

West Colorado River Watershed Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 16, 2025 @ 10:30 AM

Emery Water Conservancy District Office - 50 South 100 East - Castle Dale

Welcome, Introductions, and Ensure Quorum - Kevin Cotner/Kerry Cook

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Approval of Meeting Minutes, August 6, 2025 - Kevin Cotner/Kerry Cook

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Agenda Topic: Development of a Council Mission Statement & Goals

UPDATE: Mike Noel's Letter Regarding Water Quality.

Agenda Topic: State Water Plan Update

REMINDER: Public Scoping Meeting - Wednesday, October 22nd.

Agenda Topic: Water Projects Inventory

Open Time for Other Items from Council Members

Public Comment

Schedule Next Meeting Date, Time and Location - Kevin Cotner/Kerry Cook

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Adjourn - Kevin Cotner/Kerry Cook

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LUNCH: Lunch will be provided by the Emery County Conservancy District.

TOUR: Water Conservation on Cottonwood Creek Pressurized Irrigation System



DRAFT MINUTES

West Colorado River Watershed Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m.

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@pitu.gov			
Bart Battista	Utah Wildlife Southern Advisory Council	bartb@bestfriends.org	(435) 275-2962		
Bart Jensen	Jones & Demille Engineering	b.jensen@jonesanddemile.com	(435) 201-2507	X	
Bill Butcher	Price River Conservation District	wrbutcher@gmail.com	(435) 613-9193	X	
Brian Peterson	Fremont Irrigation Company	bigrockcattle@scinernet.net			
Cody Allred	PacifiCorp	cody.allred@pacificorp.com	(435) 687-4306	X	
Dino Kiahtipes	Farmer	circlekdino@gmail.com	(435) 650-0039		
Ellie Oakley	Nature Conservancy	ellie.oakley@tnc.org			X
Jay Humphrey	Emery Water Conservancy District	Jay.humphrey@ewcd.org	(435) 381-2311		X
Jeff Richens	Price River Water Improvement District	jrichens@prwid.gov	(435) 636-9402		
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		X
Miles Nelson	Price City	milesn@priceutah.net	(435) 637-5010	X	
Nick Sampinos	Rancher	nsampinos@emerytel.com.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		
Ellie Oakley	The Nature Conservancy	ellieoakley@tnc.org	(435) 259-7607		X
Thomas DeHart	Trout Unlimited	thomas.dehart@tu.org		X	
Jaylene Mahleres	Price/Wellington Control Board	jmahleres@emerytel.com.net	(435) 650-1561	X	

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		X
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			
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	
Stephanie McGinnis	State Water Plan Manager				X
David Schmucker	Mayor of Big Water Utah	dwschmucker@gmail.com	(928) 660-1777		X

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by Co-Chair Kevin Cotner.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

Cody Allred motioned to approve the minutes of Wednesday, May 21, 2025 . Motion seconded by Nick Sampinos and carried.

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Council Membership 21st Seat	
<p>Discussion Conversation: David Smucker, Mayor of Big Water Utah introduced himself and expressed his interest in being considered for a position as a new committee member.</p> <p>Conclusion Closing: Michael Noel motioned to approve that David Smucker take the seat currently vacant. Motion seconded by Cody Allred and carried.</p>	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Plan a Council Tour for the Summer	
<p>Discussion Conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, October 16th Meeting/Tour: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting will be held in Castle Dale at the Emery County Conservancy District Office – 50 South 100 East. ○ Cottonwood Creek Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A major canal that moves water to agricultural lands. ▪ Demonstrate/Explain the Scada System for operations and management. • Other Tour Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consumers Wash Reservoir – Carbon County, Utah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project is in the EIS stage. Preferred location has been chosen. ○ Trout Unlimited Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drainage & habitat construction project above Scofield, Utah. ○ Cove Reservoir – Kayne County, Utah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project has been ongoing since 1996 and is in the middle of the EIS stage. 	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Development of a Council Mission Statement & Goals	
<p>Discussion Conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What does the State Legislature want us to do? ○ Cody will email his ideas for a Mission Statement and ask the committee to review and offer their own ideas. ○ Carly will email the committee members the survey summary that can be used as a template for creating future goals/objectives. • Future Focus & Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect the watersheds by being proactive not reactive in land management. ▪ Mike Noel will draft a letter addressing the urgent need for enhanced land management practices (prevention of forest fires) in Utah to protect the state's vital watersheds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Mike will email a copy to Kevin, Carly & Kathy. ▫ Letter will be distributed to the State Water Council & other Utah Councils after review by the committee. 	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
State Water Plan Update (Survey & Updates Related to the SWP)	Stephanie McGinnis, State Water Plan Manager
<p>Discussion Conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symphysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stephanie will create a document from the symphysis to be reviewed by the committee in January/February • Scoping Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Castle Dale, Utah in early October @ County Courthouse Building. ○ A team is being gathered to tackle advertisement. ○ 1 ½ hour Presentation – Start Time 5:30PM or 6:30PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thirty (30) minutes of a high level overview of topics within the State Water Plan. Breakout Tables with three (3) chapters: Productive Agriculture, Vibrant Communities, Healthy Water Sheds & Eco Systems. <p>Conclusion Closing: “Stephanie McGinnis” We would love to have all or some of the State Watershed Council Members attend the Scoping Meeting if they are available.</p>	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Water Projects Inventory	
<p>Discussion Conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cody Allred will create the template and email to the committee members. ○ Listed on the template will be six (6) major tributaries in our drainage & the volunteer committee member(s) within that drainage to fill in the information requested. 	

- Price River Drainage – Jaylene Mahleres & Bill Butcher
- San Rafael River Drainage – Cody Allred
- Dirty Devil River Drainage – Mistie Christiansen
- Muddy River Drainage – Jay Humphrey
- Escalante River Drainage – Kerry Cook & Tyce Palmer
- Paria River Drainage – Mike Noel & David Smucker
- There will be three (3) features for each project to incorporate information into:
 - Existing Project, On-going Projects & Future or Potential Projects.
- To ensure consistency across our projects, we need to define and document their attributes.
- Tommy DeHart will develop a similar projects listing related to environmental/habitat projects throughout the watershed (e.g., river corridor restoration, habitat improvement, etc.)
- The inventory list will be presented at the next meeting for review.
- Once reviewed/approved by the committee members, Rachel Shilton will add the information to the Water Projects Inventory layer on the map.

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Watershed Map Update	Rachel Shilton
Discussion Conversation: No new updates	
Conclusion Closing: Tabled for next meeting	

Open Time for Other Items from Council Members

There was no public comment for discussion.

Public Comment

Marc Stilson informed the committee of the application window for Demand Management 2026, which will open on September 2, 2025 and close on October 10, 2025.

Next Meeting (Date, Time & Location)

Thursday, October 16, 2025 @ 10:30AM – Castle Dale, Utah – District Office 50 South 100 East.

Adjourn

Bill Butcher motioned for the meeting to adjourn at 2:35PM Motion seconded by Bart Jensen and carried.