

Moab Area Watershed Partnership

Meeting Minutes May 20, 2015
Grand Center, Moab

Stakeholders Present	Affiliation	Others
Mark Sovine Bob O'Brien Jeremy Lynch Zacharia Levine Mike Allred Garrish Willis Jeff Whitney Orion Rogers Bob Davidson John Groo Heila Ershadi Kara Dohrenwend	GWSSA Moab Solutions USU Grand County DWQ Canyonlands Watershed Council Grand County Grand County Health Dept. USFS Town of Castle Valley City of Moab Grand Conservation District	Arne Hultquist, Watershed Coordinator Alex Schuetter, Private Citizen Mary Weingarden, Private Citizen

ACTIVITY	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Review Agenda and Introductions	Introductions were made. Mark Sovine requested 10 minutes to inform the group on the Governors Water Resource Task force.	April minutes were approved. Agenda was changed to allow Mark the time.
Watershed Coordinator Update	Arne informed the group that all the grant applications the MAWP reviewed were sent in by the due date.	
319 Funding Availability	Mike Allred told the group that the 319 funding for the BLM Mill Creek, Rim to Rim Lower Mill Creek and Castle Valley Castle Creek Project should be available now and they could start on those projects at any time.	
Envision Utah and the Governors Water Resource Task Force:	Mark Sovine explained the Envision Utah Survey strategy. Basically the Water Resource Task Force put together several scenarios on how to develop water resources to meet future demands. The survey asks you to choose which development plan your core values agree with. It also provides you with costs and benefits of each scenario. There are other resource areas on the same survey. You can choose to respond to all, some, or one of the resource scenarios.	Mark encouraged everyone to complete at least the water survey. The link to the web site is: http://envisionutah.org/
City and County Flood Plain Ordinance:	Arne attempted to explain the relationship of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to community ordinances for flood plains and flood ways. Basically every community that would like to have flood insurance for property in a FEMA designated flood zone needs to become a member of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The community has to adopt by ordinance the basic flood protection ordinance that is Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Section 60.3. After that, the community participates in a Community Rating System that lowers the cost of insurance as a community gains points. There are a	Arne will coordinate with other resources and find other communities that have dealt with this issue and make some substantive suggestions for the flood plain ordinance. He will email them to the group.

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	<p>variety of ways a community can gain points but all of them have a goal of lowering property damage during a 1 in a 100 year flood. Moab City and Grand County are both members of NFIP. Moab City would like to gain points and lower insurance rates further with a flood ordinance that has stricter land use requirements in the designated flood plain.</p> <p>Several members of the MAWP voiced their concern for FEMA's policy for higher than normal or flood flows that could reach the flood plain. FEMA's policy is generally to move water as quickly downstream as possible and stop water from connecting with the flood plain. The concerns revolve around faster moving water destabilizing banks and entrenching streams; whereas high flows that connect with the flood plain that slow water down do not destabilize stream banks or cause entrenchment. Arne explained to the group the latter process for handling high flows in streams is called Proper Functioning Condition by land management agencies. There is also a concern that the new ordinance could hamper or prohibit restoration work on streams. Arne showed the group the current draft ordinances and asked for suggestions from the group on what sort of comments the MAWP would like to make on the draft ordinance. The group did not have any substantive ideas for the draft ordinance. Arne suggested that the requirements for fences built in flood zones could be simplified by referring to interagency fencing guidelines used by land management agencies. However, the group could not come up with any other suggestions even after a long discussion on flood plains, land use ordinances, FEMA, the needs of private property owners, and proper functioning of streams. Several members suggested Arne look for communities that have previously struggled with these issues and determine if their experiences could be helpful here. The group left it to Arne to come up with some suggestions and send them to the meeting attendees for consideration.</p>	
<p>Grand County Master Plan and Grand Conservation District Resource Needs Assessment.</p>	<p>Zacharia presented the new State requirement that all County General Management Plans be rewritten by July 1, 2016 and adopted by January 1, 2017. Zach stated that although the State didn't provide enough funding or enough time as should be required for this type of document, this is a great opportunity for Grand County to improve the current plan. The State has given specific recommendations for the plan and it appears this plan will not be as general as most general plans are. Kara reported that the Grand Conservation District is also rewriting their resource needs assessment and would like to collaborate with the County such that both documents are complimentary.</p>	<p>Zacharia will inform the group and the Conservation District how they can participate after the County Planning Commission decides what means they will be using to rewrite the General Management Plan</p>
<p>Meeting date and times</p>	<p>Kara reiterated her commitment to the MAWP and expressed a desire to move the meeting to 1:00 on the Third Wednesday of every other month.</p>	<p>The MAWP meeting is now at 1:00 pm on the</p>

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		third Wednesday of odd months.
Items not on the Agenda	Section 2.8, 2.9, & 2.10	Arne put these items out as not on the agenda, using it as a place holder for future meetings.
Adjourn	The next meeting will be 1:00 July 15 at the Grand Center	Adjournment