

# WEBER RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING

April 13, 2026

WEBER STATE DAVIS CAMPUS (URBAN WATERSHED WORKSHOP)

Attendees: Rick Smith (D&W & Weber River Water Users), Darren Hess (Weber Basin Water), Carla Trentelman (Friends of Great Salt Lake), McKinley Smoot (Summit Rancher), Carly Payne (Division of Water Resources), Tanon Matthews (Golden Spike Stormwater Coalition & Washington Terrace City), Eric McCully (Weber River Partnership & McCulley Consulting), Ronnie Pasetto (Seven Canyons Trust), Dawna Zurkirmi (Weber River Partnership & Rafting Weber River), Cecilia (South Ogden Resident), Dan Adams (The Langdon Group), Jacob Briggs (Davis Conservation District), Cody Edwards (Fishery Biologist Uintah Cache National Forest), Clint Brunson (Assistant Aquatics Manager Wildlife Resources), Hailey Kirlin (Division of Water Resources), Kent Wilkerson (Ogden & Weber River Commissioner)

Remote Attendees: Andy Garland (Mountain Regional Water), Ryan Broadbent (Division of Water Rights)

## JANUARY MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- First- Rick Smith
- Second- Dawna Zurkirmi

## DEFINE COUNCIL FOCUS & STRATEGY

- Figure out purpose of Council
  - Use Council as tool
  - Voice opinions (with State Water Council & Legislature)
  - Watershed being changed
  - Challenge of less water for 2026 season
  - Manage watershed
  - Weber River Blueprint? (vision & what is wanted)

## WEBER RIVER PARTNERSHIP LETTER

**Unsustainable Development**- directly affects each item

Watershed council to take message to the State Watershed Council on July 9th:

- Water Quality
- Water Supply
  - Drought
  - Decreasing snowpack
  - Surface Water & Groundwater
- Wildlife and Fisheries
  - Development of infrastructure
  - Erosion & bank Instability
  - Habitats
- Wildlife
  - Biological diversity & endemism (species found only in one state)
  - High extinction rate, especially among fishes
- Soil, Landscape Condition & Wildfire
  - Residential & commercial development dominate well-established wildlife habitats

- Threaten soil stability & erosion
- Dense forests due to wildfire suppression
- Development expanding into high-risk areas of the watershed
- Growth
  - Rapid rate of population growth
  - Planning to be able to provide enough water to all who do/will live in the watershed

How to proceed? Provide slideshow containing information

Propose “what do you want us to do next?”

- Take to legislature or discussion, “how to fix this?”

### **DEVELOP STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- “Here to protect and improve the watershed”
  - Define improvement
  - Clarity on where the Council wants to head
  - What’s important to us to maintain the Weber River
  - Create a “Weber River Blueprint”
- Worth revisiting with Weber River Partnership to be the Council
  - Duplicate efforts, work together to avoid two groups with the same purpose
  - Partnership & Council- where interests overlap
  - Consider combining both groups
    - Alternating meetings
  - State employees can’t be voting members
  - Get most voices at the table
  - Align focus
- How to work within the means we have
- Organizing documents- collaboration
- Success of projects by combining resources
- Watershed councils allowing Agriculture to have a voice

Partnership to talk about the option to combining the Partnership with the Council at their upcoming meeting, if possible.

- Still allow Partnership to do projects and receive funding
- April 14, 2026
- May 12, 2026
  - Meet every month, alternate monthly between Council & Partnership
  - Hold in person (with remote option) at Weber Basin Water in Layton
  - Technically separate groups, but meet together

### **STATE WATERSHED COUNCIL UPDATE**

- Workshop held in St George this month
  - How to plan meetings & agendas
- Draft State Water Plan- early May (possibly May 11<sup>th</sup>)
- Who will be presenting concerning WRWRC presenting on July 9th (annual report)?
- Research study
- Utah League of Cities & Town
  - April 22-23 in St George
- Coordination with storm water coalitions

- Paid staffing for watershed councils?
  - Would make administrative items taken care of
  - Ability to hold money- apply for grants, etc.
    - Full time?
    - Part time, shared with neighboring watershed?
  - Local council support
  - They want to get the legislature on board concerning funding of watershed councils
- How to get from local watershed to State Watershed Council, and to legislature with ideas & concerns
- Would it be beneficial to have a representative from the governor's office on the State Watershed Council?
  - Help bridge gap between council and state leadership?

#### **CONFIRM/ELECT VICE CHAIR**

- Nominated- Kenny McFarland (replaced Ron Gibson on Council November 4, 2024)
- Reach out for contact information
- Confirm Kenny is willing to serve as Council Vice Chair

#### **CONCLUSION**

- Council meeting with Weber River Partnership CONFIRMED
  - **May 12<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00AM, Weber Basin Water
- Next meeting to plan for State Water Plan
  - Virtual ONLY (link sent closer to meeting date)
  - **May 19<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00PM