

**MOAB CITY**  
**WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 11, 2017**

**Regular Meeting & Attendance:** The Moab City Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board held its Regular Meeting on the above date in the Council Chambers at the Moab City Center, located at 217 East Center Street, Moab, Utah. A recording of the meeting is archived at <http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>.

**Regular Meeting Called to Order:** Chairperson Hultquist called the Meeting to order at 2:04 PM. In attendance were board members Kara Dohrenwend, Arne Hultquist, Jeremy Lynch, Mike Duncan, Kyle Bailey and Sarah Sidwell. Also in attendance were Sustainability Director Rosemarie Russo, Assistant City Engineer Eric Johanson, City Engineer Chuck Williams, Public Works Director Pat Dean, Water Superintendent Levi Jones, Public Works Administrative Assistant LeighAnne Reinhart, Wastewater Superintendent Greg Fosse and Recorder Assistant Eve Tallman. Also in attendance were Jeff Beckman, Consulting Engineer with Bowen Collins and Marc Stilson, Regional Engineer for the Utah Division of Water Rights. Four members of the public were present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Dohrenwend moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2017 meeting with corrections. Sidwell seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0 aye, with Board members Dohrenwend, Hultquist, Lynch, Duncan, Bailey and Sidwell voting aye.

Marc Stilson, Regional Engineer for the Utah Division of Water Rights presented the recently-completed preliminary findings of the **United States Geological Survey (USGS) Groundwater Study for Moab/Spanish Valley**. Discussion ensued regarding surface flows, safe yield, certificated rights and seniority of rights. Stilson reported that the amount of water that was being diverted to Kens Lake was not in the original presentation that he gave to the City Council last night but he has added it to the presentation today. He also informed us that he added the “return flow” to the system from each of the uses back into the total water consumed table. Hultquist asked him if he has added the base flow water consumed by Moab Irrigation Company at their diversions near the BLM boundary to the total groundwater consumed table. He said he had not. Stilson informed us that the basin is still open to ground water allocations of up to 6.73 AF and is still open to transfers from other basins on the Colorado River. He also stated he did not think the State Engineer would approve any more large transfers of water rights to this basin. He responded to Hultquist’s question on the minimum amount of water the State Engineer believes is necessary for dwellings is .25AF for a seasonal cabin, and .45AF for indoor domestic use for a single-family residence. **(1:01 on recording)**. Hultquist asked Mark if SJSVSSD could sell water rights that haven’t been proofed in small increments. Stilson explained the legal precedent regarding water rights that are not fully utilized and informed the group that they could. Stilson also outlined first in time first in right philosophy. Hultquist asked if the State Engineer would approve a change of diversion for the City of Moab if it wanted to drill another well that would augment the current wells and use existing water rights. Stilson replied the State Engineer could approve that but the State Engineer would consider the location of the well first. It would have to be far enough from other major producing wells as to not affect their production capabilities. Tallman asked about anecdotal information on wells that seem to suffering from drawdown and/or water quality changes due to groundwater pumping. Stilson responded he had not received any information but would welcome any information on that matter.

The Board discussed recommending to City Council that the City pursue potentially **limiting new rights** to appropriate household use throughout the watershed. It was determined that this topic would be continued at a future meeting.

***Recommendations to City Council:***

The Board discussed the recommendations from the USGS starting with Water providers accurately spring discharges and Groundwater levels from wells. Dohrenwend moved to recommend that a numerical model be developed to determine the City's water budget. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0, with Board members Bailey, Sidwell, Dohrenwend, Duncan, Lynch and Hultquist voting aye. The motion was later superseded by the following:

The second recommendation was for flow measurement gauges on Mill Creek below Pack Creek and Pack Creek ab the Diversion near the USFS boundary. The board agreed information from these gauges will be needed for the third USGS recommendation of a numerical model of ground water depletions. Dohrenwend suggested that a third gauge would be helpful below on Mill Creek below the Powerdam. There was a gauge there and the data from that site could be useful for the model and city planners. The group agreed and Lynch moved to recommend that the City coordinate with Grand Water and Sewer Services Agency and the San Juan Spanish Valley Special Service District to **install and maintain three stream flow gauges**: one below the confluence of Mill and Pack Creeks, reactivate the one near the Powerdam, and one above the Pack Creek Ranch diversion. Board member Sidwell seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0, with Board members Bailey, Sidwell, Dohrenwend, Duncan, Lynch and Hultquist voting aye. Tallman agreed to forward the resolution to the City Manager.

Jeff Beckman, Consulting Engineer with Bowen Collins answered questions about the new **Water Reclamation Facility**. He discussed water use, energy consumption regarding the ultraviolet processing, and the overall efficiency of the new plant. He stated the concept of in-line mini hydro would not be cost effective due to the short length of the outfall pipe. He reported that if the wastewater from the plant were discharged into the wetlands it would have to pass a 0 % dilutions Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) test. It is difficult for any wastewater treatment plant to pass that test no matter how well the plant is functioning because you never know exactly what else in the water. Therefore the plant operators and the engineers are reluctant request a permit to discharge to the wetlands because if it failed the WET test it would be in immediate violation of its permit.

Discussion moved to a consideration of **how a vote is determined in the case of a tie**. It was agreed that *Robert's Rules of Order* would prevail and a tie vote does not pass.

***Future Agenda Items:*** Open Meetings Training, Debrief of Ken Kolm's forthcoming update, and Possible effort to limit new water rights.

***Adjournment:*** Bailey moved to adjourn the meeting, and Lynch seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.