.

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin inquired about Governor Cox's suggestion for watering only three times a week. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Director McVay said there is a lot of feedback from the community about greener parks, and the amount of watering is a balance between the state and the community's expectations.

City Engineer Williams discussed the water resources management plan for the valley that collaborates with GWSSA (Grand Water and Sewer Services Agency), San Juan Spanish Valley Special Service District, Moab Irrigation Company, and the City of Moab. There was a discussion about including MAWP in the stakeholder group. City Engineer Williams clarified that the state will be informed and involved with the plan as well. There was a discussion about utilizing the land use authorities to implement water conservation ordinances. There was a discussion about San Juan County and SITLA's water usage.

Board Vice Chair Hultquist reported attending a meeting with Marc Stilson, Regional Engineer for the Utah Division of Water Rights. He said there was a discussion about more water monitoring in the valley.

Water Conservation Plan Update – Review Draft:

Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin requested input about the prioritization of the possible water conservation measures. Board Vice Chair Hultquist said the five-year plan for the water conservation goals seems very reasonable. Board Member Duncan liked the way the report was organized. Board Member Tallman inquired if the board members' research was incorporated into the report. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said the documents that she received from the board were incorporated into the report; she said that, if anything was missed, to please resend it. Board Member Tallman suggested that the report include an executive summary. There was a discussion about not requiring a limit to growth in the conservation goal. There was a discussion about the population projection data. There was a discussion about the number of visitors and their water use. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said the technical data is still being obtained and will be added to the plan. She reviewed the timeline for submitting the draft to the state. There was a discussion about whether overflow is considered water loss.

Adjournment: Board Chair Lynch inquired about returning to in-person meetings. Sustainability Director Dunbar-Irwin said the bylaws would need to be edited to include electronic meetings if the board did not want to meet in person.

Board Chair Lynch inquired about future agenda items. Board Member Tallman suggested amending the bylaws regarding a quorum. Sustainability Director said there could be a discussion on various concepts of yield.

Board Chair Lynch adjourned the meeting at 3:37 PM.