

CITY OF MOAB
WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 8, 2019

Call to Order: Board Chair Kara Dohrenwend called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM in the City Council Chambers located at 217 East Center Street in Moab. In attendance were Water Board members Kyle Bailey, Arne Hultquist, Jeremy Lynch, Mike Duncan and Denver Perkins. Also in attendance were Assistant City Engineer Eric Johanson, Sustainability Director Rosemarie Russo, Records/Project Specialist Eve Tallman and one member of the public. An audio recording of the meeting is archived at: <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html> and a video recording is archived at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DywZN2jZUy4>.

Approval of Minutes: Lynch moved to approve the Water Board Minutes of April 10, 2019. Hultquist seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 with Boardmembers Lynch, Perkins, Bailey, Duncan, Dorenwend and Hultquist voting aye.

Citizens to be Heard: There were no citizens to be heard.

HSA Phase 2 Water Budget—Discussion: Hultquist presented his feedback on the Kolm report. Discussion ensued regarding discrepancies he found and mechanisms both Grand County and Moab City have to protect their water. Johanson brought up the area in the study identified as the watershed and suggested the Council should define the area of the watershed by resolution based on Kolm's report and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) report. Dohrenwend brought up that Hultquist took issue with certain rationale and figures in the Kolm report. Water source protection zone boundaries were discussed and dilution of contaminants as well as the impacts of grazing, recreation, drilling and hydraulic fracturing (fracking). Johanson described his understanding of the various protection zones. Hultquist stated he hoped for answers to the Board's Phase 1 questions before Phase 2 was prepared and he also wants a peer review. Perkins concurred. The Mill Creek drainage as well as the fracture zone near the golf course were discussed as important areas for protection. Johanson offered to facilitate a meeting with the City Engineer Chuck Williams regarding the accountability of the Kolm report. Johanson also pointed out that Kolm's estimates seem higher than the USGS draft numbers. Dohrenwend, Perkins and Hultquist disagreed. Johanson then pointed out the USGS considers the Valley Fill aquifer also in their totals. Dohrenwend opined that readability of the Kolm report in lay terms is preferred in the summary and conclusions sections. Duncan brought up the definition of a water budget in terms of recharge and stability and contended the question that persists is how much water can Moab actually use. Tallman agreed to resend the Board's prior comments on the Phase 1 report to Board members and the engineering staff. Dohrenwend stated the next steps would be to review the Phase 1 comments and receive feedback from Kolm on those questions, with an expectation that Kolm should respond prior to acceptance by the City Council. Hultquist stated he could bring it up at Citizens to Be Heard if need be.

Board And Staff Reports: Hultquist stated he would provide the Vulnerability, Consequences, and Adaptation Planning Scenarios (VCAPS) information to the new Public Works Director as well as to Levi Jones, Water Superintendent.

Lynch mentioned his spreadsheet of historical news articles and added he will draft posts and encouraged the board to forward to Lisa items of interest. Lynch left the meeting at 3:20 PM.

Review of 2016 Water Conservation Plan: Integration of the Water Facts and acronyms were suggested, along with categorization and prioritization of recommendations.

Moab Water Facts: Bailey brought up discrepancies between versions. He offered corrections regarding the diversion at Sheley Tunnel as 2500 Acre Feet (AF). Hultquist cited 2900 and 3300 AF figures from USGS. Other corrections and format suggestions were brought up and it was found that board members were using an outdated version of the Water Facts document.

Hultquist reported on an 1800 AF groundwater request made by the Division of Wildlife Resources that he offered to investigate.

Russo reported on how the City is doing in terms of the State water conservation goals. Discussion ensued regarding using Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) to describe usage.

Duncan reported on the temporary moratorium on new nightly accommodations. He stated it seemed like majorities on both Councils want to end new nightly accommodations.

Russo brought up there was no ability to pose sustainability questions to the candidates in the Public Works Director interviews.

Future agenda items: Possible action regarding a recommendation to Council regarding the HSA (Kolm) report; Review and possible approval of an update to the Moab Water Facts; VCAPS report; Newspaper archives project update; Water Conservation Plan update including trends in water use in Moab.

Duncan presented his report regarding trends in Moab's water including precipitation, wells and springs. His data suggest a decline in well levels across the watershed.

Adjournment: Hultquist moved to adjourn. Bailey seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.