

Moab Area Watershed Partnership

Meeting Minutes September 20, 2017
Grand Center, Moab

Stakeholders Present	Affiliation	Others
Dave Erley Dana Van Horn Orion Rogers Mary McGann Jeff Adams Jeremy Lynch Kalen Jones Don Andrews John Weisheit Ann Marie Audry Taylor Hohensee Rosemarie Russo Chris Wilkowske	Town of Castle Valley GWSSA Southeastern Utah Health Dept. Grand County Canyonlands Watershed Council Canyonlands Watershed Council Moab City NRCS Canyonlands Watershed Council Moab BLM Moab BLM Moab City USGS	Arne Hultquist, Watershed Coordinator

ACTIVITY	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Review Agenda and Introductions	Introductions were made. There weren't any changes suggested for the July minutes. Some informational items were added to today's agenda.	July 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 submitting WC reports
Project Reports: Wagner St Project	Kalen Jones of Moab City informed the group that a contractor and contract had been signed but the project was postponed because the city did not have a stream alteration permit. The City has procured the permit now but the contractor is currently involved in another project. He will start this project as soon as he has finished the one he is currently involved in.	
Castle Creek Revegetation Project	David Erley provided the group the most recent pictures of the restoration work. Unfortunately a large portion of the planted materials have been eaten by ungulates. It would be difficult to protect the plants from this herbivory because mechanical measures should not be used in the floodway. Time will tell how well the revegetation grows. Arne provided the final report and pictures of the original installation. The attendees were informed that this and the Placer Creek reseeding project were part of the larger Castle Valley Project Implementation Plan which is now complete.	
BLM Mill Creek Phase 1 Project	Ann Marie Audry and Taylor Hohensee provided pictures and a summary of the large amount of work that has been done on the Phase 1 portion of the Mill Creek Project. A mile of stream bank and upland invasive plants have been removed and or killed. One of the obstacles for this project was the removal of large amounts of woody debris associated with Russian Olives. The Contractor	

Moab Area Watershed Partnership

	<p>(ACE) did a great job of removing the trees, spraying them with herbicide and removing the woody debris. The project has also been successful in controlling Ravenna Grass with herbicide. That work was conducted with the cooperation of the BLM and the Grand County Weed Department. There was some continued discussion on controlling Ravenna Grass throughout the County and several attendees feel strongly that we need to work harder on controlling Ravenna Grass. The project has received new funding through WRI to continue their efforts in Mill Creek.</p>	
Holyoak Project	<p>Arne reported that the Holyoak was about 80% complete. The Concrete pad for feeding and watering has been poured and the feeders have been installed. He still has to install watering troughs and a fence to keep the cattle out of the creek. He should be finished by next June. Dan Hall, the UDWQ AFO/CAFO liaison visited with him this summer and explained to the sponsor what his obligations were. Kalan asked about his manure management plan and Arne explained that the sponsor had people come collect it as needed and use it as fertilizer.</p>	
Rim to Rim Revegetation Project	<p>Kara was unable to attend. She sent the Watershed Coordinator the following report. "We planted in Feb/Mar and watered weekly through April and then periodically over the summer. We are watering again today (Sept 5th) and will do a second planting Sept 5 - 12 to either supplement or replace plants at various sites. We definitely have found that long stem planting works well for certain riparian species, and we are also finding which species are worth planting in upland areas with minimal follow up. We will water through November as often as we feel necessary (up to once a week if it stays hot) to ensure survival, and if we have the capacity to water in Feb through April we will do that as well. In addition to increasing native plant cover (and therefore improving resilience to wind and water erosion on sites near the creek) is to also get at least a qualitative sense of species, timing of planting, and watering needs to achieve the best success at our reveg sites along the creeks. We have worked at 6 sites along Mill Creek, and have improved the banks and nearby areas along approximately 1.5 creek miles through olive removal and subsequent native plant regeneration along the banks and nearby areas. There are locations in our work areas where recent flooding has changed the banks significantly, and some olives and other trees have fallen into the creek - and some of these locations had some good grass established, others did not. I do not necessarily see this as a bad thing, but the upcoming riparian plan I am working on for and with the City should help better identify places to work on bank stability and where woody debris additions may be a benefit to reconnecting the adjacent areas to the creek's water table."</p>	

Moab Area Watershed Partnership

<p>USFS 2015 Spring Development Project</p>	<p>Tina Marion was also unable to attend but sent in the following update. "I have attached the Power Point I made. Hopefully it makes some sense. It is mostly photos, but the take home is, 6 of the 8 spring enclosures are done, the other will be done in October. 5 of the 8 springs have the troughs and headboxes installed and the rest will be done in October as well. I didn't have the time yesterday to figure out the exact expenses have been so it's an estimate, but we have spent all but about 900 of the UDWQ grant." She also included a power point showing some of the enclosures and headworks that have been installed.</p>	
<p>Abandoned Well Project:</p>	<p>Marc Stilson was unable to attend and did not send an update. Arne informed the group that he had been working with the Source Water Protection Section of the Utah Division of Drinking Water and had sent Marc a list of possible funding sources.</p>	
<p>Southeastern Utah Health Department Green Infrastructure Project</p>	<p>Jeff Adams reported that the contracts for the green infrastructure project have all been signed and they are scheduled to start the project in mid-October. There was some discussion about monitoring and loading calculations for this project. Orion and Jeff have data on the pre-project water consumption.</p>	
<p>Matheson Wetlands Mill Creek Restoration Project</p>	<p>Linda Whitham was unable to attend but sent in the following update. "The only update that maybe relevant with regard to the NPS grant is that we are going to carry it over for at least a year while we work on the first couple phases of the fish project." The partnership had been previously informed that the TNC was unsuccessful in getting other grant funding that will be necessary for this project.</p>	
<p>Castle Valley Cemetery Well Project</p>	<p>Dave Erley informed the group that he was unsuccessful with his WRI grant application. The Town of Castle Valley and the Fire District are considering funding it without a grant.</p>	
<p>Other Business Water Conservation Board discussion Manti-La Sal NF Management Plan Revision Schedule RC&D Council</p>	<p>Arne informed the group that most of the discussion in the last Water Board meeting centered on the amount drinking water being used at the current WWTP and whether it would be needed at the plant under construction. The Water Board also discussed the implications of using the WWTP effluent to re-water the Matheson Wetlands.</p> <p>Arne asked if anyone knows about the schedule for the Manti-La Sal NF Management Plane revision. No one in attendance had any information on it.</p> <p>Arne asked the group if any of the attendees had engaged Sam about becoming part of the RC&D Council. The attendees said they had not. The group discussed project funding options the RC&D has that other institutions lack.</p>	

Moab Area Watershed Partnership

<p>http://www.southeasternutahwaterworkshop.eventbrite.com/</p>	<p>The group was reminded about the Southeastern Utah Water Work shop scheduled for October 16. Most attendees are planning on attending.</p>	
<p>USGS Groundwater Study update</p>	<p>The group was reminded about the USGS Groundwater Study update/final presentation tomorrow at 1:30</p>	
<p>Jet Boats on the Colorado River</p>	<p>Arne informed the group that he had received calls concerning erosion on the Colorado River that may be caused by Jet Boats. Arne reminded the group that the Colorado River is not in our area of concern. The group discussed the possibility of using the MAWP venue to hold a discussion with stakeholders on this matter and agreed that our MAWP meeting would be a good forum for it</p>	<p>Arne will contact stakeholders and invite them to our next MAWP meeting.</p>
<p>Items not on the Agenda</p>	<p>Section 2.8, 9, & 10</p>	<p>Arne put these items out as not on the agenda, using it as a place holder for future meetings.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>The next meeting will be at 1:00 November 15, 2017 at the Grand Center. It will focus on the water years monitoring results. There will also be a discussion of ecological implications of Jet Boats on the Colorado River in and around Moab.</p>	<p>Adjournment</p>