

# Moab Area Watershed Partnership

Draft Meeting Minutes January 15, 2020  
Grand Center, Moab

Stakeholders Present	Affiliation	Others
Dave Erley	Moab Solutions	Arne Hultquist, Watershed Coordinator
Kara Dohrenwend	Grand Conservation District	
Dale Weiss	GWSSA	
Dana Van Horn	GWSSA	
Tina Marion	USFS	
Levi Jones	City of Moab	
Rebecca Weissinger	Herself	
Scott Hacking	UDEQ	
Jeff Adams	CWC	
Mila Dunbar Irwin	Grand County	
Janae Wallace	UDNR/UGS	
Ryan Jones	UDAF	
Marc Stilson	UDWRi	
Lucy Parham	UDWQ	
Matt McEttrick	Rim to Rim	
Kara Dohrenwend	Grand Conservation District	
Chris Wilkowske	USGS	
Sarah Stock	Living Rivers	
Carly Castle	Moab City	
Sue Bellagamba	TNC	
Geoff Freethey	Himself	
Gabriel Woytek	Grand County	
Mike Duncan	Moab City	
Bob O'Brien	Town of Castle Valley	
Ben Musselman	San Juan County	
Ammon Boswell	NRCS	
Tatsy Guild	Herself	

ACTIVITY	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Introductions, Review Agenda and accept September Minutes	Introductions were made. The Agenda and November minutes were accepted. The items on the Agenda were changed. A grazing item was deleted. A discussion on MAWP officers and an oil and gas lease were added.	November's minutes and today's agenda were approved.
Watershed Coordinators Report	There weren't any questions on the Watershed Coordinators report. Arne informed the attendees that he will be out of the country from February 6ish till March 6ish and would not be available in person during that time. He said he would be available electronically as needed.	Arne will continue submitting WC reports
MAWP Officers	Arne informed the group that our current Chair regretfully informed him that he cannot make the MAWP meetings because of a scheduling conflict and it would be difficult to support the group as Chair if he wasn't in attendance. Arne noted that almost every agency/institution has taken a turn at Chair or Vice Chair except Grand County and the City of Moab. Arne asked the representatives of those institutions to consider accepting the	Carly, Mike, Gabriel and Mila will hopefully consider taking the position of Vice Chair or Chair and respond at our next meeting.

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	<p>position of Vice Chair or Chair at the next meeting. Jeff agreed to move from Vice Chair to Chair if necessary. Arne explained the relatively small time commitment associated with those roles.</p>	
<p>New Project and Grant Reports</p>	<p>Dog waste stations: Arne informed the group that he had received a dog waste station/signs/bag request from the Recreation Section of the BLM in Moab. He is working with the BLM to put together a grant for up to 20 dog waste stations that will be placed at impacted trailheads throughout the BLM District. The application should contain enough stations that extras would be available if another institution requested one. The application will also include signs and waste bags. There will be two sign types, one encouraging collection of dog waste and another encouraging proper disposal of them. It was suggested the signs include information on human waste bags also. The application requests grant funding for the Stations/signs/bags and match will be provided by the in-kind effort of installation.</p> <p>Pack Creek Phase I Stream Restoration: Several people in attendance this afternoon and others met for a scoping meeting on this project the first week of January. Hopefully the project restores the stream reach from the downstream end of the Holland property to the upstream end of the Cinema Court property. The reach may be extended depending upon the willingness of upstream property owners. The project consists of stream restoration to prevent erosion and entrenchment, revegetation, completing the pedestrian pathway from the Holyoak subdivision to Mill Creek Drive and efforts to thwart the trespassing issues that are currently taking place. Jason from the NRCS office will be on site to survey the reach in February. Effected individuals have been notified.</p> <p>Red Cliffs Corral Project: Arne met with Colin and three NRCS employees the first week in January. Colin is working with Jason, the NRCS engineer, to determine appropriate measures to prevent nutrients from entering the stream. Colin also appears to be considering removal of the invasive Russian Olives and revegetation on the Castle Creek reach through his property. Kara of Rim to Rim has included funding for that effort in the WRI grant application for that area.</p> <p>La Sal Sustainability Collaboration Projects: Arne informed the group as an FYI item on these project/s because these projects are outside the MAWP's area. In the next few years there may be a stream restoration project on West Coyote Creek and there are a long list of spring development projects that could be undertaken. Currently there is WRI grant application submitted for Deer Springs Creek and adjacent upland areas that consist mostly of Pinyon/Juniper removal.</p>	<p>Attendees were informed that all grant applications that have projects within the MAWP watersheds need to have them submitted to the MAWP by the March meeting to be ranked. Projects outside the MAWP watersheds need to be submitted to Arne at the same time to facilitate their submission to UDWQ.</p> <p>Arne will help coordinate Jason's surveying efforts with effected individuals who will have to coordinate this in his absence.</p> <p>Arne also noted that most of these projects may not need an in-depth NEPA analysis but most of these projects will require an archeological clearance. The cost of the clearance can be incorporated in the grant.</p>

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	<p>Spring Development Projects in the La Sal Mountains: Arne also informed the group of this effort as an FYI item because the projects are outside the MAWP's area. SITLA is teaming up with grazing permittees in the La Sal Mountains to perform spring development efforts. Their development will probably be limited to one or two springs per year because of labor availability and other time constraints.</p> <p>E Coli projects: Arne informed the group that our E Coli Microbial Source Tracking samples came back negative for any bio-indicators. Arne and individuals from UDWQ agreed that those results are relatively improbable. UDWQ is working on an agreement with a lab in Florida to replace the lab that they have been using and we are planning on resampling this summer. However, that doesn't leave us with much data to support efforts to mitigate the E Coli issues in our streams. The group discussed possible projects that could be implemented which mostly consisted of practices that would prevent waste from the corrals currently in existence or not in existence from entering streams.</p> <p>Working with WRI: Arne expressed thanks to all the partners that have been working with WRI and UDWQ on projects and grant proposals. The two funding streams are complementing each other better than they have in the past.</p> <p>Accounting and dispersing grant funds. There have been some issues with processing invoices lately. Some of our institutions with grants would prefer to have the money for contracting work and capital expenses funneled through an agency other than theirs due to high administrative costs and their internal accounting stipulations. UDWQ also has difficulty in paying contractors directly due to internal accounting stipulations. Historically we have not faced these challenges because some of our projects were financed through the Utah Association of Conservation Districts. After some discussions it was determined that the local conservation districts (LCDs) could be the financial agent for the project in question at this time. Negotiations will continue between LCDs and UDWQ and will determine if LCD's continue to be financial agents for UDWQ funded projects.</p>	
<p>Scoping Comments for New Oil and Gas Leases on Sand Flats Recreation Area.</p>	<p>The attendees reviewed the history of Oil and Gas leases that could directly affect the source water for our drinking water. Arne informed the group that during a discussion with a BLM Canyonlands staffer he was informed that none of the staff in this office is supportive of these leases. After a short review of the maps associated with the notification, it was determined that the leases do lie above the Sole Source Aquifer for our area as designated by the EPA. It was also determined that they may also lie within Drinking Water Protections Zones for our area. The attendees agreed leasing these areas and developing them was not our best interest and could negatively impact our drinking</p>	<p>Bob will write a draft comment letter for the MAWP. MAWP officers and Arne will review and submit it. Arne will send a copy of it to all affected water suppliers and institutions in our area. They could use that letter as a starting point for their letter if they wished.</p>

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	<p>water. The discussion turned to how best to comment on this notice. It was determined that after an exchange of previously submitted comment letters on similar subjects, Bob would write a comment letter for the MAWP. Arne and the MAWP officers will review it and send it in. Arne will distribute that letter to all municipal water providers in our area and affected institutions.</p>	
<p>Other Business Vision Committee update.</p> <p>Manti-La Sal National Forest Management Plan Revision Schedule</p> <p>Future meetings for the development of a Spanish Valley Groundwater Management Plan and other groundwater matters.</p>	<p>The next meeting of the Vision Committee is on Friday January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Moab City Conference room from 1 to 3pm.</p> <p>The first draft of the new plan should be available for comment in February. There will also be several open houses scheduled. Her agency has also concluded interviews for the vacant hydrologist position and will be hiring soon!</p> <p>The next meeting on groundwater is scheduled for today, directly after this meeting.</p>	
Adjourn	The next meeting will be at 1:00pm March 20, 2020 at the Grand Center. It will focus on project ranking.	Adjournment