

Moab Area Watershed Partnership

Meeting Minutes March 13, 2017
Grand Center, Moab

Stakeholders Present	Affiliation	Others
Dave Erley Mark Jolissaint Dana VanHorn Orion Rogers Chris Baird Don Andrews Jeff Adams Nolan Hicks Zacharia Levine Mike Allred Roselynn Brain Scott Hacking Jeremy Lynch Marc Stilson	Town of Castle Valley Moab City GWSSA Southeastern Utah Health Dept. Grand County NRCS Canyonlands Watershed Council USFS Grand County UDWQ USU UDEQ Canyonlands Watershed Council Utah Division of Water Rights	Arne Hultquist, Watershed Coordinator

ACTIVITY	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Review Agenda and Introductions	Introductions were made. The agenda was changed to include discussion on Moab City's Water Conservation and Drought Mitigation Committee.	November 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.
Project Ranking:	<p>The MAWP ranked two projects this year. The first project is the Mill Creek/Matheson Wetland Restoration Project. Mike Allred presented a brief overview of the project which includes but is not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rerouting Mill Creek in the wetlands; 2) Restoring Mill Creek from The Nature Conservancy's property line to the confluence with the Colorado by installing "steps" in the channel to slow water down, prevent further entrenchment and raise the ground water level; 3) Provide water from Mill Creek to the main and south pond; 4) Provide habitat for migratory birds and endangered juvenile fish. <p>There was some discussion about the particulars of the project; water rights, archeological clearances and stream alteration permits. Mike and others reported that those particulars shouldn't be large issues for this project. There was also some discussion on the effect of the project to the Kane Creek Road project the County has been planning. The attendees discussed the possibilities for collaboration between the projects. There was also discussion on the large price tag and the possibilities of other funding sources. The cost of this project at this time is 1.75</p>	<p>The MAWP ranked the Mill Creek/Matheson Wetland Restoration Project at 95 out of 100 and the SEUHD Green Infrastructure Improvement Project received 84 out of 100. Arne will establish contact with the County Road Department, their engineer and the Jones and Demille engineer. He will encourage them to collaborate on the two projects. Arne will also inform TNC of other grant opportunities.</p> <p>Orion and the Nature Conservancy will incorporate any MAWP proposed project improvements as they deem fit and submit their</p>

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	<p>million dollars. Grant sources already listed for the project will cover all but \$166,000 of the project. One source that was suggested was the Utah Department of Food and Agriculture. The other project considered was the South Eastern Utah Green Infrastructure improvement project. The project will improve the watering system and vegetation at the Southeastern Utah Health Department Building. Specifically, the project involves removing the lawn and current irrigation/sprinkler system and replacing it with curb cuts to assist a new drip irrigation system and a bee friendly pollinator garden. The attendees were helpful in identifying options to improve the project including opportunities to add signage that is already available.</p>	<p>applications to Arne by April 30th.</p>
<p>Update on new and ongoing efforts:</p> <p>Moab City's Water Conservation Plan 2016 Update and Moab City's formation of Water Conservation and Drought Mitigation Committee.</p> <p>Workshop on the County Resource Management Plan</p> <p>Manti-La Sal Forest Plan meetings</p> <p>USGS groundwater study</p> <p>Abandoned wells project in Spanish Valley</p>	<p>Arne informed the attendees about Moab City's Water Conservation Plan 2016 Update and Moab City's formation of Water Conservation and Drought Mitigation Committee. Moab City is requesting applications for the Committee. After a little discussion the attendees requested Arne apply for a position on the Committee and indicate the MAWP's support for him on it. We were fortunate to have Kenneth Kolm of Hydrologic Systems Analysis at the meeting to inform the group on the Proposal for Hydrologic and Environmental System Analysis of the Moab Valley Watershed/Aquifer, and Water Source Protection Plan Updates. He informed the group that this project will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide a water budget for the watershed serving the City of Moab; 2) Provide a water source protection plan for the City's wellfield (Wells 4,5,6,7 and 10) as required by the Utah Division of Drinking Water; and 3) Provide a water source protection plan for the City's springs (Shakel Spring, and Springs #1, #2, and #3) as required by the Utah Division of Drinking Water. <p>This project will not gather any new data. It will use previously acquired data including data from the recent USGS groundwater study. There was a clarification on this project. Some attendees thought this project would quantify sources and relationships between water sources in Spanish Valley. That would involve building a groundwater model. That ground water model isn't part of this proposal and wasn't funded as part of the USGS study. It is considered the missing piece that would complete the understanding of groundwater in Spanish Valley. The group was informed that without that piece the Division of Water Rights and other political bodies would still be able to complete a Groundwater Management Plan.</p> <p>Zacharia of Grand County informed the group of a workshop on the County Resource Management Plan. There will be meetings all day on the March 22, 2017. See the County's website for details.</p> <p>Nolan of the USFS and Arne informed the group that the Manti-La Sal Forest Plan meetings have been postponed till mid-summer.</p>	

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	<p>We will be informed when they are scheduled. The Forest Service has produced a summary of current efforts called Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision November Public Workshop Report. The report can be found at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd535252.pdf</p> <p>Marc Stilson informed the attendees that next USGS groundwater meetings will probably be held this summer.</p> <p>In November, the MAWP wrote a letter encouraging the Utah Division of Water Rights consider building a project to address the abandoned well issue in Spanish Valley. There was quite a bit of discussion on how to manage this project. There are at least two funding sources available. One would be the NPS grants from the Utah Division of Water Quality and another would be the Resource Conservation Partnership Program through the NRCS. However the attendees couldn't decide on what entity would manage the project. Mike Allred and Marc Stilson volunteered to get together with the powers to be in Salt Lake City and see if they could work something out.</p>	
2017-2018 UDWQ intensive efforts	Arne informed the attendees that this fall UDWQ will begin another round of intensive monitoring for the Colorado River and Tributaries. Arne requested attendees consider sites that they believe are problem areas or might be good background information for projects.	Attendees will ponder possible stream monitoring sites for UDWQ's next Colorado River Intensive Monitoring.
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 May 17, 2017 at the Grand Center and will focus on this water year's monitoring results.	Adjournment