

Moab Area Watershed Partnership

Meeting Minutes September 18, 2019
Grand Center, Moab

Stakeholders Present	Affiliation	Others
Jorge Gonzalez Bob Obrien Lucy Parham John Weisheit Rosemarie Russo Kenny Gordon Mike Duncan Dave Erley Jonathan Dutrow Kara Dohrenwend Chris Wilkowske Gerrish Willis Sue Bellagamba Dale Weiss Dana Van Horn Linda Whitham	BLM Castle Valley UDWQ Living Rivers Moab City Grand County Moab City Moab Solutions SEUHD Grand Conservation District USGS Grand County Planning Commission The Nature Conservancy GWSSA GWSSA The Nature Conservancy	Arne Hultquist, Watershed Coordinator

ACTIVITY	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Introductions, Review Agenda and accept July Minutes	Introductions were made. The Agenda and July minutes were accepted.	July'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
USGS Final Spanish Valley Water Resources report summary	Arne presented his summary document to the group. There were several questions about specifics in the document and it was noted that the summary was just that, a summary that did not contain all the specifics some attendees are interested in. There was also a discussion on the next article associated with this study. The original USGS study didn't show any link between the Glen Canyon Group Aquifer, Mill Creek (or Shallow Glen Canyon Group Aquifer) and the Pack Creek/Valley Fill Aquifer). With that knowledge Phil Gardner, Kip Solomon and others have put together a follow up article that determined the water budgets of each Aquifer. Chris Wilkowske reported that the additional study indicates there is 3,600 Acre-ft/year in the Glen Canyon Group Aquifer, there is 8,600 Acre-ft/year in the "Shallow Glen Canyon Group" Aquifer and there is 2,600 Acre-ft/year in the Valley Fill Aquifer. This additional study is currently under review for a journal article. Kip will also be presenting this information at the Geological Society of America's annual conference next week in Phoenix.	Arne informed the attendees that he will attend the Geological Society of America Annual Conference in Phoenix and attend the session Kip will be presenting the additional study that provides an annual water budget for the Glen Canyon Group Aquifer.
Division of Water Resources Draft Utah's Regional Municipal	Arne provided a brief overview of the propose goals and implications to Grand County and Moab. Discussion ensued upon the specific goals for Grand County and how regional goals may not be regionally appropriate because the regions are too large.	Arne will modify the City of Moab's letter and send it to Gerrish and Linda for review. After review he will

Moab Area Watershed Partnership

<p>and Industrial Water Conservation Goals</p>	<p>There was also some discussion about UDWRe’s plan to use percent conservation or number gallons per capita day goals as the metric. The discussion continued on whether the State of Utah plans on using incentives or penalties to attain the goals. It was also noted that although the document mentions climate change, it doesn’t propose any State or regional strategy to deal with it. The attendees also noted the additional water conservation goals would bring our area to almost a 33% cut in municipal and industrial water use per capita. The group is concerned that continuing to conserve water without putting limits on development or considering climate change and drought could be detrimental to our area. The group is concerned about how much “demand hardening” can occur without a policy that considers drought. Arne presented the comment letter that the City of Moab’s Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board had produced. The group agreed to write comment letter using the Moab letter as a starting point that addressed their concerns.</p>	<p>submit it UDWRe prior to the deadline of September 25.</p>
<p>Watershed Coordinating Council legislation</p>	<p>Arne gave a brief overview of the legislation that would create a statewide Watershed Coordinating Council and twelve regional Watershed Coordinating Councils. Some of the items in the legislation that were discussed was who would be on the Statewide and Regional Councils. The Statewide Council has three positions associated with Directors of UDWQ, UDAF, and UDWRe. It also has the Chairs of the 12 regional Councils as members. On the 12 regional councils, one member will be appointed by each the Directors of the three Divisions, UDWQ, UDAF, and UDWRe. The rest of the regional members would come from a variety of interests. The group assumed the intent of the Councils would focus on water development and water supply.</p>	
<p>Project Reports:</p>	<p>Arne first presented a final report on the Redd Ranch Project near La Sal, Utah. He noted the project is outside the partnership area but the partnership was interested in the project. The project moved an animal husbandry corral that was next to La Sal Creek about ½ mile upland. The Utah Animal Feedlot Risk Index (AFRI) for this animal feedlot operation (AFO) changed from high to low and it is estimated that the reconstructed corral annually reduces the nitrogen, phosphorus and BOD loading by 1536, 748, 5582 pounds per year, respectively.</p> <p>Linda Whitham reported that the Matheson Wetland Juvenile Refugia portion of the project was going well and she handed out several pictures of the gates and screens used to recruit and protect the larva of endangered species, specifically the Razor Back Sucker. The restoration of Mill Creek will be Phase IV of this project and the TNC will require an extension of the UDWQ grant and additional grant money to perform that restoration. The possibility of using City of Moab Water Reclamation Plant effluent as source water for the refugia was also mentioned.</p> <p>Kara Dohrenwend reported that Rim to Rim hasn’t started on specific aspects of their project but they are planning on starting</p>	

Moab Area Watershed Partnership

	<p>shortly with local students planting areas impacted by the Cinema Court Fire.</p> <p>Jorge Gonzalez reported for the BLM Mill Creek Phase IV Project. He provided several slides of gully restoration that has been completed as well as maps of Ravena weeds in Mill Creek. They are working with Grand County to eliminate Ravena in the Canyon. They will be bringing in the Ace Conservation Team this winter to remove Russian Olive on the Main Fork of Mill Creek in the Steel Bender Section and re-treat areas that were treated in Phase I – III.</p> <p>Jonathan Dutrow reported that the digitizing of on-site waste disposal systems project is awaiting reconfiguration of their offices such that they have a place to house the VISTA employee that will do the digitizing.</p> <p>Arne also reported on a project in San Juan County that is outside the MAWP watershed. There is a groundwater study associated with Pinyon/Juniper removal on Cactus and Cedar Park. There has been 9 shallow wells/Piezometers, 9 soil temperature probes and 9 soil moisture probes installed. They will be in place for the next five years at the “control” and dependent sites.</p>	
<p>Other Grant Opportunities and 2020 NPS Focus Area Grants</p>	<p>The group discussed several other grant sources that could be used for projects in our area. We discussed possibilities for funding the use of the Water Reclamation Facility effluent for the Matheson Wetlands. It was suggested we apply a second time for NRCS RCPP funds as it is a large funding pool. The NRCS has suggested parties interested in applying should attend a “webinar” on September 26. There was a suggestion that WaterSmart funding be considered for the Wetland Project. It was also suggested that the WaterSmart funding be pursued for our partnership needs also. The Bureau of Reclamation has recently opened up the WaterSmart grants to watershed groups. The attendees agreed to support a WaterSmart grant for our partnership.</p>	<p>Arne will attend the NRCS webinar and inform others on its content. Lucy will speak with UDWQ about supplementing our funding with a Watersmart Grant.</p>
<p>Other Business Vision Committee update.</p> <p>Future meetings for the development of a Spanish Valley Groundwater Management Plan and other groundwater matters.</p> <p>Manti-La Sal National Forest Management Plan Revision Schedule</p>	<p>The Vision Committee is meeting October 1 from 10:30 to 12:30 at the Grand Center</p> <p>Future meetings for the Groundwater Management Plan have not been scheduled. Adjudication is proceeding.</p> <p>There are cooperator meetings scheduled in the next few weeks.</p>	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>The next meeting will be at 1:00 November 20, 2019 at the Grand Center.</p>	<p>Adjournment</p>

Moab Area Watershed Partnership