

# Moab Area Watershed Partnership

Meeting Minutes March 17, 2021 from 1:00 - 4:15  
 Virtual meeting using Google Meets  
 Meeting # 80

Stakeholders Present	Affiliation	Others
Dana Van Horn Marc Stilson Sarah Stock Mike Duncan Bob O'Brien Dave Erley Levi Jones Lucy Parham Gerrish Willis Ginger Allen Jessica Pierson Jonathan Dutrow Karla Joy VanderZanden Linda Whitham Mila Dunbar-Irwin Monet Clark Sue Bellagamba	GWSSA UDWRi Grand County City of Moab Castle Valley Moab Solutions City of Moab UDWQ Grand County Planning SEUHD UDWRe SEUHD CFI TNC City of Moab Herself TNC	Arne Hultquist, Watershed Coordinator

ACTIVITY	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Introductions, Review Agenda and accept March 2021 minutes	Introductions were made as we had enough time. The agenda and March minutes were accepted.	March's minutes and today's agenda were approved.
Watershed Coordinator's Report	There weren't any questions on the Watershed Coordinators report.	Arne will continue submitting WC reports.
NPS Grants and Other Opportunities:	<p>Arne informed the group that he had received informal acceptance of the two grants we submitted to UDWQ. Unfortunately, the grants were only partially funded. The SEUHD was reported to receive \$50,000 of the \$65,000 they applied for and Rim to Rim to receive 30,000 of the \$65,000. Rim to Rim's project can be parsed into "smaller restoration sections" and we can apply for the sections parsed in the future.</p> <p>Arne informed the group that there were several other grant opportunities for projects we've discussed in MAWP meetings. The Watersmart grant could help the MAWP finance the Watershed Coordinators position and other objectives of the MAWP. Jon of CWC has applied for that grant. The Colorado Salinity Forum could help fund the Matheson Wetlands Monitoring Plan for TNC and UDWRi. The American Rescue Act of 2021 could help fund water infrastructure issues that several partners have. GWSSA and the Town of Castle Valley have already applied for this grant funding.</p>	Partners were encouraged to consider requesting funding from these entities for projects previously discussed or newly envisioned.

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	<p>The National Groundwater Monitoring Network grant could be used for groundwater monitoring that has been identified critical to monitoring Spanish Valley’s groundwater aquifers.</p> <p>The Utah Conservation Commission has recently announced it has grant opportunities for water conservation and development related to agriculture. It was suggested that the MIC or GWSSA consider investigating this opportunity.</p>	
<p>WMP-Section 6 Public Information and Education and Section 7 Monitoring and Evaluation:</p>	<p>The attendees reviewed Section 6. There were three small changes made and it was accepted.</p> <p>The attendees reviewed Section 7. Arne discussed the changes that have been made over the last six years and explained some monitoring applications to the attendees. Sarah was kind enough to review the document for grammatical errors and will send them to Arne. Section 7 was accepted with those changes.</p>	<p>Section 6 and 7 were accepted..</p>
<p>WMP-Section 2 Watershed Inventory:</p>	<p>The attendees reviewed Section 2. We discussed Section 2 about two years ago when we started revising the WMP. It was suggested that most of Section 2 could be revised by just updating the tables with new information. Since then Arne has determined that quite a few things have changed and we need to re-consider most of the Section.</p> <p>Section 2.1 Location, Boundaries and Topography: It was noted that property ownership has changed significantly in several of the figures. Arne will request updated maps from UDWQ.</p> <p>Section 2.2 Hydrology. Arne updated the tables in this section. One paragraph on surface water withdrawals needs updating with information associated with adjudication of Spanish Valley. UDWRi/Marc agreed to revise it. It was noted that several groundwater studies have changed a lot of our understanding of groundwater hydrology since 2014. Dave Erley agreed to revise the groundwater section on Castle Valley. The attendees agreed to seek out the UGS or another entity to revise the Spanish Valley groundwater section.</p> <p>Section 2.3 Vegetation. No changes were made and it was accepted as is.</p> <p>Section 2.4 Climate. Since 2014 we have learned a lot about climate change and historical trends due to the MAWP’s initiation of our VCAP’s process. Seth Arens did a great job at those discussions informing us of climate change expectations. He also gave a climate change presentation at our last MAWP meeting. His occupation as a resource scientist with the Western Water Resource Section of NOAA makes him an expert on Grand County climate. Arne has asked him to revise this section for the MAWP and he has agreed. The attendees agreed this was a great option.</p> <p>Section 2.5 Soils, etc. No changes were made and it was accepted as is.</p> <p>Section 2.6 Wildlife. No changes were made and it was accepted as is.</p> <p>Section 2.7 Regional and Demographic Trends. Arne informed the group that it wasn’t straight forward to find this information on the</p>	<p>Arne will request updated maps from UDWQ for all maps that have had property ownership changes since 2014 in Section 2.1 and the entire WMP.</p> <p>Section 2 Hydrology: UDWRi will revise one small paragraph on surface water withdrawals.</p> <p>Dave Erley will revise the Castle Valley groundwater Hydrology section and Arne will enlist some help revising the Spanish Valley section, preferably UGS.</p> <p>Section 4: Climate. Seth Arens of Western Water Resources has agreed to revise the Climate section.</p> <p>The new information in Section 7 Demographics was accepted.</p> <p>The new information in Section 8 Water Rights and Use was accepted.</p> <p>Section 9: Bob will send Arne the new future land use section for Castle Valley.</p>

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	<p>Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget website, but he did find it an updated all the information in this Section. There was some discussion on the rather large increase in tourism over the last 6 years. The Section was accepted as is.</p> <p>Section 2.8 Water Rights and Uses. This section was discussed two years ago when we started revising the WMP. At that time there were some suggestions made that Arne accommodated in this version. Notably there was a request to add some documentation on water conservation. That information was new to this section and there was some discussion on it. It was noted that the City of Moab has already met all the State of Utah’s recommended water conservation goals.</p> <p>Section 2.9 Land Use. The recommendations made two years ago for changes in a table on grazing use were incorporated into this version. The Section on future land use was mostly taken straight out of the general plans for the Cities and Counties. Bob informed the group that Castle Valley had just revised there plan and he would send Arne the new future land use section for the Town of Castle Valley for incorporation into that Section. This Section did invite quite a bit of discussion on the MAWP are boundaries as several planning areas the County asked to have added earlier were not inside the MAWP watershed. The attendees requested we put the MAWP area of concern on next meeting’s agenda.</p>	<p>Sections 2.3 Vegetation, Section 2.5 Soils, Section 2.6 Wildlife were accepted without any changes.</p>
<p>MAWP By-Laws and Cooperative Agreement:</p>	<p>The attendees discussed the history behind the cooperative agreement and then discussed our ability to work without signing it. The attendees agreed that all partners had embraced the concepts in the cooperative agreement and all partners were practicing the concepts in it. After some discussion on the merits and problems associated with getting partners to sign the agreement it was determined that as a group at this time we do not need a signed cooperators agreement for a functional partnership.</p> <p>The discussion turned to Roles and Responsibilities section of the By Laws. It was noted that the partnership is not following them. Arne informed the group that it is difficult to find a Chair and Vice Chair willing to take on the responsibilities outlined in the By Laws but since he paired their responsibilities down to review minutes and letters he has been able to get volunteers for the positions. The attendees agreed we are functioning as a partnership under the current roles and responsibilities and requested Arne revise that section to reflect what is actually happening.</p>	<p>The attendees decided to keep the Cooperators Agreement as a MAWP document but not request partners “sign it”. Arne will revise the Roles and Responsibilities section of the By Laws to reflect what is actually happening.</p>
<p>Website Improvements:</p>	<p>There was a relatively short discussion on the MAWP website. Although the website is old and not being used as much as it should, the attendees don’t think we need to develop a new one they would prefer to add a page with information on how to get information. There are several studies, presentations, and other pertinent information that the attendees would like easier access to. Arne was assigned to try and build a page in the website that contained just such information, links.</p>	

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Other Business	The attendees agreed to meet in person in June if Arne can find a place where we can follow Covid Safe Guidelines. Several places were suggested.	Arne will find a place to meet that can accommodate us and Covid guidelines.
Adjourn	The next meeting will be at 1:00pm July 21, 2021 and the location has yet to be determined.	