



**Central Advisory Council Meeting Agenda
November 20, 2025
12:00- 1:30 PM**

**Utah Division of Water Rights
319 N Carbonville Rd, Price, UT 84501
(Lunch will be provided)**

[Zoom Link](#)

<https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/9598070519?omn=88413985725>

1. Welcome (William Merkley)

- a. Approval of June 19, 2025 meeting minutes
- b. Introduce Emma Epperson

2. Member Roundtable/Feedback (All)

- a. Two-minute round-robin of individual council member updates

3. Update on Colorado River Negotiations

4. Cody Stewart - Curtailment Threats Discussion

5. Housekeeping and Administrative Items (Cody and Emma)

- a. 2026 Recommendations
- b. Next meeting date

6. Wrap-Up and Meeting Conclusion (William Merkley)

2025 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Water transfers between basins create understandable anxiety. Fear of “buy and dry” transfers of irrigation water to municipal and industrial uses in other regions is a common concern in our mostly rural communities. We believe water, under nearly all circumstances, should be kept and used within its original water basin.
- River management that utilizes rapid reservoir release changes of sediment-starved waters is seriously impacting private property owners. Streambank protections need to be considered and prioritized.
- Consider and promote additional storage options to mitigate the effects of hydrologic boom and bust cycles
- Consider wildlife/habitat and overall watershed health when crafting policy and solutions including T&E species, natural resources, and ecosystem functionality to help fortify the long-term resiliency of the system.
- Prepare and plan for the loss of federal and state funding
- Recreation economies in the Upper Basin should be recognized and protected.
- Continue to advance a clear vision for Utah’s future on the river, confronting challenges with bold and innovative solutions - “Defending Every Drop” while allowing space for reasonable, fair, and necessary compromises
- Promote a provisional accounting program (aka crediting) and/or a demand management program, while also exploring other tools that allow the states to receive credit for contributing projects in the Upper Basin with appropriate verification and accounting.
- Advance long-term thinking by proactively supporting and incentivizing actions that promote adaptation and build long-term resilience.
- Local water supplies are best managed locally. Even though we must be seen doing our part, there is a sense of futility in gathering up or unduly restricting local water supplies to support Lake Powell elevations. As we’ve seen in the past, individual communities are somewhat inconsequential to the awesome power of nature to change the entire course of Colorado River discussions.
- The CAC urges the Board to continue to affirm that no mandatory reductions in Upper Basin consumptive uses should be considered until the Lower Basin’s system imbalance is corrected.
- All policy decisions need to be grounded on the best available science and be contingent upon hydrologic conditions.
- The CAC firmly opposes the use of Upper Basin reservoirs in a system-wide river management scheme that serves to more fully secure harmful Lower Basin guarantees at the expense of an already fragile Upper Basin water supply.
- The CAC is encouraged by the adoption of conservation efforts such as the System Conservation Pilot Program and the Agricultural Water Optimization Program. We support continued efforts to establish a more durable demand management system whereby the State of Utah can account for, and be given credit for, voluntary, temporary, compensated, and protected water contributions. We eagerly await system improvements contemplated in the Metering and Gap

Analysis and the Ag Water Demonstration, Research and Implementation Program (Ag-DRIP).

- Please ensure our sister states understand that losses in hydropower efficiency in low storage level reservoirs has a real and immediate impact on returns to the Basin Fund and WAPA power rates.

ADVISORY COUNCIL GOVERNING RULE

On December 2, 2021, the Authority Board adopted the following advisory council rule to help guide council operations:

ADVISORY COUNCIL GOVERNING RULE

This rule is established under the authority of the Colorado River Authority of Utah Act, Section 63M-14-209, to provide the general standards and procedures for the operation of the Colorado River Authority of Utah (“Authority”) Advisory Councils.

Advisory Council Membership

- 1. There is created one or more Advisory Councils that shall consist of members representing a variety of Colorado River interests in the state of Utah.*
- 2. Advisory Councils will serve as a forum for civic engagement on the use, development, conservation, and protection of Utah’s Colorado River entitlement.*
- 3. Advisory Council Members may serve by appointment or by application. a. Each Advisory Council shall be governed by co-chairs, one selected by its membership and one selected by the Authority Board. The co-chairs will conduct meetings and present council recommendations to the Authority Board. (b) Authority staff shall provide administrative support to all Advisory Councils.*

Advisory Council Meetings

- 1. Advisory Councils shall meet on dates and times as jointly determined by the co-chairs.*
- 2. Each Advisory Council shall:*
 - a. hear broad input, including recommendations, data and information regarding all matters affecting Utah’s Colorado River system water; and*
 - a. make recommendations to the Authority Board in an advisory capacity.*