

# Moab Area Watershed Partnership

Meeting Minutes January 20, 2016  
Grand Center, Moab

Stakeholders Present	Affiliation	Others
Kara Dohrenwend Ann Marie Aubry Jeff Adams Dave Erley Don Andrews Bob O'Brien Bob Davidson Mark Sovine Zacharia Levine Eli Tome Jacob Garcia John Groo Amber Johnson	Grand Conservation District BLM Terrasophia LLC Town of Castle Valley NRCS Moab Solutions USFS – Manti La Sal GWSSA Grand County UFFSL BLM Town of Castle Valley NRCS	Arne Hultquist, Watershed Coordinator

ACTIVITY	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Review Agenda and Introductions	Introductions were made. There was a lively discussion on retirement and not-retirement plans. Arne added some agenda items.	November minutes were approved and the revised agenda was accepted.
Election of Chair and Vice Chair:	Arne presented the by-laws on elected officials. The by-laws allow the Chair and Vice Chair a two year term if they are willing and are reelected. The Current Chair, Dave Erley and Vice Chair, Ann Marie Aubry have served one year and are willing to serve another.	Dave Erley and Ann Marie Aubry were reelected to another one year term as Chair and Vice Chair respectively
Announcement of Local Work Group Meeting:	Don Andrews and Kara Dohrenwend explained the focus and intent of the NRCS local workgroup meeting scheduled for 10:00 am, Wednesday January 27, 2016 at the Grand County Council Chambers. The goal of the meeting is have people from Grand County inform the NRCS of areas and issues they want the NRCS to focus projects and funding in 2017.	Interested producers, agency personnel, local governments, and citizens are encouraged to attend.
Emergency Watershed Protection Funding:	Don Andrews gave a power point presentation on the how, why, where, and when of Emergency Watershed Protection Funding available through the NRCS. Highlights of the presentation include: Funding for projects is a supplemental appropriation approved by Congress. Applications need to be submitted within 60 days of an event. Applications need to be submitted by an entity that has taxing and eminent domain authority (and a few other minor things) Applicants are required to provide 25% match cost which can be in-kind match. Projects are segregated into two categories by the NRCS EWP team out of State NRCS office. The types are traditional and exigent projects,	Zacharia will inform County officials of the opportunities and requirements for EWP project funding.

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	<p>Projects classified as exigent are characterized by an immediate threat to life and/or property. The NRCS tries to complete those projects within a few hundred days.</p> <p>Projects classified as traditional are put on a list that is rated and are completed as funding becomes available. (The point here is to get your project on the list as soon as possible)</p>	
<p>Grand County Resource Management Plan:</p>	<p>Zacharia gave the group on update on the County Resource Management Plan (CRMP) that is being required by a State statute passed in the last legislative session. After some discussion about the merits and pitfalls of the statute and process, Zach explained the County is considering incorporating elements of plans currently being implemented by agencies and organizations in the County into the new CRMP. He is hoping the agencies and organizations currently participating in the MAWP would be willing to elucidate what sections and where those sections are in there respective management plans and how they could be incorporated into the CRMP. Zach has developed a preliminary spreadsheet that consists of the 28 elements required CRMP elements and which current management plans might be relevant for each element. None of the attendees indicated they did not want to help with this effort. A short discussion about if it would be possible to work within the MAWP to accomplish development of the CRMP. It was noted that the MAWP is concerned with water resources and any participation by the MAWP should focus on those issues. It was also suggested that some preliminary work by the County and any subsequent drafts might be brought to a MAWP meeting for review and discussion. Whether this occurred at a regular or supplemental meeting would depend upon time requirements for the discussion and the whether there was time available at the regular meetings.</p>	<p>Zach will email Arne the spreadsheet with his request to MAWP partners. MAWP partners will review the CRMP section descriptions and identify portions of their management plans that could be appropriate for each section.</p>
<p>Projects and other Business:</p>	<p>Arne informed the group that projects requesting funding for this year's funding cycle need to be reviewed in the March MAWP meeting to meet the May deadline. If necessary the MAWP may schedule a supplemental meeting in April to review proposals. Arne also explained the only requirements of the MAWP is that projects proposals in the MAWP watersheds that are seeking non-point source State funding or 319 Federal funding must be ranked by the MAWP. The MAWP is not limited to discussing or supporting projects outside the watershed or seeking other sources of funding. Arne encouraged members to broaden their focus areas to other issues and funding sources.</p> <p>Arne informed the group of several staff changes: UACD has hired a new executive director. The Manti-La Sal National Forest Hydrologist has taken a position outside this State. Whether she will be replaced has not been determined. The Canyonlands Watershed Council has been hired Heila as their Executive Director.</p> <p>Arne quickly mentioned the National Water Trails Registry and informed the County, BLM and UFFSL representatives that the</p>	

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	<p>MAWP could consider supporting them if they wanted to consider waterways in Grand County for designation.</p> <p>The BLM is considering a project proposal for spring restoration and development that are in the area of concern for the La Sal Sustainability Collaboration. Some of these springs may be in the MAWP watershed. There was some discussion on how to support project efforts with volunteers and service agencies.</p> <p>Arne informed the group that he has been requested by the La Sal Sustainability Collaboration to help with development of their aquatic monitoring plan. Some of the monitoring will take place within the MAWP watershed and Arne will keep the group informed of progress and results.</p>	
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 at 1:00 March 16 at the Grand Center	Adjournment