

## Cedar-Beaver Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, 5/12/25, Beaver County Administration Bldg., 105 E. Center Street, Beaver, UT 84713.

At the May 12, 2025 Cedar-Beaver Watershed Council meeting, State Water Plan Manager Steph McGinnis outlined updates to the State Water Plan, including statutory changes requiring more frequent updates and mandatory collaboration with local entities such as watershed councils. The plan will feature nine chapters, including a new Basin Perspectives section based on local input, and aims to guide water-related decision-making at all levels. A survey will be distributed within 1–1.5 weeks to collect detailed, location-specific feedback, with results informing the plan and Chapter 8 in particular. Council members were encouraged to complete the survey, volunteer for a subcommittee to synthesize results, and assist with upcoming public scoping meetings. The plan is targeted for publication in December 2026. A project tour near Three Creeks reservoir followed.

### Attendees:

Carly Payne – DWRe	Olga Isopov—Iron County--online
Amy Dickey—online	Terri Hartley – CICWCD
Becca Frei—DWRe—online	Scott Stubbs—Farm Bureau
Seth Davie—Rocky Ford Irrigation	Stephanie Hill—Clark Livestock; ICSDB
Brandon Yardley – Beaver County	David Harris-- CICWCD
Jason Brown—Beaver City	Cody Staheli—E&I, farmer—online
Stephanie McGinnis—DWRe	Mark Nelson—USU Extension
Jennifer Marshall—Beaver County	Tammy Pearson—Beaver County
Jake Benson—UDAF	

### 1. Call to Order, Introductions, and approval of minutes

Chair **Brandon Yardley** opened the meeting, welcomed attendees in person and online, and led introductions. Minutes from the previous meeting, 2/10/25, were unanimously approved with David Harris making the motion and Tammy Pearson seconding.

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### 2. State Water Plan Overview

**Presenter:** Carly Payne introduced **Steph McGinnis**, the new State Water Plan Manager.

- Slides were presented; questions were encouraged.
- The plan is not entirely new; **Becca Frei** has joined the team to assist.

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### 3. Statutory Changes to the State Water Plan — *Steph McGinnis*

- Updates required no less frequently than every **10 years**; internal goal is **5 years**.
  - Collaboration is now **mandatory** with entities such as:
    - State agencies
    - Water conservancy districts
    - Watershed councils
  - Emphasis on **local representation** via watershed councils.
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#### 4. Objectives and Scope — *Steph McGinnis*

- Goal: Framework to guide water-related decision-making at **individual, local, and state levels**.
  - Document length goal: ~150 pages.
  - Content will identify **water resources, challenges, and solutions** for communities, agriculture, and the environment.
  - Information will be shared with policymakers.
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#### 5. Plan Structure — *Steph McGinnis*

- **Nine chapters** in total.
  - Chapters 2–4: Address natural availability, legal frameworks, and constraints.
  - **New Chapter 8: Basin Perspectives** — draws directly from watershed councils to identify basin-specific challenges, needs, and successes.
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#### 6. Survey for Council Input — *Carly Payne*

- Survey will gather input on **challenges, needs, and successes** within each basin.
  - Target completion: **within 1–1.5 weeks**.
  - Link can be shared with colleagues for broader input, but **not** on social media.
  - Survey asks about council membership for response tracking.
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## 7. Using Local Input — *Carly Payne*

- Feedback will be organized under themes:
    - Vibrant communities
    - Productive agriculture
    - Healthy watersheds
  - Detailed and location-specific information is encouraged; respondents may be contacted for clarification.
  - Survey is **not** the only opportunity for input.
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## 8. Timeline — *Steph McGinnis & Carly Payne*

- **Target publication date:** December 2026.
  - Drafts will be shared with councils, especially for Chapter 8.
  - Division staff will write plan content based on collected input.
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## 9. Unified Water Infrastructure Plan (UIP) — *Carly Payne*

- UIP focuses on **project funding**; State Water Plan will focus on broader themes.
  - UIP applications reopen annually; contact information available for interested parties.
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## 10. Public Scoping Meetings — *Carly Payne*

- Planned for **each basin** between **July and September**.
  - Councils asked to help with:
    - Meeting location recommendations
    - Sharing meeting information through networks
  - Subcommittee members encouraged to attend.
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## 11. Basin Perspective Subcommittee — *Carly Payne*

- Request for **2–4 volunteers** to help:
    - Synthesize survey results
    - Identify key themes
    - Provide feedback before drafting Chapter 8
  - Anticipated **2 virtual meetings** over the next 4–5 weeks.
  - Subcommittee will **guide** division staff, not write content themselves.
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## 12. Logistics and Next Steps — *Carly Payne*

- **Two separate emails** to be sent:
    1. Survey link for broad distribution.
    2. Subcommittee invitation for council members only.
  - **Action Items:**
    - Complete survey within 1–1.5 weeks.
    - Council members to consider volunteering for subcommittee.
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## 13. Adjournment & Tour

- Carly Payne thanked members for their time and participation.
  - Meeting adjourned; next agenda item was a project tour near Three Creeks reservoir.
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### Action Items:

1. **Council members** to complete the State Water Plan survey by the stated deadline.
2. **Steph McGinnis** to send survey link and subcommittee invitation emails by **Wednesday** following the meeting.
3. **Council members** to volunteer for Basin Perspective Subcommittee if interested.