

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 8, 2026



PLAN | CONSERVE | DEVELOP | PROTECT



1594 WEST NORTH TEMPLE, SUITE 310
PO BOX 146201, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114-6201



**Water
Resources**

Board of Water Resources Calendar

MONTH	PLACE
OCTOBER 8	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**

Hannah Freeze

BEAR RIVER
Dale Buxton

WEBER RIVER
Tim Hawkes

SALT LAKE
Juliette Tennert

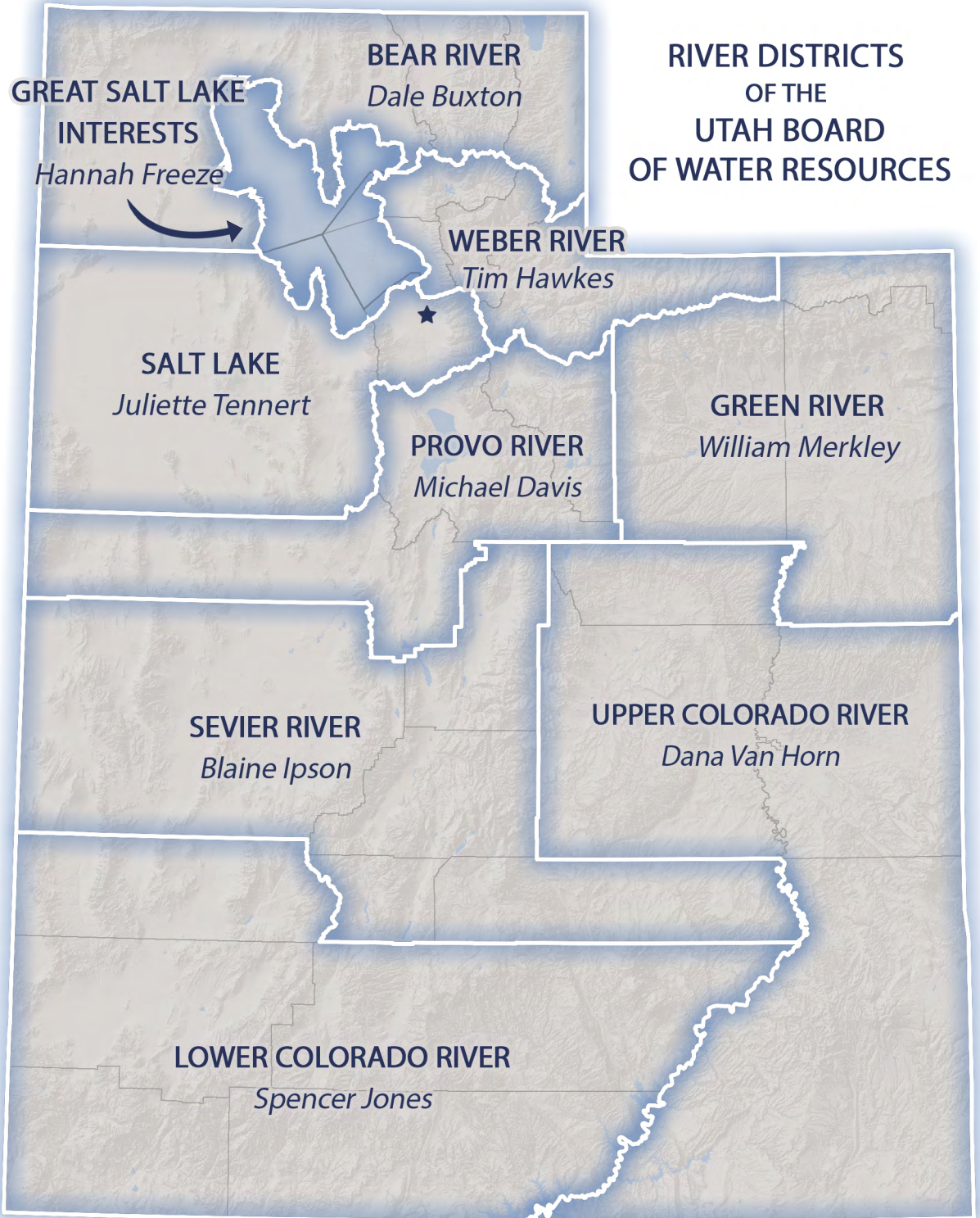
PROVO RIVER
Michael Davis

GREEN RIVER
William Merkley

SEVIER RIVER
Blaine Ipson

UPPER COLORADO RIVER
Dana Van Horn

LOWER COLORADO RIVER
Spencer Jones



Agenda
Utah Board of Water Resources
Board Briefing and Action Meeting

October 8, 2026, 8:30 AM
Department of Natural Resources
Richfield Regional Complex - Conference Room
2031 South Industrial Park Road
Richfield, Utah 84701

Link to presentations and public comment form:

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

Livestream Link:

<https://youtube.com/live/YLwBMTIE81Q>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chair Mike Davis

NRCS SNOW REPORT:

Jordan Clayton (online)

DISCUSSION OF BOARD PROJECTS:

Project

<u>Number</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>
SPECIAL ITEMS:			
RD9170	Wolf Creek Irrigation Company (Defer Payment)	Weber	Ben Marett
RE0310	Morgan Secondary Irrigation Company (Defer Payments)	Morgan	Marisa Egbert
RM029	Syracuse City (Additional ARPA Funds)	Davis	Ann Baynard
RM035	Centerfield City (Additional ARPA Funds)	Sanpete	Ben Marett
RM046	Kanab Irrigation Company (Additional ARPA Funds)	Kane	Brad Caldwell
RM068	Springdale Consolidated Irrigation Co. (Additional ARPA Funds)	Washington	Brad Caldwell
RM117	Lehi City (Additional ARPA Funds)	Utah	Ethan Stayner

NEW APPLICATIONS:

RE514	Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company	Weber	Ann Baynard
RE515	Dry Gulch Irrigation Company (Class B)	Duchesne	Marisa Egbert
RE516	Dry Gulch Irrigation Company (Class C)	Duchesne	Marisa Egbert

BRIEFING INFORMATION TO THE BOARD:

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

BREAK

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BOARD ACTIONS (see project list above):

CLOUD SEEDING UPDATE:

Jonathan Jennings

2027 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Joel Williams

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

ADJOURNMENT

Special Item – Defer Payment

Applicant: **Wolf Creek Irrigation Company**

Project Number: RD9170
Fund: Revolving Construction Fund
Total Cost: \$1,004,926
Board Funding: \$850,000

Application Received: 10/11/1995
Authorized: 5/3/1996
Committed: 10/29/1999
Board Meeting Date: 10/8/2026

Board Member: Tim Hawkes
Project Manager: Ben Marett

Project Summary: The purpose of this project was to construct a pressurized irrigation system. The applicant is requesting that the final payment be deferred for one year.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board amend the Purchase Agreement to defer the final payment by one year. The final payment will be due in December 2027.

Project Contacts:

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Number
President	Stephen Noel	snoel@smithknowles.com	801-920-6062
Treasurer	EJ Harris	ejharris158@gmail.com	801-388-8500
Gardner Engineering	Aksel Albertsen	aksel@gecivil.com	801-476-0202



Location

The project is located northwest of Eden in Weber County.

Project Summary

In December 1999 the board provided \$850,000 to the applicant for construction of a pressurized irrigation system that replaced approximately 11 miles of ditches with PVC pipe and included a regulating pond. In 2014, the applicant requested a deferral of their remaining payments for one year due to financial hardship related to an unexpected water rights dispute, which was approved by the board. The applicant has made all payments according to the approved repayment schedule, and the final payment of approximately \$54,000 is due December 2026.

The applicant recently completed a secondary metering project with both grant and loan funds provided by the board (RM067) and paid their share of nearly \$31,000. Annual repayments for the loan begin this year and are approximately \$12,600.

The applicant also is currently addressing critical system upgrades using board funds that were committed during the June meeting (RE505). Construction for this project is expected to begin this year and the applicant's cost-share for this project is expected to be approximately \$45,000. Annual repayments of \$17,000 will begin December 2028.

When the upcoming repair project is complete, the applicant will have spent a significant portion of its reserves. To alleviate financial hardship, the applicant is requesting that the board defer the final payment for RD9170 for one year from December 2026 to December 2027.

Modification of Terms

Staff recommends the board amend the Purchase Agreement to defer the final payment by one year. The final payment will be due in December 2027.

Special Item – Defer Payments

Applicant: **Morgan Secondary Irrigation Company**

Project Number: RE0310
Fund: Conservation and Development Fund
Total Cost: \$3,100,000
Board Funding: \$2,790,000

Application Received: 5/4/2000
Authorized: 9/22/2000
Committed: 11/02/2001
Board Meeting Date: 10/08/2026

Board Member: Tim Hawkes
Project Manager: Marisa Egbert

Project Summary: The purpose of this project was to construct a pressurized secondary irrigation system. The applicant is requesting that all payments be deferred for one year and that the repayment schedule be modified.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board amend the Purchase Agreement to defer all remaining payments by one year and waive this year's interest. The balance of the purchase price will be returned at 2% interest over eight years, with annual payments of approximately \$150,000 beginning in September 2027.

Project Contacts:

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Number
President	Brett Nelson	mtnland1@gmail.com	801-458-4007
Secretary	Darcie Harris	morgansecondarywater@gmail.com	801-829-4424



Location

The project is located in Morgan City in Morgan County.

Project Summary

In 2002 the board provided \$2,790,000 for construction of the applicant's pressurized secondary irrigation system. The repayment schedule started with a relatively low repayment and increased annually according to the projected growth rate at that time.

In 2009, the purchase agreement was amended to defer the remaining payments for one year and the repayment schedule was modified due to the lack of growth related to the housing crisis. The applicant has made all payments as required. However, this year's repayment is \$154,000, with subsequent repayments still increasing by about 5% annually.

The applicant recently completed a secondary metering project with board funds (RM086) and their cost share was more than \$80,000. Annual repayments for the loan funds began last year and are approximately \$46,000.

This year, the applicant had to replace one system pump, and repair the other, for a total cost of about \$100,000. With all of these expenses the applicant has depleted their savings faster than anticipated.

The applicant is requesting a deferral of all repayments on the original project for one year and a modification of their existing repayment schedule.

Modification of Terms

Staff recommends the board amend the Purchase Agreement to defer all remaining payments by one year and waive this year's interest. The balance of the purchase price will be returned at 2% interest over eight years, with annual payments of approximately \$150,000 beginning in September 2027.

Secondary Meter Report – Additional Grant Funds

Applicant: Syracuse City

Project Numbers: RM029/RM110

Fund: ARPA Grant

Cost Estimate (Total): \$17,200,000

Board Amount (Total): \$12,040,000

Application Received: 5/11/2022 (RM029) and 11/28/2022 (RM110)

Committed: 8/4/2022 (RM029) and 10/5/2023 (RM110)

Board Meeting Date: 10/8/2026

Board Member: Tim Hawkes

Project Manager: Ann Baynard

Project Summary: The purpose of the project is to install secondary meters on approximately 200 additional connections.

Recommendations: RM029: Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$492,000 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 61% of the project cost, up to \$10,492,000, as a secondary meter grant.

RM110: Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$69,000 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 9% of the project cost, up to \$1,548,000, as a secondary meter grant.

Project Contacts:

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Number
Mayor	Dave Maughan	dmaughan@syracuseut.gov	801-614-9636
Public Works Director	Robert Whiteley	rwhiteley@syracuseut.gov	801-825-7235
Assistant City Manager	Stephen Marshall	smarshall@syracuseut.gov	801-614-9621



Location

The proposed project is located in Syracuse City in Davis County.

Project Summary

The applicant has received two separate secondary meter grants to install approximately 8,900 meters but did not include about 200 existing connections in their original requests as they were not sure they could complete the work before the December 31, 2026 deadline. The applicant is now requesting additional funds to install meters on these connections.

Since the fifth round of applications, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been returned to the board as projects have been completed under budget or applicants have changed their project scope. However, there are several projects that have used, or will use, the ARPA funds that were originally awarded and still have secondary connections that need to be metered.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget has indicated that the board may reallocate these funds to sub-recipients (applicants), that have already received ARPA grant funds, through an amendment to the original contract.

There are remaining balances on the original ARPA contracts totaling approximately \$218,000, which have been factored into the requested amounts of additional funds.

Cost Estimate & Sharing

The contracted and proposed cost sharing are as follows:

Agency	Contracted Cost Sharing	% of Total	Proposed Cost Sharing	% of Total
Board of Water Resources - ARPA Grant (RM029)	\$10,000,000	61%	\$10,492,000	61%
Board of Water Resources - ARPA Grant (RM110)	1,479,000	9	1,548,000	9
Applicant*	4,921,000	30	5,160,000	30
TOTAL	\$16,400,000	100%	\$17,200,000	100%

* Total includes loan amount and applicant share

Recommendations:

RM029: Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$492,000 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 61% of the project cost, up to \$10,492,000, as a secondary meter grant.

RM110: Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$69,000 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 9% of the project cost, up to \$1,548,000, as a secondary meter grant.

Secondary Meter Report – Additional Grant Funds

Applicant: Centerfield City

Project Number: RM035
Fund: ARPA Grant
Cost Estimate: \$2,054,000
Board Amount: \$1,437,800

Application Received: 5/12/2022
Committed: 6/29/2023
Board Meeting Date: 10/8/2026

Board Member: Blaine Ipson
Project Manager: Ben Marett

Project Summary: The purpose of the project is to purchase and install secondary meters on approximately 150 remaining connections.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$335,800 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 70% of the project cost, up to \$1,437,800, as a secondary meter grant.

Project Contacts:

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Number
Mayor	Travis Leatherwood	mayorl@centerfieldcity.org	801-518-8111
City Recorder	Lacey Belnap	belnapl@centerfieldcity.org	435-528-3296
Jones & DeMille Engineering	Garrick Wilden	garrick@jonesanddemille.com	435-979-0380



Location

The proposed project is located in Centerfield City in Sanpete County.

Project Summary

In 2022, the applicant received a secondary meter grant to install 480 secondary meters. As the project nears completion, additional connections have been found, and project costs are higher than originally estimated. The applicant is requesting additional funds to install meters on approximately 150 remaining connections.

Since the fifth round of applications, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been returned to the board as projects have been completed under budget or applicants have changed their project scope. However, there are several projects that have used, or will use, the ARPA funds that were originally awarded and still have secondary connections that need to be metered.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget has indicated that the board may reallocate these funds to sub-recipients (applicants) that have already received ARPA grant funds through an amendment to the original contract.

Cost Estimate & Sharing

The contracted and proposed cost sharing are as follows:

Agency	Contracted Cost Sharing	% of Total	Proposed Cost Sharing	% of Total
Board of Water Resources - ARPA Grant	\$1,102,000	70%	\$1,437,800	70%
Applicant*	472,000	30	616,200	30
TOTAL	\$1,574,000	100%	\$2,054,000	100%

*This includes the loan amount and the applicant share.

Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$335,800 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 70% of the project cost, up to \$1,437,800, as a secondary meter grant.

Secondary Meter Report – Additional Grant Funds

Applicant: Kanab Irrigation Company

Project Number: RM046
Fund: ARPA Grant
Cost Estimate: \$858,000
Board Amount: \$600,600

Application Received: 5/13/2022
Committed: 9/15/2022
Board Meeting Date: 10/8/2026

Board Member: Spencer Jones
Project Manager: Brad Caldwell

Project Summary: The purpose of the project is to install secondary water meters on approximately 55 remaining connections.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$155,600 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 70% of the project cost, up to \$600,600, as a secondary meter grant.

Project Contacts:

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Number
President	Norris Brown	jamesnbrown1954@gmail.com	435-689-0376
Manager: Kane County WCD	Mike Noel	mnoel5603@gmail.com	435-644-3996
Secretary	Amanda Buhler	kanecowater@gmail.com	435-644-3997
Sunrise Engineering	Vern Maloy	vmaloy@sunrise-eng.com	435-652-8450



Location

The proposed project is located in Kanab in Kane County.

Project Summary

Since the fifth round of applications, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been returned to the board as projects have been completed under budget or applicants have changed their project scope. However, there are several projects that have used, or will use, the ARPA funds that were originally awarded and still have secondary connections that need to be metered.

The Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget has indicated that the board may reallocate these funds to sub-recipients (applicants), that have already received ARPA grant funds, through an amendment to the original contract.

The project costs were higher than estimated and the applicant is requesting additional funds to install secondary water meters on approximately 55 remaining connections.

Cost Estimate & Sharing

The contracted and proposed cost sharing are as follows:

Agency	Contracted Cost Sharing	% of Total	Proposed Cost Sharing	% of Total
Board of Water Resources – ARPA Grant	\$445,000	70%	\$600,600	70%
Applicant*	191,000	30	257,400	30
TOTAL	\$636,000	100%	\$858,000	100%

*This includes the loan amount and the applicant share.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$155,600 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 70% of the project cost, up to \$600,600, as a secondary meter grant.

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Secondary Meter Report – Additional Grant Funds

Applicant: Springdale Consolidated Irrigation Company

Project Number: RM068
Fund: ARPA Grant
Cost Estimate: \$730,000
Board Amount: \$511,000

Application Received: 5/13/2022
Committed: 8/4/2022
Board Meeting Date: 10/8/2026

Board Member: Spencer Jones
Project Manager: Brad Caldwell

Project Summary: The purpose of the project is to install secondary water meters on approximately seven remaining connections.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$94,000 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 70% of the project cost, up to \$511,000, as a secondary meter grant.

Project Contacts:

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Number
President	Allan Staker	allanoil@msn.com	435-632-2873
Secretary	Brent Heaton	brenth@mstar.net	435-673-0934
Sunrise Engineering	Blaine Worrell	bworrell@sunrise-eng.com	435-230-5902



Location

The proposed project is located in Springdale in Washington County.

Project Summary

Since the fifth round of applications, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been returned to the board as projects have been completed under budget or applicants have changed their project scope. However, there are several projects that have used, or will use, the ARPA funds that were originally awarded and still have secondary connections that need to be metered.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget has indicated that the board may reallocate these funds to sub-recipients (applicants), that have already received ARPA grant funds, through an amendment to the original contract.

The applicant has found additional secondary connections and is requesting additional funds to install secondary water meters on approximately seven remaining connections.

Additionally, the applicant originally planned to install agricultural meters, which reduced the ARPA grant cost share from 70% to 65.2%. The applicant has indicated that no agricultural meters were installed, and the project exceeded the original estimate of \$640,000. The proposed ARPA grant cost share will cover the cost of the additional meters as well as the 4.8% increase from the original cost share percentage.

Cost Estimate & Sharing

The contracted and proposed cost sharing are as follows:

Agency	Contracted Cost Sharing	% of Total	Proposed Cost Sharing	% of Total
Board of Water Resources - ARPA Grant	\$417,000	65.2%	\$511,000	70%
Applicant*	223,000	34.8	219,000	30
TOTAL	\$640,000	100%	\$730,000	100%

*This includes the loan amount and the applicant share.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$94,000 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 70% of the project cost, up to \$511,000, as a secondary meter grant.

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Secondary Meter Report – Additional Grant Funds

Applicant: Lehi City

Project Number: RM117
Fund: ARPA Grant
Cost Estimate: \$6,165,000
Board Amount: \$4,007,250

Application Received: 7/19/2024
Committed: 9/12/2024
Board Meeting Date: 10/8/2026

Board Member: Michael K. Davis
Project Manager: Ethan Stayner

Project Summary: The applicant is requesting additional funds to install meters on approximately 195 remaining connections.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$315,250 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 65% of the project cost, up to \$4,007,250, as a secondary meter grant.

Project Contacts:

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Number
Mayor	Paul Binns	mayor@lehi-ut.gov	385-201-1000
Finance Director	Dean Lundell	dlundell@lehi-ut.gov	385-201-1000
Engineer	Dave Norman	dnorman@lehi-ut.gov	385-201-1700



Location

The proposed project is located in Lehi in Utah County.

Project Summary

In 2024, the applicant received a secondary meter grant to install approximately 2,500 secondary meters. Project costs are higher than originally estimated and the applicant is requesting additional funds to install secondary meters on approximately 195 remaining connections.

Since the fifth round of applications, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been returned to the board as projects have been completed under budget or applicants have changed their project scope. However, there are several remaining projects that have used, or will use, the ARPA funds that were originally awarded and still have secondary connections that need to be metered.

The Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget has indicated that the board may reallocate these funds to sub-recipients (applicants) that have already received ARPA grant funds through an amendment to the original contract.

Cost Estimate & Sharing

The contracted and proposed cost sharing are as follows:

Agency	Contracted Cost Sharing	% of Total	Proposed Cost Sharing	% of Total
Board of Water Resources - ARPA Grant	\$3,692,000	65%	\$4,007,250	65%
Applicant*	1,988,000	35	2,157,750	35
TOTAL	\$5,680,000	100%	\$6,165,000	100%

* This includes the loan amount and the applicant share

Recommendation

Staff recommends the board commit an additional \$315,250 and amend the grant contract to state the board will provide 65% of the project cost, up to \$4,007,250, as a secondary meter grant.

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Application Summary

Applicant: Davis & Weber Counties Canal Company

Project Number: RE514

Fund: Conservation and Development Fund

Cost Estimate: \$4,200,000

Board Amount: \$3,570,000

Application Received: 8/13/2026

Board Meeting Date: 10/8/2026

Board Member: Tim Hawkes

Project Manager: Ann Baynard

Project Contacts:

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Number
President	Scott Paxman	spaxman@weberbasin.gov	801-771-1677
General Manager	Rick Smith	ricks@davisweber.org	801-774-6373
Secretary	Kay Meikle	kaym@davisweber.org	801-774-6373

Location

The proposed project is located in Kaysville in Davis County.

Proposed Project

The applicant is requesting financial assistance from the board to replace the existing concrete liner of the Kaysville East Reservoir.

Construction Start Date

October 2027

Water Rights

The applicant has various water rights related to the reservoir.

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Application Summary

Applicant: Dry Gulch Irrigation Company (Class B)

Project Number: RE515
Fund: Conservation and Development Fund
Cost Estimate: \$7,930,000
Board Amount: \$1,955,000
Application Received: 7/24/2026
Board Meeting Date: 10/8/2026
Board Member: William Merkley
Project Manager: Marisa Egbert

Project Contacts:

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Number
President/Class B Director	Rodger Ames	rodgera54@gmail.com	435-823-8415
Secretary	Bonnie Dehart	drygulch@ubtanet.com	435-823-2204
Franson Engineering	Eric Franson	efranson@fransoncivil.com	801-756-0309

Location

The proposed project is located in and around Bluebell which is about 15 miles northwest of Roosevelt in Duchesne County.

Proposed Project

The applicant is requesting financial assistance from the board to install approximately 15 miles of HDPE pipeline to replace existing open canal segments, valves and several structures.

Construction Start Date

December 2026

Water Rights

- 43-2503
- 43-3023
- 43-3024
- 43-3025
- 43-3026
- 43-3029
- 43-3030

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Application Summary

Applicant: Dry Gulch Irrigation Company (Class C)

Project Number: RE516

Fund: Conservation and Development Fund

Cost Estimate: \$16,196,000

Board Amount: \$3,885,000

Application Received: 7/24/2026

Board Meeting Date: 10/8/2026

Board Member: William Merkley

Project Manager: Marisa Egbert

Project Contacts:

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Number
President	Rodger Ames	rodgera54@gmail.com	435-823-8415
Class C Director	Jason Riley	jasonriley210@yahoo.com	435-823-3766
Secretary	Bonnie Dehart	drygulch@ubtanet.com	435-823-2204
Franson Engineering	Eric Franson	efranson@fransoncivil.com	801-756-0309

Location

The proposed project is located about 13 miles southwest of Roosevelt in Duchesne County.

Proposed Project

The applicant is requesting financial assistance from the board to install approximately four miles of HDPE pipeline to replace an open canal, valves and several structures.

Construction Start Date

January 2027

Water Rights

- 43-3023
- 43-3024
- 43-3025
- 43-3030
- 43-3082

Report Summary

Update on Cloud Seeding Operations in Utah - October 8, 2026

New Framework for Ground Program

- Utah's ground program is now fully operated remotely. The program has been integrated into updated software making it even more efficient and cost effective. This has streamlined operational practices with ongoing reporting and better stakeholder engagement.

Expansion of Drone Program

- The Utah North/South drone program, continues but in new areas with new partners.
- The drone program will be in place in the Virgin River Basin near St. George as well as the Ogden Valley focusing on Powder Mountain ski area and Causey Reservoir.
- Evaluations will take place using state-of-the-art modeling, statistical target and control methods, and when available, weather radar and/or satellite.

Bear River Cloud Seeding Program

- A joint program with the state of Idaho will support and test the efficacy of drones in the Bear River Basin. \$2 million ongoing and \$2 million one-time funds were appropriated for this program, along with \$1.2 million from Idaho's Water Resources Board.
- The program uses data from a 2018 feasibility study completed by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), including flight tracks and other data, for best operational practices.
- Rainmaker Technology Corporation (Rainmaker) will bring a mobile x-band weather radar to help evaluate, physically, the amount of water production from the operations.

Seeded and Natural Orographic Winter Storms CAtchment Processes and Evaluation (SNOWSCAPE)

- SNOWSCAPE is a new scientific framework for evaluating the results of cloud seeding. This will be conducted in the Weber River Basin.
- The framework includes a field campaign with NCAR, the University of Utah, Utah State University and Rainmaker where data will be collected to identify physical evidence of cloud seeding impacts.
- This data has been inputted into two different models: one for weather impacts (WRF-WxMod) and one for streamflow impacts (WRF-Hydro).
- The models will be run using data for six winter seasons. The results will provide a range of water volumes indicating cloud seeding impacts on water resources.
- An environmental study continues to research the potential long-term effects of silver iodide in the environment. It will be led by Heritage Environmental Consultants.

Presented by Jonathan Jennings – Meteorologist | Cloud Seeding Coordinator

2027 Proposed Board Meeting Schedule

Below is the proposed schedule for 2027 Board Meetings
(Thursday except where noted):

Proposed Date	Location
January 28	Salt Lake City
March 17 (Wednesday)	St. George (Utah Water Users Conference)
May 13	Salt Lake City
June 24	Salt Lake City
August 12	Salt Lake City
October 7	TBD
December 7 (Tuesday)	Salt Lake City

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-HXdLSkBytTtg6fjfw>

Unapproved

BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES
MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 2026

SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIONS

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** DANA VAN HORN moved to approve the minutes from the JUNE 25, 2026 Board meeting. SPENCER JONES seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
2. **RE506 Moab City** DANA VAN HORN moved the board authorize 52.1% of the project cost, up to \$3,000,000, and that the bonded indebtedness be returned at 3.72% interest over 15 years with annual payments of approximately \$287,000 (including reserves). DALE BUXTON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
3. **RE510 Moon Lake Water Users Association (Coyote Canal)** WILLIAM MERKLEY moved the board authorize 32.3% of the project cost, up to \$829,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 25 years with annual payments of approximately \$33,160. SPENCER JONES seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
4. **RE511 Moon Lake Water Users Association (Yellowstone Canal)** WILLIAM MERKLEY moved the board authorize 31.4% of the project cost, up to \$702,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 25 years with annual payments of approximately \$28,100. SPENCER JONES seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
5. **RE512 Uintah Basin Irrigation Company** WILLIAM MERKLEY moved the board authorize 10.2% of the project cost, up to \$233,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 25 years with annual payments of approximately \$9,320. BLAINE IPSON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
6. **RE513 South Boneta Irrigation Company** WILLIAM MERKLEY moved the board authorize 27.6% of the project cost, up to \$323,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 20 years with annual payments of approximately \$16,150. DALE BUXTON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
7. **RE488 North Creek Irrigation Company of Mt. Pleasant, Inc.** BLAINE IPSON moved the board commit 8.3% of the project cost, up to \$500,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over approximately 25 years, with annual payments of \$20,000. DANA VAN HORN seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
8. **RE508 Centerfield City (Small System Secondary Meter Grant)** BLAINE IPSON moved the Board authorize and commit 50% of the project cost, up to \$240,000, as a

Small System Secondary Meter Grant. WILLIAM MERKLEY seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

9. **RE509 Brookshire Irrigation Co. (Small System Secondary Meter Grant)** JULIETTE TENNERT moved the Board authorize and commit 50% of the project cost, up to \$150,000, as a Small System Secondary Meter Grant. WILLAM MERKLEY seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
10. **ADJOURNMENT:** DANA VAN HORN moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 AM. All voted in favor.

THOSE PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Mike Davis
Vice Chair Dana Van Horn
Juliette Tennert
Dale Buxton
Spencer Jones
Blaine Ipson
William Merkley
Tim Hawkes (online)

STAFF PRESENT

Director Joel Williams (arrived late)
Deputy Director Shalaine DeBernardi
Assistant Director Todd Stonely
Marisa Egbert
Ben Marett
Ann Baynard
Shannon Clough
Ethan Stayner
Brad Caldwell
Leila Ahmadi
Hyunwoo Kang
Sarah Shechter, Attorney General's Office
AV Team Josh Anderson and Matt Morgan

OTHERS

Michael Black, City Manager, Moab City (Online)
Mark Jolissaint, City Engineer, Moab City (Online)
Alex Veilleux, Grants Coordinator, Moab City (Online)
Marcy Mason, Treasurer, Moab City (Online)
Alex Buxton, Zions Public Finance
Dex Winterton, General Manager, Moon Lake Water Users Association
Erik Rube, Jones & DeMille Engineering (Online)
Lance Henderson, President, Uintah Basin Irrigation Company
Brent Brotherson, President, South Boneta Irrigation Company
Donna Brotherson, Secretary, South Boneta Irrigation Company
Randy Brotherson, General Manager, South Boneta Irrigation Company

Kyle DeVaney, Franson Civil Engineers

Taylor Stauffer, J-U-B Engineers

Don Johnson, Project Manager, North Creek Irrigation Company (On the phone)

Travis Leatherwood, Mayor, Centerfield City (Online)

Lacey Belnap, City Recorder, Centerfield City (Online)

Gary Keddington, K&C Certified Public Accountants (Online)

Ralph Parker, President, Brookshire Irrigation Company

Brett Morris, Board Member, Brookshire Irrigation Company

Birk Sorenson, Board Member, Brookshire Irrigation Company

Eric Major, Jones & DeMille Engineering

Utah Board of Water Resources
Board Briefing and Action Meeting
August 20, 2026, 8:30 AM
Department of Natural Resources Auditorium
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84114

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

CHAIR MIKE DAVIS called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and board members introduced themselves.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHALAINE DEBERNARDI acknowledged the departure of former Great Salt Lake Commissioner Brian Steed and noted that the Governor appointed Commissioner Hannah Freeze and she will officially join as a new Board member representing the Great Salt Lake interests once confirmed by the Senate. She then acknowledged DIRECTOR JOEL WILLIAMS was presenting to a legislative committee and would be at the meeting soon. She then introduced herself and staff.

LEILA AHMADI introduced new staff member HYUNWOO KANG.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD PROJECTS:

Project Number	Applicant	County	Project Manager
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FEASIBILITY REPORTS:

RE506	Moab City	Grand	Ethan Stayner
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ETHAN STAYNER presented the report.

DALE BUXTON asked about the direct financial impact of the project on consumers, inquiring whether the \$13.64 figure would be passed directly onto residential and commercial customers.

MICHAEL BLACK explained that as an enterprise fund, all water infrastructure costs are expected to be covered by that fund. The immediate direct impact on customers would likely be slightly less than that amount initially because the city plans to draw down existing reserves to help complete the project. The city's cost share is in the enterprise account and available now.

JULIETTE TENNERT asked about more information explaining what the (GOEO) grant is.

MICHAEL BLACK the grant was intended for rural communities and was awarded to the city several years ago after city officials petitioned legislators directly to help secure funding while

gearing up for the project. Due to previous project delays, the city applied for and received an extension on the grant contract. The city has until the end of 2027 to utilize the funds and complete construction. We are confident that we will meet the 2027 deadline.

RE510 Moon Lake Water Users Association (Coyote Canal) Duchesne Ann Baynard

WILLIAM MERKLEY noted prior to presentations regarding RE510 through RE513 that these four items represent a multi-year coordinated initiative. He stated that local partners, including the Duchesne County Water Conservancy District and technical consultants, spent eight years developing this series of up to seven projects targeting seepage, unlined earthen canals, and system losses. He voiced full backing for these efforts in Duchesne County.

ANN BAYNARD presented the report.

DEX WINTERTON expressed appreciation for the board's support and stressed the importance of the projects being presented today.

RE511 Moon Lake Water Users Association (Yellowstone Canal) Duchesne Ann Baynard

ANN BAYNARD presented the report.

RE512 Uintah Basin Irrigation Company	Duchesne	Brad Caldwell
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BRAD CALDWELL presented the report.

LANCE HENDERSON thanked the board for considering the project and noted that the funding would increase assessments by less than a dollar per share, which shareholders are willing to pay to prevent water loss.

WILLIAM MERKLEY asked if the funding agreement from Uintah Indian Irrigation Project (UIIP) has been finalized.

While there is a carriage and operation and maintenance contract in place, the funding agreement has not been completed. The funding agreement will be completed before the board commits funds.

RE513 South Boneta Irrigation Company **Duchesne** **Brad Caldwell**

BRAD CALDWELL presented the report.

RANDY BROTHERSON expressed appreciation for the board's consideration and help.

BLAINE IPSON asked about the company's ability to cover their share, and the impact on the repayment to shareholders.

The company shareholders are prepared to cover the additional costs and about half of the repayment will be covered by the reduced operation and maintenance costs.

COMMITTAL OF FUNDS:

RE488 North Creek Irrigation Company of Mt. Pleasant, Inc. Sanpete Ann Baynard

ANN BAYNARD presented the report. She discussed that the original report had recommendations based on the authorized repayment terms, and not an updated financial feasibility. Staff's updated recommendation is that the board commit 8.3% of the project cost, up to \$500,000, from the Revolving Construction Fund and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over approximately 25 years with annual payments of \$20,000.

There was discussion about the system and need for upgrades, benefit to the shareholders and their ability to repay. Also, the general requirements for shareholder and/or board of directors votes required before companies enter into purchase agreements with the board, based on individual applicant's articles of incorporation and bylaws.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

RE508 Centerfield City (Small System Secondary Meter Grant) Sanpete Ben Marett

BEN MARETT presented the report.

RE509 Brookshire Irrigation Co. (Small System Secondary Meter Grant) Salt Lake Marisa Egbert

MARISA EGBERT presented the report.

The board and applicant discussed metering requirements and exemptions at length, and how the board can help ease the burden for these smaller systems.

BRIEFING INFORMATION TO THE BOARD:

STATUS OF FUNDS:

SHALAIN DEBERNARDI presented an update. She apologized that there is not a written report at this meeting, due to the difficulty closing out the last fiscal year and validating information. She provided background on the revenue added to the various funds every year, regular expenses paid from the funds and balances expected to be available for new projects. The unobligated amounts available are approximately \$11 million in regular Revolving

Construction Funds (not including dam safety), the dam safety grant funds have been increased to \$10 million annually, the Conservation and Development Fund has approximately \$120 million available for new projects and the Small System Secondary Meter Grant funds were cut in the last legislative session from \$2 million annually to \$1million.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

JOEL WILLIAMS Interim meetings are this week. I was at the capital today and gave two presentations. One was about our future water projections in the State Water Plan. It was nice to highlight the work of our staff. The state water plan is out for public comment right now and closes on the 23rd, then they will get it finalized so that it can be published by the end of this year. The second presentation was about recommended studies. We are interested to see what kind of studies might help as we look to our future. The proposed studies include a five-year analysis of secondary metering data and landscape conversion water savings, supply and demand analysis, agricultural water budget improvements, supply augmentation and diversification strategies and expanded groundwater research.

ATTORNEY GENERAL UPDATE:

SARAH SHECHTER will discuss the Great Salt Lake litigation during a closed session.

SPENCER JONES moved for a recess at 10:34 AM, DANA VAN HORN seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Board members will convene at 10:45 AM.

CHAIR MIKE DAVIS reconvened the meeting at 10:52 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

DANA VAN HORN moved to approve the minutes from the JUNE 25, 2026 board meeting. SPENCER JONES seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

BOARD ACTIONS (see project list above):

RE506 Moab City

DANA VAN HORN moved the board authorize 52.1% of the project cost, up to \$3,000,000, and that the bonded indebtedness be returned at 3.72% interest over 15 years with annual payments of approximately \$287,000 (including reserves). DALE BUXTON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RE510 Moon Lake Water Users Association (Coyote Canal)

WILLIAM MERKLEY moved the board authorize 32.3% of the project cost, up to \$829,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 25 years with annual payments of

approximately \$33,160. SPENCER JONES seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RE511 Moon Lake Water Users Association (Yellowstone Canal)

WILLIAM MERKLEY moved the board authorize 31.4% of the project cost, up to \$702,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 25 years with annual payments of approximately \$28,100. SPENCER JONES seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RE512 Uintah Basin Irrigation Company

WILLIAM MERKLEY moved the board authorize 10.2% of the project cost, up to \$233,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 25 years with annual payments of approximately \$9,320. BLAINE IPSON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RE513 South Boneta Irrigation Company

MARISA EGBERT noted that the cost sharing table in the presentation was in error and the \$366,000, which is a grant amount, had been listed as the applicant's share, whereas the applicant's true cost share is actually \$57,000.

WILLIAM MERKLEY moved the board authorize 27.6% of the project cost, up to \$323,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 20 years with annual payments of approximately \$16,150. DALE BUXTON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RE488 North Creek Irrigation Company of Mt. Pleasant, Inc.

BLAINE IPSON moved the board commit 8.3% of the project cost, up to \$500,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over approximately 25 years, with annual payments of \$20,000. DANA VAN HORN seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RE508 Centerfield City (Small System Secondary Meter Grant)

BLAINE IPSON moved the Board authorize and commit 50% of the project cost, up to \$240,000, as a Small System Secondary Meter Grant. WILLIAM MERKLEY seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

RE509 Brookshire Irrigation Co. (Small System Secondary Meter Grant)

JULIETTE TENNERT moved the Board authorize and commit 50% of the project cost, up to \$150,000, as a Small System Secondary Meter Grant. WILLIAM MERKLEY seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

JOEL WILLIAMS drought conditions across the state have persisted. They have not necessarily worsened or improved, but have persisted. We have seen the monsoon moisture come in and affect certain areas and help some areas. I think those that receive it are grateful. And then there's also the double whammy that some areas where they've had a fire, and then you get a monsoon on top of it, and you get the horrible debris flows and flooding. It's been tragic for some of those communities that have already faced a horrible emergency with the fire, and then to have to face another with the flood. And as always with these emergency situations the kind of outpouring of effort to communities to come together has been encouraging. And then there've been the tragic fatalities with firefighters, the four on the Utah-Colorado border, and then the two helicopter pilots that sadly perished. We meet regularly with our DNR partners, including Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, and get those updates from them. And they've done an incredible job facing an unprecedented fire year with record-setting fires in just the scale of it. Jamie Barnes, Director of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, noted that we hope fire activity subsides with the official end of the season in late October.

Conservation updates: Our ongoing conservation webinars have been very successful. Recent sessions covered watering trees with drip systems and managing pests and weeds. The next webinar is scheduled for September 26th at 12:00 PM and will focus on maximizing the features of smart irrigation controllers. All webinars are recorded and available for viewing afterward. Second, due to last year's budget adjustments which reduced funding for secondary metering and water conservation rebates, we have decided to phase out the toilet rebate program. Indoor water savings are less impactful than outdoor savings, as indoor water is treated and returned to the system, whereas outdoor use results in permanent depletion. Shifting our remaining resources allows us to focus on higher-impact outdoor programs. We will continue accepting toilet rebate applications through October 31st and are actively spreading the word so interested residents can submit their applications before the deadline. We have several upcoming conservation events where our team will be hosting a booth:

Conservation Garden Park Festival: August 29th in West Jordan

Latino Conservation Week: September 12th at Tracy Aviary

Delta Community Night Out: September 14th at Delta City Park

Attending these community events allows us to engage in direct, person-to-person conversations. These interactions are often far more impactful than online or billboard advertising, as community members can learn helpful information and share it directly with their neighbors. Thank you to our conservation team for doing a great job representing us at these events.

There's an Upper Bear River Tour for the Bear River Commission on Sept 11th. Staff members Jake Serago and Tom Moore will be attending.

The Colorado River Authority Board met earlier this week. The final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released on July 31st, establishing sideboards and a framework for river

operations. The overall plan is designed for a 10-year period, with specific operational plans to be developed at two-year intervals. We are still waiting to receive the Record of Decision and the initial two-year operating guidelines, which are expected to be released any day now. I will keep you updated as soon as we receive further details.

The next Board Meeting is October 8th, the plan is to be down in Blaine's area and have a tour including Sevier Bridge Dam, and we'll have additional details come out for that. The tour will be on October 7th, the day before the board meeting.

In addition to the leadership changes at Water Resources, I wanted to share a few updates regarding leadership at the department level. Joel Ferry has announced he is stepping down as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to spend more time with his family and on his farm. Todd Adams will be retiring from his role as Deputy at the Department of Natural Resources, effective September 1st. With these transitions, there will be several changes ahead. Jamie Barnes will be taking over as the new Commissioner over Natural Resources. She will be looking to fill a few key positions, including a new Finance Manager following Roger Lewis's retirement, as well as a new Deputy to replace Todd Adams.

JOEL WILLIAMS & SHALAIN DEBERNARDI discussed the upcoming implementation of the Unified Water Infrastructure Plan (UWIP) requirement starting in FY 2027. This process involves evaluating the Conservation and Development (C&D) fund at the close of the fiscal year to determine any excess funds—accounting for authorized loans, grants, and pending applications—to be transferred into the state's Water Infrastructure Fund. Staff noted that this involves balancing active commitments and expected projects while coordinating with the Legislature and the Division of Finance. Additionally, they reviewed the agency's recent budget requests submitted to the Governor's office for the upcoming fiscal cycle, which include:

- **UWIP Funding:** A request for dedicated grant funding to support projects currently included in the prioritized UWIP list.
- **Watershed Council Staffing:** A request for four new positions (three roving planners and one administrative helper) to assist the state's 12–13 volunteer-run watershed councils with coordination, administration, and scheduling efficiency.
- **Aqueduct Resilience Funding:** A request of \$358 million to continue vital seismic upgrades for major aqueducts crossing fault lines along the Wasatch Front.
- **State Water Plan Resources:** Approximately \$300,000 requested to expand ongoing water modeling, public working groups, and advanced data coordination following the publication of the updated state water plan.

BLAINE IPSON moved to close the meeting to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation pursuant to Utah Code Section 52-4-205(1)(c). SPENCER JONES seconded the motion. All voted in favor of a closed session (roll call vote). Entered closed session at 11:28 AM.

Returned to open meeting at 11:43 AM.

CHAIR MIKE DAVIS no action was taken during the closed session. If there's nothing to further discuss, I'm looking for a final motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT:

DANA VAN HORN moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:44 AM. All voted in favor.