

UTAH WATERSHEDS COUNCIL MEETING

(Approved) Meeting Minutes

Department of Natural Resources

1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

April 14, 2022

1:00pm

THOSE PRESENT (Council Members)

Corey Cram, Utah Association of Special Districts	Brian Steed, DNR Executive Director
Kim Shelly, DEQ Executive Director	Rikki Hrenko-Browning, Industry Rep
Craig Buttars, UDAF Commissioner (Virtual)	Kris Hamlet, DEM Director (Virtual)
Victor Iverson, Utah Associations of Counties	Val Jay Rigby, Agriculture Rep. (Virtual)
Marcelle Shoop, Environ/Cons. Groups Rep.	Scottt Paxman, Reclamation Project Rep.
Dustin Jansen, Division of Indian Affairs Director (Virtual)	
Mark Stratford, Utah League of Cities & Towns	

OTHERS PRESENT

Candice Hasenyager, Division of Water Resources	Dan Adams, Langdon Group
Rachel Shilton, Division of Water Resources	Allison Adams, Langdon Group
Todd Stonely, Division of Water Resources	Nathan Bracken, Legal Rep.
Todd Adams, DNR	Peter Gessel, Legal Rep.
Marty Bushman, AG	Claudia Cottle, Bear Lake Watch
Cody Stewart, Colorado River Authority	Warren Peterson, (Virtual)
Soren Simonsen, Jordan River Commission	Jenny Goff, Langdon Group
Shannon Clough, Division of Water Resources	

Welcome and Introductions, Todd Stonely and Dan Adams

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of past meeting minutes, Dan Adams at 1:11. Scott Paxman moved to approve the minutes and Victor Anderson seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, all approved and the minutes were approved.

RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

Peter Gessel explained the draft edits that were in the Rules of Procedure. The council has made all these edits over the last few months. He reminded everyone that the Attorney Generals are the legal counsel and he is the policy advisor for the contractor. Peter highlighted some of the changes, because of the suggested changes to the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Because of technical difficulties, the meeting agenda was changed and we stopped the discussion and continued with the next item on the agenda.

STATE OF THE STATE & LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Candice Hasenyager-Provided an overview and update on the current drought conditions. About 95% of Utah's water supply comes from snowpack. Snowpack is below average and snow is needed to refill reservoirs. We are currently about 58% of our statewide average for our largest reservoirs and that is about 10% less than this time last year. The Great Salt Lake hit record lows last year, and we are below his year where we have been the last couple of years. We have started the Slow the Flow campaign. We are asking people to wait to water. We are working closely with the drought response team and governor's team.

For the legislative update, 2022 was Year of Water; there were a variety of Bills Passed. The one Bill that does affect this group is the in HB 263, which is Utah Watershed Council Amendments that includes a water attorney to this body. Names have been presented to the Governor and we are waiting to hear back on who that will be. HB 429 requires Division of Water Resources to do a Great Salt Lake integrative water assessment. The big Bill for us is HB 242 Secondary Metering. It is huge with the funding of 250 million dollars. We also received 5 million for turf buyback program. The funds are not available until July 1st. The Great Salt Lake assessment is another big one with 5 million contributed or was appropriated to Water Resources get that done. There has been a lot of work done on the Great Salt Lake, but to brink, it all together will really be a significate effort.

Kim Shelley-we were also benefactors of some funding. 30 million for Utah Lake and that will be a competitive program. We are setting it up now and the funding will be available July 1st. The other thing I would like to note from this legislative session is that we did receive the federal match required for both our drinking water and wastewater srf loan funds that will allow us to bring an additional 150 million dollars into the state for necessary infrastructure and water quality improvements. We are looking forward to putting that money to its highest and best use.

(Continued) Rules of Order and Procedure: Review Drafts with edits.

Peter Gessel-went over the changes made to the draft and asked if there were any objects or concerns to section 1, Section 3 (duties), II membership, Section 2 (rights of members).

Marty Bushman-does the 26 members of the committee include the new position.

Peter Gessel-it does include the new position. I also highlighted the Council 3 year term. With each, term expiring of the designated calendar year. The person serves until the new replacement person is appointed or you are reappointed. Do you want to accept this as written?

Kim Shelley-I would like to come back to it after we go over the next section.

Peter Gessel-Section 4 comments or objections? We will keep as is. Section 5 (Vacancies) and 6 will keep as is also. III (Officers) can be changed and discussed at a later time.

Marty Bushman-Discussed Vice Chair-and how you could identify a process by vote. To present it by vote the same way that you elect a chair and vice chair.

Peter Gessel-Section 2 (election of officers)

Corey Cram-I want to create maybe some institutional memories and some abilities to provide a leadership that would be established and then be able to carry on for a few years. The thought I had was to have a chair and vice-chair and then each of those serve in the positions then having the chair step down and have the vice-chair step into the chairs role. Once that is established, then you would elect a new vice-chair and this would continue though time. I think there is going to be some benefit to have some longevity in this position. This was also my suggestion to have elections every other year. 2 years as a vice-chair and transition into the chair.

Marty Bushman-Change may to shall.

All Council members agreed to make the change.

Victor-Needs to be more stable. Expand 2 to 3 years member term, I think it would add to the stability and then we just have the progression part falling behind it.

Mark Stratford-4 years makes more sense for a members term. (Not officers).

Marcell Shoop-I just want to confirm that in the vote for officers were talking about people, not the positions for which they represent.

Peter Gessel-2023 turnover or pushed a year appointment to 2026.

Victor Iverson- suggested leaving the language as is.

Marcell Shoop-suggested to simplify the verbiage.

Peter Gessel-reading section 2 & 3 together, the last meeting of an odd number year, you hold elections for chair, and vice-chair. Moreover, the transition in section 3 happens at the start of the second quarter of the following year. Do we want to talk about Section 4? We can keep things simple for now.

Dan Adams-I have not heard anyone say we really need two vice-chairs. I think at this point let us just get it up and running and stick with a chair and a vice chair for now.

Corey Cram-I also think the main thing is to get this up and going.

Mark Stratford-I think it should be an election every odd year and both of them for a two-year term. In section three, not talk about an automatic transition but the officers will serve a term of two years, without the automatic transition.

Corey Cram-every 2 years odd number years we are selecting a Chair and a Vice-Chair and they will serve for 2 years.

Peter Gessel-I did change some of the language under section 5. (See pages of corrections)

Victor Iverson moved to adopt and approve the changes and Brian Steed Seconded. All approved the language changed, and the additional wording to the rules.

Peter Gessel-No issues with procedures. Next Amendment's. I did create a separate resolution to adapt these rules of procedure. It says you adopted on this day and once you approve this is where you will sign.

Mark Stratford made a motion to adopt the Resolution of the Utah Watersheds Council to adopt Rules of Order and Procedure and Corey Cram seconded it. After a roll call vote, all approved and the Resolution was adopted.

Election of Officers, Dan Adams

Brian Steed- moved to nominate and elect Corey Cram for Chair and Victor Iverson Seconded the nomination. All council members were in favor of Corey Cram as Chair. After a roll call vote, all approved.

Corey Cram asked for nominations for a Vice-Chair. Brian Steed nominated Scott Paxman. Victor Iverson seconded the nomination. All council members were in favor. After a roll call vote, all approved.

Formation of Local Councils (Update)

Corey Cram turned the time over to Dan Adams for an Overview of the four councils.

(Bear River, Weber River, Jordan River, Sevier River)

Local Watershed Councils.

11 seats that are formal in the act

Communicate local issues, concerns, and priorities to the Utah Watershed Council.

Those located in the Colorado River Basin are also to advise the newly created Colorado River authority.

5 POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR 2022 (Watershed councils)

- Bear River
- Jordan River
- Sevier River
- Weber River
- Uintah Basin

They will meet as a watershed Council. They would like to do a very inclusive invite. Walk thru the act.

Corey Cram- some of these are very big Basins. They will need representation. If yo have something good you will want to build on it.

Kim Shelley-I think it very important to provide opportunities for those things to continue to happen.

Scott Paxman-you have to have a reason to meet. Informal group. Report to local sub to be, all members will be here.

RECENT OUTREACH EFFORTS

- Utah Water Users Conference presentation (Todd Stonely & Dan Adams)
- Summit County Council and work of Jess Kirby
- Weber River Partnership Inquiries
- Bear River Basin Water Quality Task Force (Gave a presentation)

- PacifiCorp (Rocky Mountain Power) (Dan Adams met with them and they attended the Utah Water Users conference).

Todd Stonely-I want the Council Members to know we have retained the Langdon Group to help us through the next four years. To help implement the local Watershed Councils.

Dan Adams-The Local Council Formation

- Focus
- Funding
- Existing Organizations/Efforts
- Council more than “just another meeting”
- Councils that will stand the test of time.
- Size

Dan Adams invited everyone to watch a Life Cycles of Watersheds Councils Zoom meeting April 26, 3-4:30. By Jon A. Souder.

Peter Gessel-I want to highlight some parts in the act. Line 168 (facilitate the establishment by certifying them) this is done after reviewing the proceedings and documents submitted by the local councils to make sure they meet the certification requirements. Rule number one is to certify. Number two is provide resources and support for the administration of local councils. Number three consult and seek guidance from local councils. In the next section, it says may be certified by the State Council, It is not mandatory. I think there is a fair amount of discretion for the state council.

Cory Cram-I would like to ask for some feedback and guidance at the next meeting and just hear how things are going with these groups.

Warren Peterson-Look for opportunity and combine the Water Resources to set up local.

Review of Local Council Kick-off Process:

Corey Cram- commented the things we can do and put in the next meeting. One of the recommendations would be to bring before this group a discussion of statewide process and efforts already taking place.

Kim Shelley-I think there is a lot of good work we could kick off with. I would like to volunteer one of our staff members to present at the next meeting.

Corey Cram-We will follow up with that and have Dan update us also. Suggestions for the next meeting?

Todd Stonely- I have reserved this room for the following dates, second Thursday July 14 and October 13 dates from 1-3:00pm for the next meetings.

Brian Steed moved to approve the dates and time for the next Council Meeting and Mark Stratford seconded the dates and times. After a vote all, approved.

Dan Adams-On the next agenda also have Candice discuss HB10.

Warren Peterson-Discussed water and the legislative session. In addition, how it would all be coordinated. We are using the same format here today. This is a good place to coordinate those multiple issues.

Kim Shelley-I would like to propose the things that Warren is discussing to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Public Comments:

Claudia Cottle with Bear Lake Watch. She thanked the council for the work they are doing. She wants her group to be apart and thinks it would be beneficial. She wants to make sure Bear Lake is involved.

Rachel Shilton-No comments on line.

Corey Cram motioned to conclude.

Brian Steed moved to adjourn the meeting and Victor Iverson seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 3:12pm.