

Moab Area Watershed Partnership

Meeting Minutes July 17, 2019
Grand Center, Moab

Stakeholders Present	Affiliation	Others
Jeff Adams	Canyonlands Watershed Council	Arne Hultquist, Watershed Coordinator
Don Andrews	NRCS	
Mary McGann	Grand County Council	
Jorge Gonzalez	BLM	
Bob O'Brien	Castle Valley and Moab Solutions	
Mike Allred	UDWQ	
Sarah Stock	Living Rivers	
Levi Jones	Moab City	
Rosemarie Russo	Moab City	
Kenny Gordan	Grand County	
Mike Duncan	Moab City	
Jasmine Duncan	Town of Castle Valley	
Janae Wallace	Utah Geological Survey	
Melissa Masbruch	USGS	
David O'leary	USGS	
Orion Rogers	SEUHD	
Scott Hacking	UDEQ	
Dave Erley	Town of Castle Valley	
Marc Stilson	UDWRi	
Tina Marian	USFS	
Roslynn Brain McCann	USU	
Jonathan Dutrow	SEUHD	
Zacharia Levine	Grand County	
Kara Dohrenwend	Grand Conservation District	
Oscar Antillon	Moab City	

ACTIVITY	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Introductions, Review Agenda and accept May Minutes	Introductions were made. The Agenda and May minutes were accepted.	May's minutes and today's agenda were approved.
Watershed Coordinators Report	There weren't any questions on the Watershed Coordinators report.	Arne will continue submitting WC reports

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Strategic Spanish Valley Groundwater Plan Development

Arne started the discussion with a review of the USGS recommendations for further monitoring. Several of their recommendations have been implemented, while others haven't. Marc Stilson then led a discussion on the current status of ground water quantity monitoring in Spanish Valley. He discussed some historical monitoring and papers that indicated there was more water available than the most recent study by the USGS. Melissa of the USGS reported their study had been approved for publication and offered to email any interested party the unformatted version. Marc and the David (of the USGS) discussed other ongoing well monitoring in the Valley. There are about 20 wells the USGS is currently sampling annually in March prior to any production pumping. They also sample a subset of those wells every year for some chemical constituents. Several of those wells have been monitored for groundwater level for over 10 years. That data is available on the USGS web site. The USGS also performs a summary analysis of that data annually for UDWRi. The USGS plans on adding more content to that analysis. Marc mentioned GWSSA was also required to drill a few monitoring wells and they are monitored continuously. He noted the data from those wells is on the UDWRi website and his agency doesn't perform any analysis on that data at this time. Moab City is also continuously monitoring flow from springs that serve as the City's water supply and they continuously measure well levels in some of their wells. Marc also noted that the San Juan Spanish Valley Special Service District is also required to monitor at wells adjacent to their new well. That well was pump tested and didn't show deleterious effects to adjacent wells. However, That well has not been put into production yet but the levels in those wells dropped significantly last summer and haven't recovered yet. Arne mentioned he monitors one well continuously by Swaney Park and over the three years of monitoring water levels appear to be declining slightly. There was discussion amongst the group on the adequacy of the current monitoring to show trends in groundwater quantity/levels. There was a discussion on the adequacy of using wells that produce water for measuring groundwater levels and the consensus was that the best data comes from wells that are exclusive to monitoring and not used for water production. There was consensus that Spanish Valley needed a definitive groundwater monitoring plan if we want to monitor the condition of the aquifers The group then discussed opportunities to improve groundwater monitoring. They looked at what Castle Valley had done and there current monitoring plan. It was noted that the expensive part of a groundwater monitoring plan was drilling of new wells. The annual monitoring required is relatively inexpensive compared to the cost of drilling the wells. There was also some discussion about using wells that have been abandoned for monitoring to lower the cost of the project. The discussion moved on to how to support the project and several funding agencies were mentioned. Marc then led a

Marc and UDWRi will develop a Spanish Valley Groundwater Monitoring request for proposal.

Marc will arrange for a meeting between Water Providers and Local Elected Officials in Spanish Valley on September 18 from 3 to 5 at the Grand Center.

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	<p>group discussion on how his agency could develop a request for proposals that could provide us with a better cost estimate and opportunities to move forward. Marc suggested another step forward would be to hold a meeting with the Water Providers and Elected officials in Spanish Valley to garner support for a groundwater monitoring plan. That idea was supported by the attendees. The meeting was scheduled for two hours after the next MAWP meeting on September 18 from 3 to 5 at the Grand Center.</p>	
Sanitary Conditions and Waste from Recreation Activities on Public Lands	<p>Jonathan informed that attendees that this year seems to be worse than others for human waste conditions on public lands. They are considering means for closing some areas due because of sanitary conditions. They have also been considering ordinances that would prohibit primitive camping on public land without a porta-potty. The SEUHD has been working with land management agencies on the problem. They are in agreement that several primitive camping high use areas are being degraded with human waste.</p>	
Project Development for next year's Grant Cycle	<p>Arne reminded attendees that Southeastern Utah is the target funding area in the spring of 2020. He said we could receive as much as \$500,000 in grants if we submit good projects. Arne explained to the group that the projects needed to be tied to improving water quality. Projects that were suggested that are related to water quality improvements are storm water retention basins, stream restoration projects, animal husbandry facilities, corral improvement projects, groundwater monitoring , Human and pet waste management projects. Arne stated he would like to see some plans presented for those projects. Several others were suggested that don't directly affect water quality included pressurization of the Moab Irrigation Companies system.</p>	
Drought Workshop	<p>Arne reminded people about the Drought Workshop starting tomorrow afternoon. The facilitators and other staff working on the project were not available at this MAWP meeting to introduce. They will be arriving tomorrow morning.</p>	
EPA Tour on August 7	<p>Arne informed the group that last week he was told officials from the EPA and State of Utah that provide us with grant money are coming to tour the area on August 7. He asked sponsors of projects if they will be available on that date. Several questions were asked about the timing and extent of the tour.</p>	<p>Arne will put together a logical schedule and work with project sponsors on the logistics for this event.</p>
Other Business Vision Committee update. Future meetings for the development of a Spanish Valley Groundwater Management Plan and other groundwater matters.	<p>The Vision Committee is compiling the survey results</p> <p>Future meetings for the Groundwater Management Plan have not been scheduled. Adjudication is proceeding. However, we did schedule a groundwater monitoring plan meeting today.</p>	

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<p>Manti-La Sal National Forest Management Plan Revision Schedule</p> <p>RC&D Council Arne will update the group on the progress this group has been making.</p> <p>Other Business?</p>	<p>Tina informed us that the new staff working on the Management Plan is holding cooperators meetings on wilderness designation, soon.</p> <p>Arne informed the group the RC&D Council has almost finished their by-laws.</p> <p>Attendees asked about the Ken Kolm Phase II Water Balance Report. Arne informed the group that after a review by several people the report is being re-written in response to comments in the reviews.</p>	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>The next meeting will be at 1:00 September 18, 2019 at the Grand Center.</p>	<p>Adjournment</p>