

WEBER RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING

January 26, 2026
WEBER BASIN WATER

Attendees: Jeff Young, Rick Smith, Darren Hess, Jacob Briggs, Olga Isupov, Carla Trentelman, Dawn Zukirmi, Clint Russon, Cody Edwards, Tanner Cox

Remote Attendees: Mike Luers, Andy Garland, Christne Osborne, Carly Payne, Becca Frei, Josh Zimmerman, Bendan Lombard, Jess Kirby

ELECTIONS-

- 9 in attendance, consider as a quorum
 - First Motion- Dawna Zukirmi
 - Majority of members present
 - Reduce number of seats?
 - Having a hard time having enough voting attend regularly
- **Up for Reseat:** Jeff Young, Wes Siddoway, Logan Wilde, Jess Kirby, Kenny McFarland, Dawna Zukirmi, Cody Zesiger, Mike Luers, Rick Smith
 - **RESEAT-** Jeff Young, Jess Kirby, Dawna Zukirmi, Kenny McFarland, Mike Luers, Rick Smith, McKinley Smoot
 - **SEAT-** Carla Trentelman
 - First Motion- Andy Garland
 - Second Motion- Darren Hess
- **Current Positions-**
 - Jeff Young, Chair
 - Chair Nominations- McKinley Smoot (condition of his acceptance, not in attendance)
 - First Motion- Tanner Cox
 - Second Motion- Rick Smith
 - Wes Siddoway, Vice Chair
 - Vice Nominations- Kenny McFarland
 - First Motion- Rick Smith
 - Second Motion- Dawna Zukirmi
 - Darren Hess, Secretary
 - Secretary Nominations- Darren Hess
 - First Motion- Dawn Zukirmi
 - Second Motion- Rick Smith

STATE WATER PLAN UPDATE- Becca Frei, State Water Plan Specialist

- Currently drafting & writing up plan
- Timeline
 - Public Comment Period- July 2026
 - Drafts to Conservancy Districts & Watershed Councils- May 2026
 - Publish by December 2026
- Chapter in the State Water Plan includes base and perspectives
 - Successes & needs in each basin
 - Asked for success stories

- Highlight one success story, not one for each category
 - Agriculture
 - Vibrant Communities
 - Healthy Watershed & Eco Systems
- Specific topics from the survey
 - Agricultura Optimization Programs
 - Secondary Water Metering
 - Historical Water Rights Preservation
 - Land Trust Initiatives
 - Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships
 - Cities & Counties, World Resource Institute, Utah Water Restoration Initiative, US Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, Weber Watershed Council, Weber State University, Utah State University, Fish & Wildlife, Private Landowners, Sageland Collaborative, DWR, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Weber River Partnership, Irrigation Companies, Conservation Districts, Friends of the Great Salt Lake, National Audubon Society, Ogden Nature Center, The Nature Conservancy, PacifiCorp
 - State Agencies: DOR, DWQ, FFSL, DWR, WRe
 - So many projects of restoration work over the decades, hard to pinpoint a single project
 - *Highlight the amazing collaboration within the Basin*
 - But what projects to highlights?
- Send shared document for editing to be sure to include all entities

STATE WATERSHED COUNCIL- Rick Smith, Davis & Weber Canal Companies

- Working to include forest service for more discussion
- Find mission & purpose
- Legislation sub-committee
- Unified Water Infrastructure Plan- feedback and final steps
- July 9th- Watershed Council presentation

GREAT SALT LAKE ADVISORY COUNCIL- Darren Hess, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District

- Presentation by Great Salt Lake Commissioner Office
 - Infusion of money
 - Sorting out where the monies will be spent
 - Reviewing projects now and will help move those forward soon
 - Great Salt Lake Trust
 - Water to the Lake
 - Good progress & effort
 - Phragmite removal
 - Lots work to do, but substantial improvements
 - Great Salt Lake Integrated Plan
 - Many people on WRWC adding input to the plan
 - Modeling effort has been huge to be sure water is flowing where it needs to
 - Best model to date

- More we know, the better we can manage
- Keep improving models the best we can

WEBER RIVER CONFLUENCE RECAP- Dawna Zukirmi, Weber River Partnership

- Held at Weber State University
- 141 People for day----- 75 people for evening session
 - Limited reach for evening
- Great speakers & relevant content
- Feedback survey
- WSU recorded presentations free of charge- available to view [Confluence Presentations](#)

DISCUSSION-

- Moving irrigation start date
- Sending water to the Great Salt Lake
- Managing water due to Mother Nature

NEXT MEETING-

- April 13, 2026, 1:00pm Weber Basin Water
 - Laura Vernon- present at next meeting
 - GSL Commissioner Office- Micha Staffsen