

Moab Area Watershed Partnership

Meeting Minutes November 16, 2016
Grand Center, Moab

Stakeholders Present	Affiliation	Others
Dave Erley Phillip Bowman Art Wollenweber Ann Marie Aubry Orion Rogers Elizabeth Tubbs Kara Dohrenwend Bob O'Brien Don Andrews Jeff Adams Tina Marian Linda Whitham Zacharia Levine	Town of Castle Valley Moab City GWSSA BLM Southeastern Utah Health Dept. Grand County Grand Conservation District Moab Solutions NRCS Canyonlands Watershed Council USFS TNC Grand County	Arne Hultquist, Watershed Coordinator

ACTIVITY	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Review Agenda and Introductions	Introductions were made. The agenda was changed to include discussion on writing a letter to Utah Division of Water Rights in support of their effort to decommission abandoned wells.	September Minutes and today's agenda were approved.
Watershed Coordinators Report	There weren't any inquiries from the group on the Watershed Coordinators Report.	Arne will continue to submit monthly reports.
Comment letter from the MAWP to Manti-La Sal NF Planning Team	Arne provided a comment letter on the assessment phase of the Manti-La Sal plan revision he wrote UDWQ. The attendees reviewed the letter and suggested adding the documentation on aquifer sole source designation from the EPA as another source of data for their assessment. The attendees agreed that the letter should be sent pretty much as written with the addition of the sole source documentation.	Arne will add the sole source aquifer designation to the letter and send it to the attendees prior to sending it to the Manti-La Sal NF Planning Team.
Letter to UDWRi requesting development of abandoned well decommissioning plan	This item was a late addition to the agenda. Arne provided a letter he drafted yesterday for the group to consider. After much discussion the group decided to add plan suggestions to the document. The suggestions included: An educational component that included: Informing the City and County Councils about the plan and Newspaper articles to inform the public that: Why this is important to our community, This is a voluntary effort, No one will face any legal action against them, for either abandoning the well or non-recorded wells and If they would prefer to keep their well, provide them with information on what is necessary to bring it up to code, Logistical plan components that included Strategies to identify both abandoned wells and abandoned water rights by reviewing water rights that haven't changed ownership in 20+ years and	Arne will re-write the letter and send it to all attendees prior to sending it to UDWRi.

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	<p>Tiering the effort towards wells closest to municipal sources The group also suggested UDWRi look into precedents around the country for examples and ideas on how to accomplish this effort.</p>	
<p>2016 Water Year Monitoring Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury in Fish Discussion • Summary of 2016 Coliform results • Summary of 2015 Specific Conductance/Total Dissolved Solids results • Summary and discussion of UDWQ 2016 Integrated Report listings of streams not meeting there beneficial use. 	<p>Arne informed the group that UDWQ has not been able to provide mercury in fish monitoring above the powerdam in Mill Creek as requested. Hopefully the fish collection will occur next week with UDWR.</p> <p>Arne reviewed the data from last summer’s standard E Coli monitoring. Most of the stream sites that exceeded the standards last year also exceeded the standards this year. The exception was Pack CK at Pack Ck Campground. In previous years the site had not exceeded the standard but this year it had the highest E Coli Counts of all sites collected.</p> <p>Arne explained the logic involved in the synoptic sampling performed this summer on Mill Ck between Mill Ck Road and the Powerdam. Arne suggested to the group that if we could identify the source of E Coli on this segment of river we could probably solve the E Coli exceedences between the Powerdam and the confluence with Pack Ck. Unfortunately, the data was not a clear cut as was hoped for. However, the data still indicated that the source of E Coli is in this stream segment.</p> <p>Arne reviewed the data from the Sp. Cond./TDS sampling that occurred last water year. The data indicated we still have occasional exceedences in lower Castle Creek but Pack Ck hasn’t exceeded in the last three years. Orion suggested the reverse osmosis discharge from Red Cliffs might be a source of TDS in lower Castle Creek.</p> <p>Arne provided the new and historical listing of streams in our watershed that are not meeting there beneficial use and which constituents where responsible for the listings. The Temperature issue in Mill and Pack Ck was discussed after the data was presented later in the meeting. Arne suggested the pH exceedences violations were an anomaly and hopefully with continued monitoring the listing won’t be substantiated. No one had any suggestions on the listing for Dissolved Oxygen exceedences. Arne discussed the relationship of selenium to TDS. Most of the exceedences for TDS and selenium occurred during 2007-2008 intensive monitoring and since then Pack Ck has only exceeded the TDS standard twice and that was during the 2012-1013 intensive monitoring. Arne believes if we can keep the TDS in Pack Ck below the standard of 1200mg/l we will also keep the selenium standard below 4.7ug/l.</p>	<p>Arne will work with UDWR in Moab to collect fish above the power dam for mercury analysis The group did not have any suggestions on how to investigate the E Coli changes in Pack Ck.</p> <p>Orion will provide Arne with some information on what has historically happened along this segment with septic systems and continue the investigation. Art also indicated the he would like to be part of the solution. Arne will contact UDWQ about control measures for the R/O discharge.</p>
<p>Continuous water temperature profiles</p>	<p>Arne provided the continuous data in graphical form for six of the seven sites that have temperature/pressure probes in them. The seventh site, somewhere below the confluence of Mill and Pack Ck has never been successfully established. The sites on Mill Ck bl the Powerdam and Pack Ck bl the USFS boundary exceed the cold water fishery temperature standard significantly. These steam segments are on the 303 d list for not supporting their cold water</p>	<p>Arne will write a letter to UDWQ requesting the investigate whether the lower sections of Mill and Pack Ck could ever support a cold water fishery. The will send it to the attendees</p>

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	<p>fishery temperature standard. The attendees discussed whether Mill Ck from the confluence with the Colorado to the last diversion bl the Powerdam and Pack Ck from the confluence with Mill Creek to the USFS boundary could realistically support a cold water fishery. Arne suggested a grant to hire a contractor to investigate the possibility. Phillip suggested we provide this data to UDWQ and ask them to make that determination. The attendees supported that idea with the added suggestion that UDWQ also sample for fish to see if there are actually any cold water fish in these sections. The attendees suggested that a discussion on what to do about the section of Mill Ck above the last diversion to the Sheely Diversion be discussed at a later date.</p>	<p>prior to sending it to UDWQ.</p>
<p>Groundwater Monitoring Efforts</p>	<p>Arne presented two graphs of depth to Groundwater at two different locations in Moab. The data indicates relatively large fluctuations in depth during the irrigation season and depth to groundwater levels have been increasing, which also translates into groundwater levels have dropped in the last 10 months.</p>	<p>Arne will provide this data to the USGS to use in there groundwater study</p>
<p>Flow/Depth continuous monitoring data collection.</p>	<p>Arne presented the continuous depth data from the six stations along lower Mill and Pack Creek. The data has been corrected for shifts and barometric pressure. The data can be used to calculate flows with a conversion using collected flow data. Arne has given this data to the USGS to convert into flows and they will use it in their groundwater study. The files also contain most of the information that would be necessary for modelling the temperature vs flows in Mill Ck from below the Shelly Diversion to the Powerdam.</p>	
<p>Groundwater management plan update</p>	<p>There weren't any questions from the group about last week's USGS presentation on the groundwater quantity. Dave Erley reported that UDWRi and the town have just about completed their groundwater quantity study and with the current results they may not build a groundwater management plan. They may just close the aquifer to further allocation.</p>	
<p>Project proposal discussion</p>	<p>Linda of the Nature Conservancy provided the attendees with a project for a proposed endangered fish sanctuary in the Matheson Wetlands. She asked if any MAWP members new of other funding agencies where the TNC could possibly apply for grants for the project. The attendees assured her that they would forward any grant information they came across to her. The attendees also decided to write a letter of support from the MAWP for her project. The Nature Conservancy would also like to rejuvenate the restoration of Mill Creek in the wetlands. Ann Marie said the BLM would also like to start developing the Mill Creek Phase 2 project. Kara had some other restoration/revegetation projects she is considering also. The USFS may consider building more spring development projects later in the next year.</p>	<p>Meeting attendees will forward any appropriate grant opportunities to Linda. Arne will write a letter of support for the project from the MAWP and send it to the attendees for comment. Arne will get in touch with Bronson of the State NRCS office.</p>
<p>Items not on the Agenda</p>	<p>Section 2.8, 2.9, & 2.10</p>	<p>Arne put these items out as not on the agenda, using it</p>

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		as a place holder for future meetings.
Adjourn	The next meeting will be at 1:00 January 18 at the Grand Center and will focus on this water year's monitoring results.	Adjournment