

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 29, 2026



PLAN CONSERVE DEVELOP PROTECT

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
1594 WEST NORTH TEMPLE, #310
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114



BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES CALENDAR

January 29 Salt Lake City, DNR auditorium

March 18 St. George (After Utah Water Users Workshop)

May 14 Salt Lake City, DNR auditorium

June 25 Salt Lake City, DNR auditorium

August 20 Salt Lake City, DNR auditorium

October 8 TBD (Sevier River Basin & Board Tour October 7)

December 8 Salt Lake City, DNR auditorium
(Board Holiday Luncheon to follow)

RIVER DISTRICTS OF THE UTAH BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES

**GREAT SALT LAKE
INTERESTS**
Brian Steed

BEAR RIVER
Dale Buxton

SALT LAKE
Juliette Tennert

WEBER RIVER
Tim Hawkes

PROVO RIVER
Michael Davis

SEVIER RIVER
Blaine Ipson

GREEN RIVER
William Merkley

LOWER COLORADO RIVER
Spencer Jones

UPPER COLORADO RIVER
Dana Van Horn

Agenda
Utah Board of Water Resources
Board Briefing and Action Meeting
January 29, 2026, 8:30 AM

Department of Natural Resources Auditorium
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Link to presentations and public comment form:

<https://water.utah.gov/comments/>

Livestream Link: <https://youtube.com/live/tNfMqLLUFKY>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chair Mike Davis

DISCUSSION OF BOARD PROJECTS:

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>
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FEASIBILITY REPORTS:

RE502	Farm Creek Irrigation Company	Duchesne	Brad Caldwell
RE503	Elberta Water Company	Utah	Ethan Stayner

COMMITTAL OF FUNDS:

RE475	Hyrum Blacksmith Fork Irrigation Company	Cache	Ethan Stayner
RE494	Washington County Water Conservancy Dist.	Washington	Ben Maret
RE500	Smithfield Irrigation Company	Cache	Ann Baynard
RM117	Lehi City	Utah	Ethan Stayner

BRIEFING INFORMATION TO THE BOARD:

- Status of Funds
- Legislative Update
- Attorney General Update
- Division Update
- Other Items if needed

BREAK

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NRCS SNOW REPORT:

Jordan Clayton

BOARD ACTIONS (see project list above):

GREAT SALT LAKE MARINA DREDGING PROJECT REPORT:

Patrick Campana, P.E.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Joel Williams, Acting Director

Closed Session as needed to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation, Utah Code Section 52-4-205(1)(c)

ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES

REVOLVING CONSTRUCTION FUND - REGULAR PROJECTS

Funding Status
January 29, 2026

Funds Available for Projects This FY \$ 15,655,000

Projects Contracted This FY

1 Co-op Farm Irrigation Company	RE495	\$ 348,000	10/14/25
2 Davis & Weber Counties Canal Company	RE472	999,000	10/09/25
3 Huntsville South Bench Canal Company	RE496	320,000	08/21/25
4 Peterson Pipeline Association	RE481	<u>882,000</u>	08/21/25
		 Total Funds Contracted	 \$ 2,549,000
		Funds Balance	\$ 13,106,000

Projects with Funds Committed

* 1 Hyrum Blacksmith Fork Irrigation Company	RE475	\$ 228,000	01/29/26
2 Smithfield Irrigation Company	RE500	952,000	01/29/26
3 West Milburn Irrigation Company	RE442	335,000	10/08/20
4 Woodland South Hills Irrigation Company	RE471	<u>102,000</u>	(Add'l Amt.) 12/09/25
		 Total Funds Committed	 \$ 1,617,000
		Funds Balance	\$ 11,489,000

Projects Authorized

1 Cache Highline Water Association	RE501	\$ 255,000	10/09/25
2 Dry Gulch Irrigation Company	RE493	492,000	03/19/25
* 3 Elbertha Water Company	RE503	98,000	01/29/26
* 4 Farm Creek Irrigation Company	RE502	435,000	01/29/26
5 Veyo Irrigation Company	RE498	<u>990,000</u>	10/09/25
		 Total Funds Authorized	 \$ 2,270,000
		Remaining Funds Available	\$ 9,219,000
(End of year balance if all listed projects were fully paid)			

* To be presented at Board Meeting

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES

REVOLVING CONSTRUCTION FUND - DAM SAFETY

Funding Status
January 29, 2026

Funds Available for Projects This FY \$ 18,548,000

Projects Contracted This FY

1 Manti Irrigation & Reservoir Co. (Palisades Lake)	RC075	**Grant	\$ 800,000	10/02/25
2 Payson City (Pete Winward)	RC076	**Grant	250,000	08/26/25
3 Wasatch County (Lake Creek)	RC070	**Grant	150,000	07/21/25
4 Washington County Water Cons Dist (Ash Creek)	RC073	**Grant	300,000	08/14/25
5 Washington County Water Cons Dist (Kolob)	RC070	**Grant	<u>500,000</u>	(Add'l Amt.) 11/18/25
			<u>\$ 2,000,000</u>	
			<u>\$ 16,548,000</u>	

Total Funds Contracted

Funds Balance

Projects with Funds Committed

1 Washington County Flood Contr. Auth. (Warner)	RC049	**Grant	\$ 212,000	03/22/17
2 Washington County Flood Contr. Auth. (Stucki)	RC050	**Grant	<u>88,400</u>	03/22/17
			<u>\$ 300,000</u>	
			<u>\$ 16,248,000</u>	

Total Funds Committed

Funds Balance

Projects Authorized

1 None	\$ _____ -
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Total Funds Authorized	\$ _____ -
Remaining Funds Available	(End of year balance if all listed projects were fully paid) \$ 16,248,000

* To be presented at Board Meeting

** Dam Safety Projects

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES

CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND

Funding Status January 29, 2026

Funds Available for Projects This FY \$ 111,109,000

Projects Contracted/Bonds Closed This FY

1 Davis & Weber Counties Canal Company	RM121	**	<u>\$ 1,190,000</u>	08/26/25
Total Funds Contracted/Closed			\$ 1,190,000	
Funds Balance			<u>\$ 109,919,000</u>	

Projects with Funds Committed

1 Hurricane City	RL591	\$	1,282,000	(Add'l Amt.)	05/15/25
* 2 Lehi City	RM117	**	1,690,000		01/29/26
3 Newton Water Users Association	RM044	**	92,000		09/15/22
4 West Panguitch Irrigation & Reservoir Company	RE489		<u>4,250,000</u>		10/10/24
Total Funds Committed			\$ 7,314,000		
Funds Balance			<u>\$ 102,605,000</u>		

Projects Authorized

1 Clinton City	RE490	\$	3,900,000	12/11/24
2 Draper Irrigation Co (Phases 2 & 3)	RE450		12,265,000	09/16/21
3 Grantsville Irrigation Company	RE469		1,496,000	06/29/23
4 Lake Creek Irrigation Company	RE499		8,645,000	08/21/25
5 North Creek Irrigation Company, of Mt. Pleasant	RE488		1,732,000	03/19/25
6 Powder Mountain Water & Sewer Imp District	RE497		1,395,000	05/15/25
7 Veyo Culinary Water Association	RE445		1,076,000	12/09/25
8 Weber-Box Elder Conservation District	RE400		<u>1,687,000</u>	08/10/17
Total Funds Authorized			\$ 32,196,000	
Funds Balance			<u>\$ 70,409,000</u>	

Secondary Meter Projects Authorized

1 Cottonwood Gooseberry Irrigation Company	RM095	**	\$ 840,000	03/22/23
2 Newton Town Sprinkling Company	RM045	**	132,000	08/04/22
3 Paradise Irrigation & Reservoir Company	RM064	**	695,000	08/04/22
4 Richards Irrigation Company	RM051	**	145,000	08/04/22
5 South Ogden Conservation District	RM130	**	1,584,000	12/09/25
6 Weber-Box Elder Conservation District	RM129	**	<u>7,737,000</u>	12/09/25
Total Funds Authorized			\$ 11,133,000	
Remaining Funds Available			(End of year balance if all listed projects were fully paid)	\$ 59,276,000

* To be presented at Board Meeting

** Secondary Meter Projects

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES

CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND - CO RIVER REUSE FUNDS

Funding Status January 29, 2026

Funds Available for Projects This FY \$ 145,000,000

Projects Contracted This FY

1 None \$ _____ -

Total Funds Contracted \$ _____ -
Funds Balance \$ 145,000,000

Projects with Funds Committed

* 1 Washington County Water Conservancy Dist (IA) RE494 \$ 66,133,000 01/29/26

Total Funds Committed \$ 66,133,000
Funds Balance \$ 78,867,000

Projects Authorized

1 Washington County Water Conservancy Dist (IB) RE494 \$ 128,867,000 06/26/25

Total Funds Authorized \$ 128,867,000
Remaining Funds Available \$ (50,000,000)
(End of year balance if all listed projects were fully paid)

* To be presented at Board Meeting

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES

SMALL SYSTEM SECONDARY METER GRANT FUNDS

Funding Status
January 29, 2026

Funds Available for Projects This FY \$ 208,000

Projects Contracted This FY

1 None \$ _____ -

Total Funds Contracted \$ _____ -
Funds Balance \$ 208,000

Projects with Funds Committed

1 None \$ _____ -

Total Funds Committed \$ _____ -
Funds Balance \$ 208,000

* To be presented at Board Meeting

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES

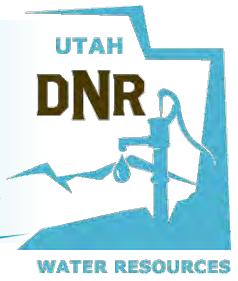
January 29, 2026

ADDITIONAL FUTURE FUNDING NEEDS

Sponsor	No.	Fund	Est. Board Cost	Total Cost	
1 Bear River Canal Company	RE467	RCF	\$ 245,000	\$ 500,000	01/19/23
2 Coyote & East Fork Irrigation Co	RE411	RCF	722,500	1,700,000	08/09/18
3 Ferron Canal & Reservoir Co	RE320	C&D	2,720,000	3,200,000	10/11/12
4 Glendale Irrigation Co	RE408	C&D	1,109,000	1,305,000	02/08/18
5 Glenwood Town (NRCS Dam Safety Grant)	RC056	RCF	969,000	3,568,000	05/10/18
6 Grantsville City	RE485	C&D	3,265,000	3,840,000	04/19/24
7 Greendale Canal Company	RE487	C&D	1,775,000	6,175,000	05/23/24
8 Hooper Irrigation Co (Press Irr, Ph 3+)	RE060R3	C&D	11,033,000	12,980,000	01/25/02
9 Morgan City	RL589	CWL	2,552,000	6,004,200	08/19/22
10 Sanpete WCD (Narrows Dam)	RD377	C&D	29,325,000	34,500,000	04/07/83
11 Settlement Canyon Irrigation Co (Phase 2)	RE240	C&D	552,500	650,000	10/02/08
12 Wellsville-Mendon Conservation District	RE364	C&D	<u>680,000</u>	<u>800,000</u>	03/18/15
Subtotal			\$ 54,948,000	\$ 75,222,000	

* New Application

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES
Feasibility Report



Applicant: **Farm Creek Irrigation Company**

Project Number: RE502
Fund: Revolving Construction Fund
Cost Estimate: \$5,010,000
Board Funding: \$435,000

Application Received: 9/26/2025
Board Meeting Date: 1/29/2026

Board Member: William Merkley
Project Manager: Brad Caldwell

Project Summary: The purpose of the project is to install approximately three miles of pipeline and appurtenances to enclose an earthen canal.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board authorize 8.7% of the project cost, up to \$435,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 20 years with annual payments of approximately \$21,750.

Project Contacts:

President: Hal Giles PO Box 396 Tabiona, UT 84072 435-822-2003	Secretary: Amanda Baum PO Box 396 Tabiona, UT 84072 435-671-9307	Director: Ervan Rhoades PO Box 405 Tabiona, UT 84072 435-823-5453	Engineer: Eric Major Jones & DeMille Engineering 520 W. Highway 40 Roosevelt, UT 84006 435-760-5844
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Location

The proposed project is located between Tabiona and Hanna, which is about 25 miles northwest of the city of Duchesne in Duchesne County.

Introduction & Background

The applicant provides irrigation water for about 1,970 acres from the Duchesne River to 46 shareholders, representing about 1,970 shares. The main distribution system consists of about three miles of open canal, four miles of pipeline and a settling pond that separates the two. About 1,650 acres are sprinkle-irrigated, while the remaining acreage is flood-irrigated.

The applicant received funding previously from the board for a project to pipe the lower portion of the main canal. That funding has been repaid.

Existing Conditions & Problems

The open, earthen canal loses water to evaporation and seepage. The open canal has to be maintained by shareholders with heavy machinery to clean the canal of debris and sedimentation. Shareholders also use individual pumps to generate enough pressure to irrigate their lands.

Proposed Project

The purpose of the project is to install approximately three miles of pipeline and appurtenances, to enclose the earthen canal portion of the system. The existing settling pond will be abandoned, and the new pipeline will be connected to the existing pipeline. A new diversion structure, sluice and sediment basin will be installed near the inlet of the new pipeline. The existing headgate and flume will be removed and a new headgate and measuring devices will be installed. The open canal will remain in place to capture runoff.

Benefits

The project is expected to reduce water losses, as well as reduce annual operation and maintenance costs by about \$4,500. The removal of the settling pond, along with the continuous pipeline, is expected to create enough system pressure to allow more shareholders to convert to pressurized sprinkler systems and reduce their pump usage. It is also expected to allow for about 400 acres of pasture and grass hay to be converted to alfalfa.



Cost Estimate

The following cost estimate is based on the engineer's preliminary design and has been reviewed by staff:

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total
1	Mobilization	1	LS	\$300,000	\$300,000
2	42-inch HDPE Pipe	15,800	LF	171	2,700,000
3	Pipe Appurtenances (Air Valves, Fittings, Drain Valves, etc.)	1	LS	130,000	130,000
4	Turnouts with Meters	26	EA	7,700	200,000
5	Mainline Meter	1	LS	68,000	68,000
6	Sediment Basin Structure (Excavation, Diversion Structure, Outlet Structure)	1	LS	64,000	64,000
7	River Sluice, Pipe Inlet Screen, Outflow Weir	1	LS	14,000	14,000
8	SR-35 Crossing, Potential Siphon	1	LS	26,000	26,000
9	Miscellaneous Costs (Traffic/Utilities/Restoration/etc.)	1	LS	100,000	100,000
				Construction Cost	\$3,602,000
				Contingency	630,000
				Design & Construction Engineering	620,000
				Permitting, Environmental, Testing	140,000
				Legal and Administrative	18,000
				TOTAL	\$5,010,000

Cost Sharing & Repayment

The recommended cost sharing and repayment are:

Agency	Cost Sharing	% of Total
Board of Water Resources	\$435,000	8.7%
BOR WaterSMART Grant	2,000,000	39.9
UDAF Water Optimization Grant	2,500,000	49.9
Applicant	75,000	1.5
TOTAL	\$5,010,000	100%

Both the WaterSMART and UDAF grants have been awarded.

Staff recommends the board authorize 8.7% of the project cost, up to \$435,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 20 years with annual payments of approximately \$21,750.



Financial Feasibility

While an economic feasibility study was not completed for this project, financial benefits are expected due to the following:

- Increased crop yield due to improved system efficiency.
- Increased revenue as low-value pasture and grass hay is converted to higher-value alfalfa.
- Reduced operation and maintenance costs.

Water Rights & Supply

The following list of water rights related to the project was provided by the applicant:

Water Right Number	Flow (cfs)
43-157	0.57
43-158	7.46
43-159	0.75
43-160	2.23
43-164	1.72
43-165	0.9
43-166	2.51
43-3795	1.0

Easements

Existing easements will be used for the project. No additional easements will be needed. The pipeline installation includes the crossing of State Road 35.

Environmental

The state and federal grant processes require environmental studies to be completed by the applicant.

Water Efficiency

The project is expected to increase the system's efficiency by reducing water loss through evaporation and seepage from the earthen, open canal. The increased efficiency is expected to be equivalent to about 1,850 acre-feet. This increased efficiency will allow the applicant to preserve their storage longer to be used later in the season for additional crop yield.

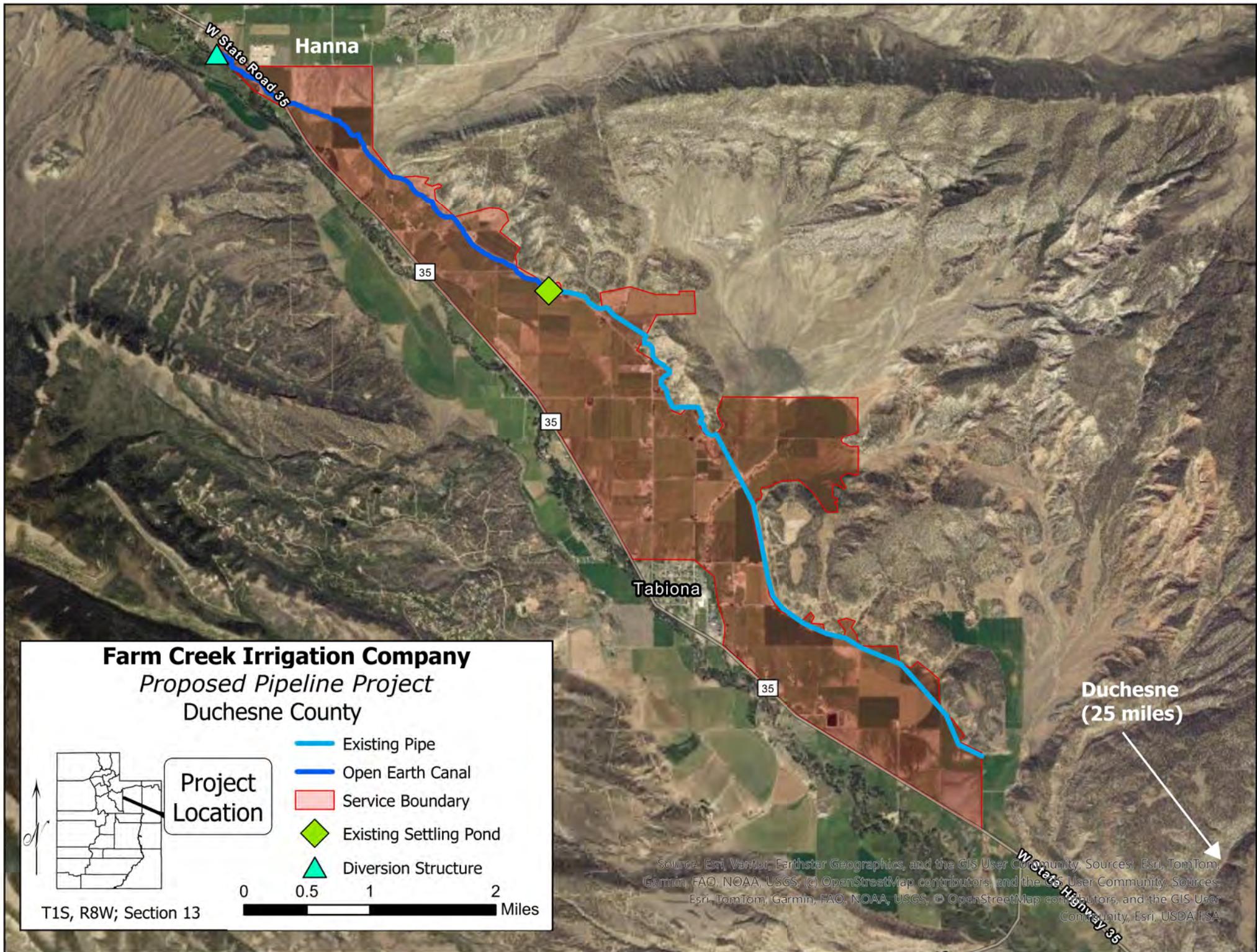
The applicant does not have a current water conservation plan (WCP) on file with the division. A WCP must be submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Division's Water Conservation Section and adopted by the water provider as indicated in Utah Code 73-10-32. The WCP must be submitted three weeks prior to the date of the board's committal of funds.



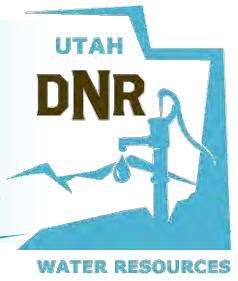
Applicant's Responsibilities

If the board authorizes the proposed project, the applicant must do the following before a purchase agreement can be executed:

1. Obtain all easements, rights-of-way, and permits required to construct, operate, and maintain the project.
2. Pass a resolution by the appropriate majority (as defined in the company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws) authorizing its officers to do the following:
 - a. Assign properties, easements, and water rights required for the project to the Board of Water Resources.
 - b. Enter into a contract with the Board of Water Resources for construction of the project and subsequent purchase from the board.
3. Have an attorney give the Board of Water Resources a written legal opinion that:
 - a. The company is legally incorporated for at least the term of the purchase contract and is in good standing with the state Department of Commerce.
 - b. The company has legally passed the above resolution in accordance with the requirements of state law and the company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
 - c. The company has obtained all permits required for the project.
 - d. The company owns all easements and rights-of-way for the project, as well as the land on which the project is located, and that title to these easements, rights-of-way, and the project itself can be legally transferred to the board.
 - e. The company's water rights applicable to the project are unencumbered and legally transferable to the Board of Water Resources, and that they cover the land to be irrigated by the project.
 - f. The company is in compliance with sections 73-10-33, 10-9a-211, and 17-27a-211 of the Utah Code governing management plans for water conveyance facilities.
4. Submit or update a Water Conservation Plan for its service area, and obtain approval of it from the Division of Water Resources. **The plan must be submitted three weeks prior to the scheduled board meeting for Committal of Funds.**
5. Obtain approval of final plans and specifications from the Division of Water Resources.
6. Obtain letters from all outside financing agencies establishing their commitment of funds to the project.



BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES
Feasibility Report



Applicant: **Elberta Water Company**

Project Number: RE503
Fund: Revolving Construction Fund
Cost Estimate: \$115,000
Board Funding: \$98,000

Application Received: 11/21/2025

Board Meeting Date: 1/29/2026

Board Member: Michael K. Davis

Project Manager: Ethan Stayner

Project Summary: The purpose of the project is to upgrade pumps on the system's three wells.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board authorize 85% of the project cost, up to \$98,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 15 years with annual payments of approximately \$6,500.

Project Contacts:

President:
Bill Ford
PO Box 166
Elberta, UT 84626
801-798-7351

Secretary:
Merrill West
PO Box 166
Elberta, UT 84626
801-420-3474

Engineer:
Jesse Ralphs
Sunrise Engineering
25 E. 500 N.
Fillmore, UT 84631
435-743-1145



Location

The proposed project is located in Elberta, about 10 miles west of Santaquin, in Utah County.

Introduction & Background

The applicant provides drinking water to the town of Elberta, serving about 68 residential and 5 institutional connections. The system consists of about 17 miles of pipeline, two tanks (150,000 and 60,000 gallons), and three wells. The board funded two previous projects. The first was a 350-foot deep well and more than 4 miles of pipeline (1976), and the second included a 150,000 gallon tank, a second well (350 feet) and more than one mile of pipeline (1989). Both projects have been repaid. The applicant also received funding from the Division of Drinking Water, which is being repaid with annual payments of \$15,000 through 2044.

Existing Conditions & Problems

The applicant operates three wells (1, 2, and 3). Wells 1 and 2 are more shallow wells that have levels of arsenic that are above the current allowed limit. Well 3 is a deeper well, with lower levels of arsenic. The water from Wells 1 and 2 is blended with Well 3 water to reduce the overall level of arsenic to comply with drinking water requirements.

In 2023, the production of Wells 1 and 2 began to drop. The applicant has spent about \$100,000 for repairs, including inspecting and cleaning the wells using an acid treatment, and replacing a pump, motor and column pipe. Well production did not return to the previous levels. Well 1 can currently only be operated at low power to avoid cavitation. Well 2 can only be operated for short periods, or it fills in with high levels of sand which damages the pump.

The applicant currently has a moratorium on issuing additional shares of stock. Any new development must include the purchase of shares from other shareholders.

Proposed Project

The proposed project will upgrade the pump system at Well 3 to increase the source capacity from about 100 gallons per minute (gpm) to 150 gpm. The existing pump in Well 2 will be replaced and a new pump will be installed. A spare pump will be purchased for Well 1 for emergency backup measures.

Benefits

The project will reduce the current operation & maintenance costs drastically, increase the capacity of the wells, and provide redundancy in the system.



Cost Estimate

The following cost estimate is based on the engineer's preliminary design and has been reviewed by staff:

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total
1	Well 3 Upgrades – Pump, Motor, Column Pipe and Cable	1	LS	\$50,000	\$50,000
2	Well 1 – Pump for Emergency Backup	1	LS	8,000	8,000
3	Well 2 – Replace Existing Pump	1	LS	6,000	6,000
4	SCADA Upgrade	1	LS	6,000	6,000
				Construction Cost	\$70,000
				Contingency	\$15,000
				Design & Construction	15,000
				Engineering	15,000
				Legal and Administrative	15,000
				TOTAL	\$115,000

Cost Sharing & Repayment

The recommended cost sharing and repayment are:

Agency	Cost Sharing	% of Total
Board of Water Resources	\$98,000	85%
Applicant	17,000	15
TOTAL	\$115,000	100%

Staff recommends the board authorize 85% of the project cost, up to \$98,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 15 years with annual payments of approximately \$6,500.

Financial Feasibility

The project is not expected to have an increased financial benefit for the applicant. However, it will drastically reduce the most recent operation and maintenance costs. In discussion with the applicant, an annual repayment of approximately \$6,500 (minimum 15-year repayment term) will be affordable.

Water Rights & Supply

The following list of water rights related to the project was provided by the applicant:

Water Right Number	Volume (ac-ft)
53-707	40
53-90	50.85



Easements

The applicant has the necessary easements for each well and the project.

Water Efficiency

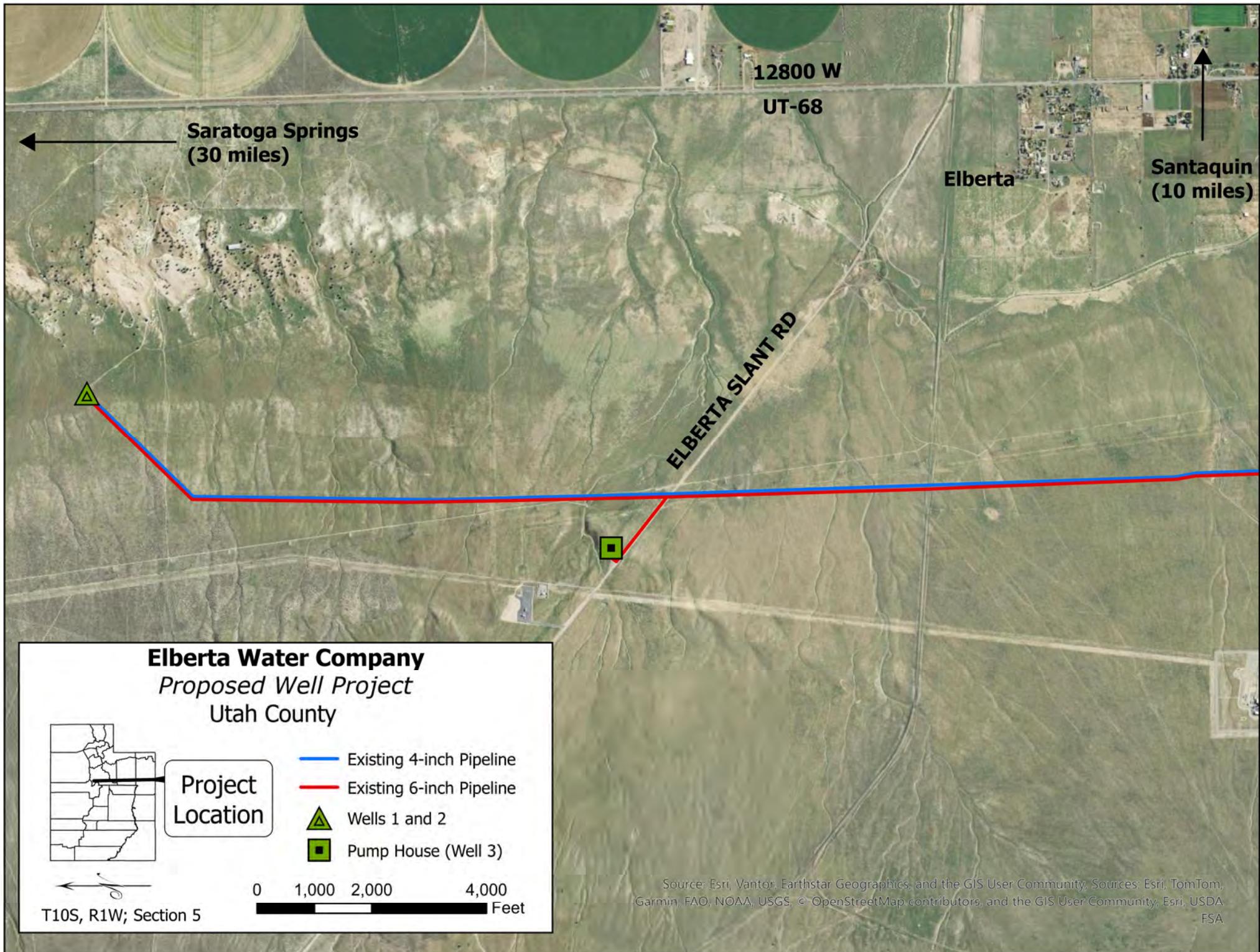
The project will not increase the system's efficiency but is necessary to provide drinking water to existing shareholders.

The applicant does not have a current water conservation plan (WCP) on file with the division. A WCP must be submitted, reviewed and approved by the Division's Water Conservation Section and adopted by the water provider as indicated in Utah Code 73-10-32. The WCP must be submitted three weeks prior to the date of the board's committal of funds.

Applicant's Responsibilities

If the board authorizes the proposed project, the applicant must do the following before a purchase agreement can be executed:

1. Obtain all easements, rights-of-way, and permits required to construct, operate, and maintain the project.
2. Pass a resolution by the appropriate majority (as defined in the company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws) authorizing its officers to do the following:
 - a. Assign properties, easements, and water rights required for the project to the Board of Water Resources.
 - b. Enter into a contract with the Board of Water Resources for construction of the project and subsequent purchase from the board.
3. Have an attorney give the Board of Water Resources a written legal opinion that:
 - a. The company is legally incorporated for at least the term of the purchase contract and is in good standing with the state Department of Commerce.
 - b. The company has legally passed the above resolution in accordance with the requirements of state law and the company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
 - c. The company has obtained all permits required for the project.
 - d. The company owns all easements and rights-of-way for the project, as well as the land on which the project is located, and that title to these easements, rights-of-way, and the project itself can be legally transferred to the board.
 - e. The company's water rights applicable to the project are unencumbered and legally transferable to the Board of Water Resources, and that they cover the land to be irrigated by the project.
 - f. The company is in compliance with sections 73-10-33, 10-9a-211, and 17-27a-211 of the Utah Code governing management plans for water conveyance facilities.
4. Submit or update a Water Conservation Plan for its service area and obtain approval of it from the division. **The plan must be submitted three weeks prior to the scheduled board meeting for Committal of Funds.**
5. Obtain approval of final plans and specifications from the Divisions of Water Resources and Drinking Water.



BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES
Committal of Funds



Applicant:

Hyrum Blacksmith Fork Irrigation Company

Project Number: RE475

Fund: Revolving Construction Fund

Total Cost: \$460,000

Board Funding: \$228,000

Application Received: 9/29/2023

Authorized: 1/25/2024

Board Meeting Date: 1/29/2026

Board Member: Dale Buxton

Project Manager: Ethan Stayner

Project Summary: The purpose of the project is to replace portions of an earthen, unlined canal with about 2,200 feet of pipe, and install a new diversion structure and canal gates on the Blacksmith Fork River.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board commit 49.6% of the project cost, up to \$228,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 15 years with annual payments of approximately \$15,200.

Project Contacts:

President:
Brandon Parker
401 E. 100 N.
Hyrum, UT 84319
435-999-4122

Secretary:
Floyd Burnett
258 E. 6600 S.
Hyrum, UT 84319
435-770-4422

Engineer:
Chad Brown
Franson Civil Engineers
459 S. Main Street
Logan, UT 84321
435-754-7661



Location

The proposed project is located east of Hyrum in Cache County.

Project Summary

The applicant is requesting financial assistance to replace sections of the unlined canal with about 2,200 feet of pipe and install a new diversion structure with three headgates. The applicant has completed the necessary legal requirements to be able to commit funds.

Cost Estimate & Sharing

The cost estimate and sharing remain as authorized.

Agency	Authorized Cost Sharing	% of Total
Board of Water Resources	\$228,000	49.6%
UDAF Grant	191,750	41.7
Applicant	40,250	8.7
TOTAL	\$460,000	100%

Repayment

Staff recommends the board commit 49.6% of the project cost, up to \$228,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 15 years with annual payments of approximately \$15,200.

Applicant: **Washington County Water Conservancy District**

Project Number: RE494
Fund: Conservation & Development Fund
Project Cost Estimate: \$1,360,000,000 (Phases I and II)
Phase I Cost Estimate: \$ 538,000,000
Phase IA Cost Estimate: \$ 96,572,000
Phase IA Board Funds: \$ 66,133,000

Application Received: 2/4/2025
Authorized: 6/26/2025
Board Meeting Date: 1/29/2026

Board Member: Spencer Jones
Project Manager: Ben Maret

Project Summary: The purpose of the multi-phased project is to install a system that includes over 60 miles of pipelines, three reservoirs, and other storage facilities and new or improved water treatment facilities to utilize reuse water for irrigation, and eventually drinking water uses.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board commit 68.5% of Phase IA, up to \$66,133,000, and that the bonded indebtedness be returned at 0.5% interest over 40 years with annual payments of approximately \$1,879,000 (includes reserves).

Project Contacts:

District Board Chair: Ed Bowler 533 E. Waterworks Dr. St. George, UT 84770 435-673-3617	General Manager: Zachary Renstrom 533 E. Waterworks Dr. St. George, UT 84770 435-673-3617	Budget/Finance Manager: Jacob Sullivan 533 E. Waterworks Dr. St. George, UT 84770 435-673-3617	Engineer: Clint Rogers Stantec 150 N. 200 E., Suite 201 St. George, UT 84770 801-680-4468
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Location

The proposed project is located throughout Washington County.

Project Summary

The purpose of the applicant's multi-phased reuse project is to install a system that includes over 60 miles of pipelines, three reservoirs and other storage facilities, new and upgraded water reclamation facilities and an advanced water purification facility to treat reuse water for irrigation, and eventually for drinking water purposes.

Phase I generally includes the infrastructure needed to provide reuse water for irrigation for agriculture and secondary use throughout the service area, freeing up better quality water for drinking water use through exchanges.

The projects in Phase I include the Chief Toquer Dam and Reservoir (CTR), the Graveyard Wash Dam and Reservoir, a pump station for the Confluence Park Water Reclamation Facility (CPWRF), upgrades to the La Verkin City secondary irrigation system, improvements and expansion of the St. George Reuse Facility, as well as pipelines and other infrastructure needed to connect all of the facilities and the existing systems. A pilot program of the advanced water treatment process will also be conducted.

Currently, the CTR, CPWRF, and the pipeline to the Toquerville Secondary Water System (TSWS) are under construction. Construction for the La Verkin secondary irrigation system and CPWRF pipeline will begin in 2026. It is anticipated that all features included under Phase I will be completed by 2030.

Because of the extended duration of the project and the availability of funds, projects in Phase I will be separated into two sub-phases and funding from the board will be issued through two separate bonds. Phase IA will include the following projects:

- Chief Toquer Reservoir
- TSWS Pond to CTR Pipeline & Pump Station
- CPWRF Pump Station
- La Verkin Secondary Irrigation System
- CPWRF to La Verkin Pond Pipeline

At the time of authorization, the cost estimate for Phase I was \$413,000,000; however, the cost of the five projects listed above has increased and the current cost estimate for Phase I is about \$538,000,000. It is recommended that the board consider funds only for Phase IA at this time, and the projects and funding for Phase IB will be presented at a later date.



Cost Estimate & Sharing

The following table includes the most current cost estimate for Phase IA:

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total
1	Chief Toquer Dam/Reservoir	1	LS	\$40,290,000	\$40,290,000
2	TSWS Pond to CTR Pipeline & Pump Station	1	LS	\$1,460,000	\$1,460,000
3	CPWRF Pump Station	1	LS	\$5,310,000	\$5,310,000
4	La Verkin Secondary System	1	LS	\$13,590,000	\$13,590,000
5	CPWRF to La Verkin Pond Pipeline	1	LS	\$8,380,000	\$8,380,000
				Construction Cost	\$69,030,000
				Contingency	\$13,806,000
				Design & Construction	\$10,700,000
				Engineering	
				Legal, Bonding, & Administrative	\$1,036,000
				Permits Fees & Testing	\$2,000,000
				TOTAL	\$96,572,000

The following table reflects the authorized cost sharing for the entire project and the proposed cost sharing for Phase IA:

Agency	Authorized Cost Sharing	% of Total	Proposed Cost Sharing (Phase IA)	% of Total
Board of Water Resources	\$195,000,000	47.2%	\$66,133,000	68.5%
Grant (ARPA & Bureau of Reclamation)	37,400,000	9.1	18,769,000	19.4
Other Loans (WIFIA/Market)	56,200,000	13.6	0	0.0
Applicant	124,400,000	30.1	11,670,000	12.1
TOTAL	\$413,000,000	100%	\$96,572,000	100%

Repayment

Staff recommends the board commit 68.5% of Phase IA, up to \$66,133,000, and that the bonded indebtedness be returned at 0.5% interest over 40 years with annual payments of approximately \$1,879,000 (includes reserves).

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES
Committal of Funds



Applicant: **Smithfield Irrigation Company**

Project Number: RE500
Fund: Revolving Construction Fund
Total Cost: \$3,100,000
Board Funding: \$952,000

Application Received: 7/25/2025
Authorized: 10/9/2025
Board Meeting Date: 1/29/2026

Board Member: Dale Buxton
Project Manager: Ann Baynard

Project Summary: The purpose of the project is to replace five deteriorating diversion structures and install about 3,500 feet of 12-inch PVC pipe and 450 feet of 18-inch PVC pipe.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board commit 30.7% of the project cost, up to \$952,00, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 25 years with annual payments of approximately \$38,100.

Project Contacts:

President: Pat Draper 340 E. 200 N. Smithfield, UT 84335 435-563-3161	Secretary: Luann Hansen 52 E. 200 S. Smithfield, UT 84335 435-563-3370	Engineer: Steve Wood, P.E. Sunrise Engineering 2100 N. Main Street North Logan, UT 84341 435-563-3734
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Location

The proposed project is located in and around Smithfield City in Cache County.

Project Summary

The purpose of the project is to replace five deteriorating diversion structures and install about 3,500 feet of 12-inch PVC pipe and 450 feet of 18-inch PVC pipe, sediment basins, and a SCADA system. This will allow the upper part of the applicant's system to be pressurized without the need for the existing booster pump station and reduce maintenance needs and water losses with the diversion structures. The applicant has completed the necessary legal requirements to be able to commit funds.

Cost Estimate & Sharing

The cost estimate and sharing remain as authorized

Agency	Authorized Cost Sharing	% of Total
Board of Water Resources	\$952,000	30.7%
BOR WaterSMART Grant	1,180,000	38.1
UDAF Grant	800,000	25.8
Applicant	168,000	5.4
TOTAL	\$3,100,000	100%

Repayment

Staff recommends the board commit 30.7% of the project cost, up to \$952,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 25 years with annual payments of approximately \$38,100.

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES
Committal of Funds



Applicant: **Lehi City**

Project Number: RM117

Fund: Conservation & Development Fund

Total Cost: \$5,680,000

Board Funding: \$1,690,000

Application Received: 7/19/2024

Authorized: 9/12/2024

Board Meeting Date: 1/29/2026

Board Member: Michael K. Davis

Project Manager: Ethan Stayner

Project Summary: The purpose of the project is to purchase and install approximately 2,500 secondary irrigation meters.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board commit 29.75% of the project cost, up to \$1,690,000, as a loan, and that the bonded indebtedness be returned at 1% interest over 15 years, with annual payments of approximately \$131,000 (including reserves).

Project Contacts:

Mayor:
Paul Binns
153 N. 100 E.
Lehi, UT 84043
385-201-1000

Finance Director:
Dean Lundell
153 N. 100 E.
Lehi, UT 84043
385-201-1000

Engineer:
Lehi City Staff
2538 N. 300 W.
Lehi, UT 84043
385-201-1700



Location

The proposed project is located in Lehi in Utah County.

Project Summary

The applicant is requesting funding to purchase and install approximately 2,500 additional secondary meters. The board previously committed about \$16.2 million in ARPA funds, \$3.8 million in a Small System Secondary Meter Grant, and about \$7.3 million in loan funds for the applicant's secondary meter projects.

The board authorized this project in September 2024 and committed an additional \$3,692,000 in ARPA funds. The applicant has now completed the necessary legal requirements to be able to commit the loan funds.

Cost Estimate & Sharing

The cost estimate and sharing remain as authorized.

Agency	Authorized Cost Sharing	% of Total
Board of Water Resources - Loan	\$1,690,000	29.75%
Board of Water Resources - ARPA Grant	3,692,000	60.00
Applicant	298,000	5.25
TOTAL	\$5,680,000	100%

Repayment

Staff recommends the board commit 29.75% of the project cost, up to \$1,690,000, as a loan, and that the bonded indebtedness be returned at 1% interest over 15 years, with annual payments of approximately \$131,000 (including reserves).

Great Salt Lake Marina Dredging Project
January 29th, 2026

- In 2022, Great Salt Lake (GSL) reached historic lows that forced all boats within the marina to be dry docked, including the two State Ranger Search and Rescue (SAR) boats. This severely reduced the state's ability to conduct SAR and Law Enforcement operations on GSL.
- In 2023, GSL rose significantly and the two SAR boats were returned to the marina. However, there were legitimate concerns that it would not be long until the SAR boats would need to be removed from the marina. In response, dredging the marina to increase the range of lake elevations that it is operable over was proposed.
- In fall of 2023, Water Resources, in collaboration with the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (FFSL) allocated \$4.2 million of ARPA funding to develop and implement a program to dredge the marina. WRe developed a plan to dredge the marina to an elevation of 4185 feet. Due to funding limitations, the areas selected for dredging included the fuel dock, 10 fuel slips near the fuel dock, the boat ramp, access between all of the aforementioned areas, and a 30-foot-wide by 3,575-foot-long channel from the boat ramp to the main body of GSL.
- In 2024, due to delays related to United States of Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permitting, and unable to hire a contractor directly, the state risked losing the ARPA funds. After consulting the Governor's Office, WRe entered into an interagency agreement with the Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM) that designated DFCM to serve as the manager for the dredging project, and obligated the funds before the 2024 deadline.
- In 2025, DFCM awarded the project to GroundWorx Hydrovac LLC. Dredging began in August and concluded in November. Dredging was conducted using an excavator floating on a barge. Spoils were deposited in a preexisting impoundment near the Great Saltair. All of the areas originally selected for dredging were dredged to at least an elevation of 4185 feet. In addition, due to surplus budget, a change order was issued to dredge several other dock slips and install improved lighting for the exit of the marina and the buoys that mark the exit channel.
- In total, 29,535 yds³ of material were dredged from the marina and exit channel. Only \$100,000 of the \$4.2 million ARPA funds were left over upon completion.

Presented by Patrick Campana, P.E., Design & Construction Engineer III

Unapproved

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES

BRIEFING MEETING

MINUTES

DECEMBER 9, 2025

UTAH BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES

BOARD BRIEFING MEETING

December 9, 2025

8:30 AM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Juliette Tennert (Acting Chair)

Vice Chair Dana Van Horn (online)

Dale Buxton

William Merkley

Blaine Ipson (online)

Brian Steed

Spencer Jones

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Chair Mike Davis

Tim Hawkes

STAFF PRESENT

Director Candice Hasenyager

Deputy Director Joel Williams

Assistant Director Shalaine DeBernardi

Assistant Director Todd Stonely

Marisa Egbert

Tom Cox

Ann Baynard

Brad Caldwell

Ethan Stayner

Ben Marett

Shannon Clough

Jessica Cheun

Leila Ahmadi

Kaylee Tanner

Michael Sanchez

Sarah Shechter, Attorney General's Office

AV Team Paul Gedge

WELCOME

JULIETTE TENNERT Called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM and announced she'd be acting as Chair. She then excused Board members MIKE DAVIS and TIM HAWKES. Board members introduced themselves.

CANDICE HASENYAGER introduced the staff present.

NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION

LEILA AHMADI introduced KAYLEE TANNER, a new employee who joined the Hydrology and Modeling section as an Engineer II.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD PROJECTS

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>
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ARPA SECONDARY METER REPORTS:

MARISA EGBERT provided a detailed update on secondary meter projects and reminded the board of the ARPA deadline of December 31, 2026. Returned funds became an issue as changing legislation allowed more systems to become eligible for exemption and projects were completed under budget. The prioritization process for distributing funds was discussed, using the criteria in Utah Code 73-10-34.5. This final round of projects will reallocate the \$12,295,531.8 that has been returned.

RM085	Mt. Pleasant City (Withdrawal)	Sanpete	Ann Baynard
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ANN BAYNARD summarized the project report. The applicant will not be using the funds and is releasing them back to the board.

RM129	Weber-Box Elder Conservation District	Weber	Ann Baynard
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ANN BAYNARD summarized the project report.

RM130	South Ogden Conservation District	Weber	Ann Baynard
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ANN BAYNARD summarized the project report.

RM131	Morgan City	Morgan	Brad Caldwell
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BRAD CALDWELL summarized the project report. He let the Board know there is a typo in the sentence of the cost estimate and sharing section. It says \$290,000, but should say \$288,000 as indicated in the table.

RM133 Marriott-Slaterville City Weber Ben Marett

BEN MARETT summarized the project report.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

RE445 Veyo Culinary Water Association (Reauth) Washington Tom Cox

TOM COX presented the report, highlighting the reason for cost increases.

TOM COX announced his retirement, with his last day of work on the 19th. This is his last Board meeting, he expressed his appreciation for the board and gratitude for the work. The Board members also expressed their appreciation for Tom.

RE471 Woodland South Hills Irr. Co. (Add'l Funds) Wasatch Russell Hadley

MARISA EGBERT presented the report on behalf of Russell, who is not feeling well today. MARISA EGBERT mentioned that RUSSELL HADLEY is retiring and this is also his last Board meeting.

RM022 South Davis Water District (Withdrawal) Davis Ben Marett

MARISA EGBERT summarized the project report.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS:

CANDICE HASENYAGER will present her report, and there will be an update on Water Banking and a Municipal and Industrial Opportunities report as well. She mentioned that the Finance Manager JIM EGBERT is also retiring at the end of the year, after 15 years with the division and 21.5 years with the state. She thanked the Board for all they do.

ELECTION OF 2026 OFFICERS DISCUSSION:

It was discussed that the current Chair Mike Davis was interested in serving a second year, which the Board supported based on the idea that two years feels like an appropriate term length. The Vice Chair, Dana Van Horn, also agreed to serve a second term.

INFORMATION TO THE BOARD:

STATUS OF FUNDS:

SHALAIN DEBERNARDI presented the current report, highlighting that the ARPA page was added back in to show the available funds and reallocation today.

LEGAL UPDATE:

SARA SHECHTER, provided an update on the Water Horse case, which sought to divert water from Utah for use in Colorado. The court upheld the decision of the State Engineer, who was victorious in the case. She also mentioned the Utah Physicians case, noting that discovery is ongoing and the defendants filed a motion for judgement on the pleadings. The judge is expected to hold a hearing on that motion in the spring.

ADJOURNMENT:

SPENCER JONES moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 AM. WILLIAM MERKLEY seconded the motion.

The Utah Board of Water Resources meetings are regularly streamed live and are recorded so citizens can watch them later. Please use the following link to access the most recent recordings: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkFow-HXdLSkBytTtg6fjf>

Unapproved

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2025

Utah Department of Natural Resources

THOSE PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Juliette Tennert (Acting Chair)
Vice Chair Dana Van Horn (online)
Dale Buxton
William Merkley
Blaine Ipson (online)
Brian Steed
Spencer Jones

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Chair Mike Davis
Tim Hawkes

STAFF PRESENT

Director Candice Hasenyager
Deputy Director Joel Williams
Assistant Director Shalaine DeBernardi
Assistant Director Todd Stonely
Marisa Egbert
Tom Cox
Russell Hadley (online)
Ann Baynard
Brad Caldwell
Shelby Cooley
Ethan Stayner
Ben Marett
Shannon Clough
Jessica Cheun
Laura Vernon
Sarah Shechter, Attorney General's Office
AV Team Paul Gedge

OTHERS

Jordan Clayton, Snow Survey Supervisor, NRCS
Jeff Humphrey, General Manager, Weber-Box Elder & South Ogden Conservation Dist.
Dan Johnson, Engineer, Weber-Box Elder & South Ogden CD (online)

Marcus Keller, Crews & Associates

Kale Watkins ,Water Senior Operator, Morgan City (online)

Ty Bailey, City Manager, Morgan City (online)

Matt Hartvigsen, Engineer, Jones & Associates (online)

Trent Meyerhoffer, Community Service Director, Marriott-Slaterville City (online)

Zack Loveland, Community Developer Director, Marriott-Slaterville City (online)

Shane Taggert, Engineer, Jones & Associates (online)

Slade Hughes, Manager, Veyo Culinary Water Association

Jason Smith, President, Woodland South Hills Irrigation Company

SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIONS

1. **Approval of minutes:** SPENCER JONES moved to approve the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes. DALE BUXTON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
2. **RM085 Mt. Pleasant City (Withdrawal)** BLAINE IPSON moved the project be withdrawn from further consideration by the board. WILLIAM MERKLEY seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
3. **RM129 Weber-Box Elder Conservation District** DAN VAN HORN moved the board authorize and commit 60% of the project cost, up to \$10,029,111.11, as a secondary meter grant, with up to an additional \$1,449,488.89 depending on the availability of additional funds at the time of reimbursement. Also move that the board authorize up to \$7,737,000 as a loan, and that the bonded indebtedness be returned at 1% interest over 15 years with annual payments of approximately \$600,000 (including reserves). SPENCER JONES seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
4. **RM130 South Ogden Conservation District** DANA VAN HORN moved the board authorize and commit 60% of the project cost, up to \$1,784,942.07, as a secondary meter grant, with up to an additional \$403,857.93 depending on the availability of additional funds at the time of reimbursement. Also move that the board authorize up to \$1,584,000 as a loan, and that the bonded indebtedness be returned at 1% interest over 15 years with annual payments of approximately \$123,000 (including reserves). BRIAN STEED seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
5. **RM131 Morgan City** DANA VAN HORN moved the board authorize and commit 60% of the project cost, up to \$173,000, as a secondary meter grant. BRIAN STEED seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
6. **RM133 Marriott-Slaterville City** DANA VAN HORN moved the board authorize and commit 60% of the project cost, up to \$306,000, as a secondary meter grant. BRIAN STEED seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
7. **RE445 Veyo Culinary Water Association** SPENCER JONES moved the board reauthorize 85% of the project cost, up to \$1,076,000, and that the project be purchased at 1%

interest over 30 years with annual payments of approximately \$41,700. DALE BUXTON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

8. **RE471 Woodland South Hills Irr. Co.** SPENCER JONES moved the board commit an additional \$102,000 and amend the purchase agreement to state the board will provide 85% of the project cost, up to \$719,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 30 years with annual payments of approximately \$24,000. DALE BUXTON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
9. **RM022 South Davis Water District (Withdrawal)** WILLIAM MERKLEY moved the loan funds for this project be withdrawn from further consideration by the Board. BRIAN STEED seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
10. **ELECTION OF 2026 BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICERS** BLAINE IPSON moved to appoint MIKE DAVIS as Chair of the Board for the 2026 year. SPENCER JONES seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed. BLAINE IPSON moved to appoint DANA VAN HORN as the Vice-Chair of the Board for the 2026 year. BRIAN STEED seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

**Utah Board of Water Resources
Board Meeting
December 9, 2025
10:30 AM
Department of Natural Resources
1594 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84114**

JULIETTE TENNERT called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM, introduced herself and announced she'll be acting as Chair for the meeting. She excused Board members MIKE DAVIS and TIM HAWKES. Board members present and those online introduced themselves.

CANDICE HASENYAGER introduced the staff present and those online.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

SPENCER JONES moved to approve the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes. DALE BUXTON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

NRCS SNOW REPORT:

Jordan Clayton presented a snow survey update, including highlights of the 2025 water year, snowfall forecasts for December and current statewide reservoir levels.

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>
MARISA EGBERT	provided a summary of the most recent round of application for secondary meter grants and the returned ARPA funds.		

JULIETTE TENNERT mentioned that there was considerable discussion regarding the ARPA reports during the Briefing meeting, so the projects would not be presented again. Additional questions may be addressed, but can have an expedited process at this meeting.

ARPA SECONDARY METER REPORTS:

RM085	Mt. Pleasant City (Withdrawal)	Sanpete	Ann Baynard
BLAINE IPSON	moved the project be withdrawn from further consideration by the board.		
WILLIAM MERKLEY	seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.		

RM129 **Weber-Box Elder Conservation District** **Weber** **Ann Baynard**

DAN VAN HORN moved the board authorize and commit 60% of the project cost, up to \$10,029,111.11, as a secondary meter grant, with up to an additional \$1,449,488.89 depending on the availability of additional funds at the time of reimbursement. Also move that the board authorize up to \$7,737,000 as a loan, and that the bonded indebtedness be returned at 1% interest over 15 years with annual payments of approximately \$600,000 (including reserves). SPENCER JONES seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RM130 **South Ogden Conservation District** **Weber** **Ann Baynard**

DANA VAN HORN moved the board authorize and commit 60% of the project cost, up to \$1,784,942.07, as a secondary meter grant, with up to an additional \$403,857.93 depending on the availability of additional funds at the time of reimbursement. Also move that the board authorize up to \$1,584,000 as a loan, and that the bonded indebtedness be returned at 1% interest over 15 years with annual payments of approximately \$123,000 (including reserves). BRIAN STEED seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RM131 **Morgan City** **Morgan** **Brad Caldwell**

DANA VAN HORN moved the board authorize and commit 60% of the project cost, up to \$173,000, as a secondary meter grant. BRIAN STEED seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RM133 **Marriott-Slaterville City** **Weber** **Ben Marett**

DANA VAN HORN moved the board authorize and commit 60% of the project cost, up to \$306,000, as a secondary meter grant. BRIAN STEED seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

RE445 **Veyo Culinary Water Association** **Washington** **Tom Cox**

TOM COX presented the report.

SPENCER JONES moved the board reauthorize 85% of the project cost, up to \$1,076,000, and that the project be purchased at 1% interest over 30 years with annual payments of approximately \$41,700. DALE BUXTON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RE471 **Woodland South Hills Irr. Co.**

Wasatch **Russell Hadley**

RUSSELL HADLEY presented the report.

SPENCER JONES moved the board commit an additional \$102,000 and amend the purchase agreement to state the board will provide 85% of the project cost, up to \$719,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 30 years with annual payments of approximately \$24,000. DALE BUXTON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RM022 **South Davis Water District (Withdrawal)** **Davis** **Ben Maret**

MARISA EGBERT presented the report.

WILLIAM MERKLEY moved the loan funds for this project be withdrawn from further consideration by the Board. BRIAN STEED seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

WATER BANKING UPDATE:

SHALAIN DEBERNARDI summarized the report. As stated in Utah Code §73-31, the governing body of each bank must report to the board regarding its operation during the prior reporting year, and also requires that the board provide an annual report to the legislature. Information about the two approved banks was presented, and there has been no activity in either banks since approval.

Division staff also submitted a report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on behalf of the board in November.

BOARD MEMBERS and staff discussed the sunset date of the Act, and the lack of bank interest and activity. There may be further analysis needed in the future.

GSL BASIN INTEGRATED PLAN: MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITIES REPORT:

SHELBY COOLEY presented a summary of the report, which is available on water.utah.gov

ELECTION OF 2026 BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICERS

BLAINE IPSON moved to appoint MIKE DAVIS as Chair of the Board for the 2026 year. SPENCER JONES seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

BLAINE IPSON moved to appoint DANA VAN HORN as the Vice-Chair of the Board for the 2026 year. BRIAN STEED seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

SHALAIN DEBERNARDI read the public comment into the record. This comment is from Rick Smith with Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company. "We wanted to publicly thank Tom Cox for the many years and projects he has helped us with over the last two to three decades. We have had several projects, secondary water and canal, with the Board of Water Resources with the majority overseen by Tom. He has been a great asset to Water Resources and has done his job well. He is a friend to the water community. We wish him the best in retirement. We would also like to thank Candice Hasenyager for her work with the Division of Water Resources and most recently as the Director. We wish her the best too in her new role."

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

CANDICE HASENYAGER Following our discussions in the Briefing and Board meetings, I would like to officially recognize our retirees. I want to give a significant shout-out to Tom Cox for his 36 years of service and Russell Hadley for his 35 years. Additionally, our Finance Manager, Jim Egbert, is retiring at the end of the year after 15 years with the division. I am incredibly grateful for the decades of hard work and dedication these three have contributed to our team. I thank them for all of their efforts.

We are already prepping for the legislative session. It's crazy that it's only roughly a little more than a month away. The Governor released his proposed budget and one of the highlights was the dam safety upgrades recommending that \$6.2 million ongoing funds be committed to that effort which is well overdue. It's really great to have ongoing funds recommended for that. We still have to go through the legislative process but it's high hopes there.

The State Water Plan is moving right along. Our team completed all of the water talks through October and got some really good feedback.

We have completed the 2024 water budget. We are available to provide a full presentation on the results, but essentially, this model estimates all inflows and outflows and is critical to the State Water Plan. Additionally, this data is utilized by the Great Salt Lake Strike Team. Significant effort was dedicated to improving the methodology for municipal and industrial depletion estimates.

I would also like to highlight that we have completed the 2024 water-related land use data. This yearly data provides information on agricultural water use throughout the state. Excluding fallow land, the grand total of irrigated land is approximately 1.7 million acres, with alfalfa, grass hay, and corn serving as our top three irrigated crops. Substantial work goes into gathering this land use data, which serves as a primary input for the water budget.

We are still continuing to work with the Water Development Coordinating Council and the Unified Water Infrastructure Plan. We held public meetings in October and had great responses and got feedback into the prioritization process. So, we're currently working with our consultants to make the changes there. The Utah project portal is now live. While project submissions were previously managed via spreadsheets, users can now submit and maintain their projects through individual logins within the portal. This transition involved significant effort, and we were able to leverage existing work from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget as well as the CIB. We expect to have a draft plan ready in early January and look forward to presenting it to the Board.

We have completed the fee study we previously discussed and presented the findings during the legislative meetings in November. Addressing the state's water infrastructure needs and the associated funding requirements is a significant undertaking. With the study now complete, the legislature has the necessary information to make informed policy decisions on how to proceed.

As far as conservation, we have a transparent water billing grant application that's available through December 19th. So this is really trying to get that smart billing available for water systems and cities, but really at the end of the day it's the end user who will be using that bill to understand how they use water and providing better information. So think of it like a smart energy bill that you've received where it maybe has a smiley face of if you did good or kind of compares you to your neighbors or those types of things. We are looking forward to seeing those grants be submitted.

We are making significant progress with our cloud seeding efforts this year. All generators and drone teams are now fully operational. Now, we just need the right temperatures and clouds.

Regarding the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan, I want to express my appreciation for the ongoing work on this project. We have been working closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and have finalized a contract for the modeling portion of the plan. Hydros and Precision Engineers will be conducting the modeling. Both firms are premier RiverWare modelers with extensive experience across the Colorado River Basin and beyond. We are excited to have them applying their expertise to the Great Salt Lake model. We are currently wrapping up several individual projects, including: The opportunity costs and costs of agricultural water optimization. Dust mitigation options and associated costs for the Great Salt Lake. Functional flows for the Great Salt Lake Basin streams. Quantification of evaporation loss in and around the Great Salt Lake. Regarding evaporation, discussions often rely on "back of the envelope" calculations based on known inflows. We are working to improve this understanding by utilizing actual measurements of evaporation rates.

We had a Bear River Commission meeting on November 18th. The next one will be in Idaho on April 14th.

I would like to share some updates regarding the Colorado River following a recent Upper Colorado River Commission work group meeting. The Bureau of Reclamation provided a hydrology report that is quite concerning. As of December 1st, Lake Powell is at approximately 29% of its live storage. The most probable forecast for unregulated inflows for water year 2026 is currently 7 million acre-feet. This is significantly below the 12 million acre-feet average and represents a 1 million acre-foot decrease from the November forecast, largely due to unusually warm temperatures last month. Additionally, the Bureau's 24-month study indicates that, under minimum probable scenarios, Lake Powell's elevation could fall below the 3,490-foot power pool. While this is at the lower end of their projections, it remains a serious concern. The seven basin states are currently working on a draft operating framework for post-2026 operations. There is still a significant amount of work to be done before the February 14th deadline to reach a final agreement for inclusion in the Bureau of Reclamation's draft Environmental Impact Statement. During the work group meeting, Wayne Pullman of the Bureau of Reclamation noted that "hydrology should drive us together, not apart." This resonates with me deeply; given these challenging conditions, it is vital that we work closely together to find common ground rather than allowing these circumstances to divide us.

This is a bittersweet moment for me as this is my last Board meeting. It feels a bit like the ending of The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King; I am not sure if you have seen it, but the film famously features several different iterations of goodbye. I feel I am currently in the midst of those many "last times" that have occurred throughout this month. The last four years as Director have been transformative, and I have learned a great deal from each of you. I am incredibly grateful for the Board of Water Resources and the vital work that you do. Thank you for your support and for the opportunity to serve alongside you.

I want to thank the team that I've worked with along the way. I'm so grateful for each of you and the work that you've done. You make a difference to the state and personally made a difference to me in getting to work alongside you. My team has heard this, a lot of the time I've said I'm their backup dancer, I get to showcase the work that they're all doing and it's just been really a privilege to me to work with them and I will continue to cheer on and support the work you do in a different role, but I'm looking forward to continuing our work together and really grateful for all of you.

ADJOURNMENT

SPENCER JONES moved to adjourn the meeting. BLAINE IPSON seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:51 AM.

