

Central Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 10, 2023, 1:00 PM
Carbon County Administration Building
<https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/84471249409>

1) Welcome- William Merkley, Co-Chair

Mr. Merkley welcomed council members and asked new members and guests to introduce themselves.

New member, Bill Butcher, with the Price River Water Users, requested a measurement device on the Price River. Derris Jones also supported a measurement device on the Price River.

Cash Stallings, guest from DWR, is on a team evaluating Co river basin use, diversions, and rights.

Dell Wilson, a guest, also from Price River water users.

2) Approval of the Minutes from May 17, 2023, CAC Meeting- William Merkley

With no comments on the May 17, 2023 minutes, a motion was made by Ben Musselman and seconded by Derris Jones to approve the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

3) Housekeeping/Administrative Items

Mr Merkley asked the council if they would like to keep him as the council Co-chair. Derris Jones motioned to keep Mr. Merkley as Council Co-chair, seconded by Jack Lytle. Council voted unanimously.

Cody Stewart discussed council membership. Tony Mancuso has joined the SAC due to geographic boundaries. Mr. Stewart invited Bill Butcher to join CAC membership. Susan Bellagamba stated her support for adding Mr. Butcher to the council.

Mr. Stewart discussed the success and subjects of monthly and bi-weekly newsletters and reminded the council that newsletters are a great source for relevant and current information on the Co. River.

Mr. Stewart announced the creation of the State watershed councils, its purpose, and that they are looking for membership.

Holly McCall discussed dates for the next meeting. Council agreed to meet remotely for September and in person for the month of October. There may be a field tour in October of the Tusher Diversion Dam, info is still pending.

Mr. Merkley introduced himself and asked each member and guest to introduce themselves.

**3) Scott McGettigan, Interstate Stream Manager, Division of Water Resources-
Discussion of Salinity**

Mr. McGettigan began his presentation with the geologic history of Upper Colorado River Basin and how salt was deposited within the basin. The amount of salt increases in the water further down in the basin and results in economic damages. In the 1970's the salinity in the rivers became a serious problem. The Clean Water Act was amended in '72 to reduce the salinity in the Colorado River for U.S. and Mexico. Mr. McGettigan showed graphics demonstrating how salinity increases in the Co River as it travels toward Mexico. The Salinity Control Act established a funding mechanism to pay for activities. There was a reimbursable (Lower and Upper Basin fund) and non-reimbursable (appropriations) portion. Hydropower sales cover reimbursable program funding. Over time as the water levels decrease because of drought, the money that should be generated to reimburse the salinity program is not there. Mr. Stewart commented that federal legislation has been introduced by a bipartisan group of western senators to adjust how much revenue from power reimburses the salinity program.

4) Member Roundtable

Action Items: Create a dialogue with the Salinity Control Forum - Utah's representatives are Dan Larsen, Candice Hasenyager, and John Mackie

Cody Allred suggested following up with the program that Cash Stallings team is currently working on in the Uintah Basin

It was also suggested that Bill Butcher present to the council for the purpose of the requested measurement device on Price River, just below Carbon canal

Sue Bellagamba would like to see a final report by CRAU on the study results of where the measuring devices are needed.

Cash suggested having Bill also present on the value of placing a measurement device Below Scofield Dam. Bill said that they have some methods to measure what is going into each of the canals, but past the last the diversion has no measurement.

Ms. Bellagamba asked about programs to reduce consumptive use, SCPP- is UCRC planning on a second round of SCPP? How do we look at furthering a demand mgmt. program in Utah, How can we prop up Lake Powell so the levels aren't as drastic as they are today? What is UCRC thinking and CRAU on these issues? She suggested a presentation by UCRC after upcoming August meeting.

Derris would like to know how successful UCRC thinks they were this year in saving water.

Bill and Sue would like to further discuss results from the Ag Optimization meeting that William will be attending.

5) Next meeting: September 14th, 2023, 11:00 AM Remote

6) Adjourn- Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 PM