

West Colorado River Watershed Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 14 , 2026 @ 1:30 PM

Price City Public Works Complex - 432 W 600 S - Price, Utah

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes, Thursday, April 2, 2026 - Kevin Cotner/Kerry Cook

Agenda Topic: Jaylene Mahleres: Council Member Commitment

Agenda Topic: Cody Allred: Update of the State Watershed Meeting on April 9, 2026

Agenda Topic: Projects Inventory

Agenda Topic: Refine Objectives

Agenda Topic: Rachel Shilton: Update Map Layer for Wildfire Scars.

Agenda Topic: Cloud Seeding presented by Jonathan Jennings, manager of the Utah Cloud Seeding program.

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Agenda Topic: Committee Members: Provide a tentative agenda status regarding a presentation by the U.S. Forest Service regarding forest management.

Agenda Topic: Review State Water Plan

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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DRAFT MINUTES

West Colorado River Watershed Council Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2026

Time: 1:30 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@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@scinternet.net			
Cody Allred	PacifiCorp	cody.allred@pacificorp.com	(435) 687-4306	X	
David Schmuker	Mayor of Big Water Utah	dwschmuker@gmail.com	(928) 660-1777		
Dino Kiahtipes	Farmer	circlekdino@gmail.com	(435) 650-0039		
Ellie Oakley	Nature Conservancy	ellie.oakley@tnc.org	(303) 815-4868	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		
Randy Erwin	Green River Canal Company	randy@double-e-inc.com			
Russell Seeley	Price River Watershed Council	rseeley@utah.gov	(435) 650-8519		
Thomas DeHart	Trout Unlimited	thomas.dehart@tu.org	(435) 299-9422	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	(435) 613-1517	X	
Duane Houston	Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	dhouston@utah.gov	(435) 722-4621		
Kurt Robins	USFS, Fishlake National Forest	kurtis.robins@usda.gov			
Marc Stilson	Colorado River Authority of Utah	mkstilson@utah.gov	(801) 232-4790	X	
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	(801) 214-5771	X	

Attendance at Meeting (Others)

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone #	Present	Zoom
Kathy Sherman	Price City	kathys@priceutah.net	(435) 637-5010		
John Boyd	Price City	johnb@priceutah.net	(435) 637-5010	X	
Isabelle Melmer		imelmer@utah.gov	(801) 588-9707	X	
Monroe Magnuson	Emery Water	mkonroe@emerywater.gov	(435) 749-1027	X	
Tyler Marshall	Forest Service				X
Madison Martini					X
Eric Holmstead					X
Kit Quay					X
Shelby Chapoose					X
Stephanie McGinnis	State Water Plan Manager				X
BreeAnn Bloomfield	Watershed Coordinator				X

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Co-Chair Kevin Cotner.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

Jaylene Mahleres motioned to approve the minutes of Thursday, January 29, 2026 . Motion seconded by Mike Noel and carried.

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Council Member Attendance Record & Commitment	Committee Members
Discussion Conversation: - Jaylene Mahelers will reach out to members with inconsistent attendance to confirm their continued interest and capacity to serve on the committee. - Shelby Chapoose will be joining our committee, taking over for Autumn Gillard.	
Conclusion Closing: Jaylene will submit her findings to Rachel Shilton.	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Projects Inventory	Carly Payne
Discussion Conversation: - We need to address and fill in the missing data. - We ask that all committee members with relevant knowledge or interest or who may know someone to please take time to review and complete the inventory list. - The goal is to populate a map layer with data from the project inventory. - Rachael Shilton and Carly Payne will begin importing the existing data from the projects inventory onto a map layer.	
Conclusion Closing: Rachel Shilton or Carly Payne will email the committee the Projects Inventory list for review and completion.	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Letter Regarding Water Quality (Tabled)	Mike Noel

Discussion Conversation:

Conclusion Closing: Remove Agenda Topic

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Update Map Layer for Wildfire Scars	Rachel Shilton
Discussion Conversation: Tyler Marshall will pursue an unrestored or in restoration wildlife scar map to Rachel Shilton.	
Conclusion Closing:	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Presentation on Landscape, Ordinances and Residential Conservation Rebates	Madison Martini
Discussion Conversation: Statewide Landscape Incentive Program - Incentives are available for residential, commercial, industrial, and government turf replacement projects. - Replace traditional grass with drought-tolerant plants/landscaping to save and promote water to stay in that area. - Rebates are \$2.00 per square foot and are available in fourteen (14) cities statewide. - Overhead spray to a drip system is beneficial in holding the water in place then evaporating off the landscape. - The program is available for cities and counties that want the program in their area. They will need to apply with Utah Division of Water Resources. Ordinance Adoption for New Development - NO LAWNS: - Park strips and areas less than eight (8) feet in width. - No more than 50% of the front and side yard only. - Not to exceed 20% of the total landscaped area. This does not apply to recreational areas. Resources on Utah Division of Water Recourse Website (water.utah.gov) - Webinars, plant lists and checklists. - Localscape Webinar Class: June 25, 2026	
Conclusion Closing:	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Presentation of the Unified Water Infrastructure Plan and Utah Projects Portal	Isabelle Melmer
Discussion Conversation: Unified Water Infrastructure Plan - A comprehensive database and prioritization system designed to streamline funding for water projects.	

- **Water Development Coordinating Council**
 - Established in the 1980's.
 - The Council coordinates state funds and financial assistance for water conservation, treatment, and infrastructure projects to support Utah's growth.
 - DNR, Department of Environmental Quality for Water Quality and Drinking Water are the relevant agencies and participate in the annual UWIP process.
- **UWIP**
 - Twenty (20) year plan broke out into phases.
 - Purpose is to streamline water infrastructure funding, improve agency coordination, and prioritize projects.
- **Projects Portal (upp.utah.gov)**
 - Digital database designed to identify, rank, and prioritize water infrastructure projects seeking state funding.
 - It allows entities to submit projects across sectors like drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater to qualify for funding.
 - \$24 billion is the total estimated project cost for the next twenty (20) years.

Conclusion Closing: "Mike Noel" Bureaucracy will hinder the process. The old, simpler methods were more efficient and worked good for us. Don't fix it if it's working.

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Provide a Tentative Agenda Status Regarding a Presentation for Cloud Seeding by Jonathan Jennings	Rachel Shilton
Discussion Conversation: ● Presentation ○ Rachel Shilton will coordinate with Jonathan Jennings on his availability to present at a meeting in the future. ○ Interested Discussion Topics: ▪ Ionization Technologies ▪ Existing Locations and equipment used. ▪ Seeding Materials ▪ Delivery Methods & Technology ▪ Snow Enhancement ▪ Funding Opportunities	
Conclusion Closing:	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Provide a Tentative Agenda Status Regarding a Presentation by the U.S. Forest Service Regarding Forest Management	Committee Members
Discussion Conversation: ● Presentation ○ Tyler Marshall will coordinate internally to ensure a team member presents on Forest Management at the next meeting. ○ Interested Discussion Topics: ▪ Boulder Mountain Fuels Reduction Project ▪ Manti Lasal Forest Management Project	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Review Council Mission Statement and Refine Objectives	Committee Members
Discussion Conversation: • Rachel Shilton will email the link to access the document. • Committee Members homework is to review the objectives and email any feedback to Rachel Shilton or Carly Payne. Conclusion Closing: Tabled for next meeting.	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
State Watershed Meeting on April 9, 2026 – Outline the Committees Progress thus Far. Include Mission Statement, Goals and Roadblocks	Committee Members
Discussion Conversation: • Cody Allred will compile a presentation covering the key points and action items from the minutes. • Cody will unveil the official mission statement and outline our current progress on setting key objectives. • Cody will email a preliminary draft of the presentation to the committee prior to the meeting. Conclusion Closing:	

Agenda Topics

Topic	Presenter
Open Time for Other Items from Council Members	Committee Members
Discussion Conversation: • Colorado River Negotiations Update ○ Stalled Negotiations ○ Utah and other Upper Basin states (CO, WY, NM) are at odds with Lower Basin states (CA, AZ, NV) over how to share shortages. ○ The federal government may be forced to impose a, potentially litigated, operating plan if a consensus isn't reached by October. ○ Arizona will likely take Utah to court using a law firm out of New York City. ○ Utah Legislation put away \$5,000,000.00 for litigation. • State Water Plan ○ The council's challenges summary statements are being drafted and will be available for review soon. ○ Three (3) projects were being discussed for inclusion: ▪ Salinity Control Project on Bill's farm ▪ Emery County Telemetry Project ▪ Invasive Species Along the Escalante River Conclusion Closing: "Stephanie McGinnis" Draft plan will be released no later than May 8th. You will have three (3) weeks to provide feedback.	

Public Comment

There was no public comment for discussion.

Next Meeting (Date, Time & Location)

Thursday, May 14, 2026 @ 1:30 PM – Public Works Complex: 432 W 600 S – Price

Kathy will email a reminder for meeting the day before.

Adjourn

Mike Noel motioned for the meeting to adjourn at 3:36 PM. Motion seconded by Cody Allred and Carried.



West Colorado River Watershed Council

MISSION STATEMENT

To protect and preserve valuable water resources in the West Colorado River Watershed by:

1. Providing a forum for discussion, collaboration and coordination among as many water interests as possible throughout the watershed, and
2. Advising the Utah Watersheds Council on important watershed issues, ensuring local interests are well represented in state water planning and policy making.