



DRAFT MINUTES

West Colorado River Watershed Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Price City Public Works Complex, Dome A Conference Room

Attendance At Meeting (Council Members)

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone #	Present	Zoom
Autumn Gillard	Paiute Tribe	agillard@paiute.gov			
Bart Battista	Utah Wildlife Southern Advisory Council	bartb@bestfriends.org	(435) 275-2962		X
Bart Jensen	Jones & Demille Engineering	b.jensen@jonesanddemille.com	(435) 201-2507	X	
Bill Butcher	Price River Conservation District	wrbutcher@gmail.com	(435) 613-9193	X	
Brian Peterson	Fremont Irrigation Company	bigrockcattle@scintern.net			
Cody Allred	PacifiCorp	cody.allred@pacificorp.com	(435) 687-4306	X	
Dino Kiahtipes	Farmer	circlekdino@gmail.com	(435) 650-0039		
Jay Humphrey	Emery Water Conservancy District	jay.humphrey@ewcd.org	(435) 381-2311		
Jeff Richens	Price River Water Improvement District	jrichens@prwid.gov	(435) 636-9402	X	
Kerry Cook	Wayne County Commission	kerry@wayne.utah.gov	(435) 691-5197	X	
Kevin Cotner	Carbon Canal Company	kevin@uniteddieselservice.net	(435) 650-4173	X	
Leland Pollock	Garfield County Commission	leland.pollock@garfield.utah.gov			
Mike Noel	Kane County Water Conservancy District	mnoel5603@gmail.com	(435) 644-3997		
Miles Nelson	Price City	milesn@priceutah.net	(435) 637-5010	X	
Nick Sampinos	Rancher	nsampinos@emerytelcom.net	(435) 820-6191	X	
Randy Erwin	Green River Canal Company	randy@double-e-inc.com			
Russell Seeley	Price River Watershed Council	rseeley@utah.gov	(435) 650-8519		X
Sue Bellagamba	The Nature Conservancy	sbellagamba@tnc.org	(435) 259-7607		
Thomas DeHart	Trout Unlimited	thomas.dehart@tu.org		X	
Jaylene Mahleres	Price/Wellington Control Board	jmahleres@emerytelcom.net	(435) 650-1561	X	
Vacant Seat					

Attendance at Meeting (Liaisons to the Council)

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone #	Present	Zoom
Amy Dickey	Utah Division of Water Quality	adickey@utah.gov	(435) 501-9581		
Anthony Beals	Natural Resources Conservation Service	anthony.beals@usda.gov			
Cash Stallings	Water Rights	cstallings@utah.gov		X	
Kurt Robins	USFS, Fishlake National Forest	kurtis.robins@usda.gov			
Marc Stilson	Colorado River Authority of Utah	mkstilson@utah.gov	(801) 232-4790	X	
Mark Quilter	Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	mquilter@utah.gov	(801) 201-4397		
Michael Freeman	Water Rights Regions Engineer	mjfreeman@utah.gov			X
Michele Gabb	Utah Division of Water Rights	michelegabb@utah.gov	(435) 820-4924		

Attendance at Meeting (Division of Water Resources)

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone #	Present	Zoom
Carly Payne	Watershed Councils Coordinator	carlypayne@utah.gov	(801) 600-5629	X	
Rachel Shilton	West Colorado River Area Planning Specialist	rachelshilton@utah.gov		X	

Attendance at Meeting (Others)

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone #	Present	Zoom
Kathy Sherman	Price City	kathys@priceutah.net	(435) 637-5010	X	
John Boyd	Price City	Johnb@priceutah.net	(435) 637-5010	X	
Ellie Oakley	The Nature Conservancy	ellie.oakley@tnc.org			X
Kit Quarry	NRCS				X

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by Co-Chair Kevin Cotner.

Roll Call

An X signifies those in attendance on Zoom or in-person.

Approval of Minutes

Jeff Richens motioned to approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 26, 2025 . Motion seconded by Cody Allred and carried.

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Sue Bellagamba Seat Change	
Discussion Conversation: Ellie Oakley with the Nature Conservancy was nominated to replace Sue Bellagamba.	
Conclusion Closing: Bill Butcher motioned to approve that Ellie Oakley take the seat currently held by Sue Bellagamba. Motion seconded by Nick Sampinos and carried.	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Council Membership 21 st Seat	
Discussion Conversation:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cody Allred will reach out to Mike Noel for nominations from the Southern Region.• Cash Stallings has some possible candidates from Escalante.• Carly Payne will compile a list and email out to the Council members to review before the next meeting.	
Conclusion Closing: Agenda Topic is to be tabled for the next meeting.	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Plan Council Tour	
Discussion Conversation:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas for a Tour:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Virtual Tour<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Council Members have the opportunity to create a video, power point presentation etc. from their existing, development stage and future projects to share with the Council.○ Boots on the Ground Tour<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Use the map to generate ideas for a tour from the existing, development stage and future projects.	
Conclusion Closing: Agenda Topic is to be tabled for next meeting.	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
On Demand Management Presentation	Marc Stilson, Colorado Authority of Utah
<p>Discussion Conversation: Power point presentation with a breakdown of the following key components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● COLORADO RIVER ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE - The Colorado River is a vital economic engine for the Western United States. The Upper and Lower basins span 250,000 square miles and support 40 million people. The river supplies water for seven states: Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and California. ● COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY OF UTAH - In 2021, the Utah State Legislature established the Colorado River Authority of Utah (CRAU), a state agency focused on protecting Utah's interests in the Colorado River system. The agency was created to address the state's water needs amidst growing concerns about drought, population growth, and the need to renegotiate the Colorado River's operating guidelines. The CRAU is tasked with protecting, preserving, conserving, and developing Utah's Colorado River system interests. ● MEMBERSHIP - the Colorado River Authority of Utah has established five (5) advisory councils a Central, Northern, Southern, Southwest & Agriculture. These councils are designed to provide diverse perspectives and expertise on Colorado River issues ● POST 2026 NEGOTIATIONS - All seven (7) states agree that there needs to be a plan implemented to reduce water consumption. Both basins agree that the current operations are insufficient to protect water elevations in both Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The Lower Basin states have agreed to take the first 1.5 MAF of reductions, but now the negotiations are to determine who will take the additional reductions. . The Lower Basin States want to split the remaining reductions 50/50, but the Upper Basin States wants to recognize our hydrologic shortage, and then maybe split on a proportionality basis, because the Lower Basin States uses two to three times as much water as we do. The agreement will be temporary and hopes it to last twenty (20) years. ● FEASABILITY - The Colorado River's feasibility refers to the ongoing assessment of whether a Demand Management program, involving temporary, voluntary, and compensated water use reductions in the Upper Colorado River Basin, is feasible and advisable for Colorado and the other Upper Basin states. ● DEMAND MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM - Refers to strategies for conserving water, particularly in the Colorado River Basin. It involves voluntary and compensated reductions in water use, aiming to keep more water in the river, maintain critical reservoir levels, and ensure compliance with interstate water agreements. The state also has a pilot program to compensate farmers for temporarily fallowing land, effectively saving water in the river. <p>Conclusion Closing: "Marc Stilson" The mission of the Authority is to protect, conserve, use and develop Utah's waters of the Colorado River system.</p>	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Update: State Water Council Presentation – April 10th	Cody Allred
<p>Discussion Conversation: The power point presentation was well received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Items the council is focusing on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Define our role & value. Support & develop the 2026 State Water Plan. Increase our representation through our vast region. Mission Statement Questions the State Water Council asked Cody: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of our Water Shed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rachel Shilton will provide the information to the State Council. What we see our goal is? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Cody Allred" We know our locals and local drainage. Our value is to collect data that is important to us and funnel it up through the State Agency and into the State Plan so it can be factored into decisions, policies and programs. What can the State Council do for us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council needs to identify things that make us more productive and provide those to the State Council. Information the State Council wants from this Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inform them of any Legislative changes. Meet with local Conservation Districts. Map <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Council are excited about our map project. <p>Conclusion Closing: The Watershed's second presentation to the State Council will be next April 2026.</p>	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Update: Watershed Map	Rachel Shilton
<p>Discussion Conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map Layers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Memberships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest they represent. City close to where they live <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add member names and eliminate City. County Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add subcategories e.g. Agricultural Add Water Infrastructure Projects Industrial Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rachael Shilton will email a list to Council Members to verify the projects are current, or if there are any that need to be added. Streams, Irrigation, Canals & Secondary Canals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Layer has been turned on. National Monuments & State Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a marker for each monument & park for enhanced visibility. 	

Conclusion Closing: "Rachel Shilton" Creating the map has been fun for our staff and they are happy to offer this type of support. The map will never be static, changes & updates can always be made.

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Review Survey from Stephanie McGinnis	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survey:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Survey deadline has been extended to Monday, May 26th.○ Carly Payne will email the survey to members of the committee.○ It would be appreciated if all members to set aside some time to complete the survey.○ Rachael Shilton will set-up a virtual meeting with council members to review the survey responses.• Public Scoping Meeting:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Location: Castle Dale Community Center○ Date: Late summer or early fall.	

Open Time for Other Items from Council Members

There was a discussion on whether to split the Watershed Council in half. Everyone agrees to give it a year and see if there is more participation from other counties within the boundary. An idea was presented to have two (2) of the meetings in Carbon/Emery County and the other two (2) in the Southern counties.

Public Comment

There was no public comment for discussion.

Next Meeting (Date, Time & Location)

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 @ 1:00 PM – Public Works Complex

Adjourn

Miles Nelson motioned for the meeting to adjourn at 3:15 PM.. Motion seconded by Bart Jensen and carried.