

**Utah Board of Water Resources**  
**Board Meeting**  
October 9, 2025  
10:30 AM  
Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District  
Education Center at Conservation Garden Park  
8215 South 1300 West, West Jordan, Utah 84088

CHAIR MIKE DAVIS called the meeting to order at 10:39 AM and introduced himself. Board members present introduced themselves.

CANDICE HASENYAGER introduced staff present and those online.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

TIM HAWKES moved to approve the Aug 21, 2025 meeting minutes. BLAINE IPSON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

<b><u>Project #</u></b>	<b><u>Applicant</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Project Manager</u></b>
-------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------	-------------------------------

**FEASIBILITY REPORTS:**

<b>RE498</b>	<b>Veyo Irrigation Company</b>	<b>Washington</b>	<b>Russell Hadley</b>
--------------	--------------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------

RUSSELL HADLEY presented the report.

DALE BUXTON asked about the effect of the increase in cost on shareholders. The applicant has had multiple meetings, and while the shareholders understand it will be costly they are prepared and are looking forward to the expected benefits. They also clarified the relationship with Baker Reservoir and its operation.

DANA VAN HORN moved the board authorize 46% of the project cost, up to \$990,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 25 years, with annual payments of approximately \$39,600. TIM HAWKES seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

<b>RE500</b>	<b>Smithfield Irrigation Company</b>	<b>Cache</b>	<b>Ann Baynard</b>
--------------	--------------------------------------	--------------	--------------------

ANN BAYNARD presented the report.

DALE BUXTON moved the board authorize 30.7% of the project cost, up to \$952,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 25 years with annual payments of approximately \$38,100. WILLIAM MERKLEY seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

**RE501            Cache Highline Water Association            Cache            Brad Caldwell**

BRAD CALDWELL presented the report, and added the board's caveat that their funding is conditional upon the applicant reporting their water use data to the Division of Water Rights. The applicant is comfortable with that condition and will comply with that requirement.

DALE BUXTON moved the board authorize 32.1% of the project cost, up to \$255,000, and that the project be purchased at 0% interest over 25 years with annual payments of approximately \$10,200. Funding is conditioned on the applicant complying with reporting requirements issued by the Division of Water Rights. BLAINE IPSON seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

**SPECIAL ITEMS:**

**RD730            Mosby Irrigation Company (Deferred Payment) Uintah            Tom Cox**

TOM COX presented the report.

WILLIAM MERKLEY declared a conflict as the Uintah Water Conservancy District is sponsoring the current project for the applicant, and recused himself from voting.

BLAINE IPSON moved that the board amend the Purchase Agreement to defer all remaining payments by one year. Regular payments will resume in 2026. DANA VAN HORN seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

**WITHDRAWAL:**

**RM120            Weber Basin Water Conservancy District            Davis            Ann Baynard**

ANN BAYNARD presented the report. SCOTT PAXMAN expressed appreciation to the board for all the funding to help complete the district's metering, and explained why this funding is being returned.

TIM HAWKES moved the project be withdrawn from further consideration by the board.  
JULIETTE TENNERT seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

**CLOUD SEEDING OPERATIONS IN UTAH UPDATE:**

JAKE SERAGO presented the update.

**2026 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:**

DANA VAN HORN moved to approve the proposed schedule for the 2026 Board Meetings.  
JULIETTE TENNERT seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

CANDICE HASENYAGER As we look at our current water supply conditions following the end of the water year (October 1st through September 30th), we concluded the water year with approximately 100% of the state in drought conditions, including areas experiencing severe or extreme drought. Reservoirs ended the period at about 60% of capacity. While reservoir levels dropped significantly during the irrigation season and summer months, this 60% figure is still approximately 6% higher than the median capacity for this time of year, indicating that we are slightly above average for this point in the year. And regarding the severe weather we experienced this past weekend, particularly in the Salt Lake City area, we received a significant amount of rainfall. On Saturday alone, 2.4 inches of rain fell, marking the second-wettest day on record for Salt Lake City. Furthermore, this was the wettest day ever recorded at the Salt Lake International Airport. We did see some snow up in the mountains at Brighton and Alta. They reported around 8 inches of snow. Regarding the recent precipitation, while we did see some water captured in the Great Salt Lake and other reservoirs, the primary benefit is the improvement in our overall soil moisture. This is critical for next year, given that approximately 95% of our water supply relies on the snowpack. We ended up not terrible when you look statewide.

We are also in the midst of updating the State Water Plan. We have been doing Water Talks, a list of these talks, including the four that remain, was sent to you via email following our last board meeting. We are collaborating closely with our partners to finalize an initial draft by early January. This draft will then be distributed to our agency partners for edits. Following those revisions, a public draft will be released in the summer, with the goal of having a completed draft by December 31, 2026.

As far as conservation, our landscape incentives and rebates are slowing down for the season and the conservation section is reviewing materials and creating additional materials for the fall and winter months. We are opening a new period for what we call the Transparent Water Billing grants. These are grants that we provide out to water suppliers to help provide "smart

billing” to their customers. It is open October 20th and will be closed December 19th. So spread the word within your areas if anyone is interested. We're also working to provide some grants for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). The application will go live on our water conservation website and we'll be accepting applications through December 1st. There is a way to explore how technology and AMI can enhance customer reporting and provide better information for managers. Additionally, our multi-agency general plan team, which includes representatives from the Division of Drinking Water and UDAF, has been actively reviewing and commenting on plans to ensure cities include a water use element in their general plans. All plans must be finalized by the end of this year. All of the general plans have to have this water element included in them. And then we also provided about \$500,000 in grants across the state to help facilitate those that needed additional support in developing those plans. I recently attended the One Utah Summit and had a very informative conversation with Shelby Cooley, our Conservation Team Manager, regarding our outreach efforts. She highlighted that this has been a banner year for outreach. As of next Monday, we anticipate having completed 57 outreach events for 2025—more than doubling last year’s total of 26 events. A significant portion of this growth is attributed to our State Water Plan outreach events and a few other ones. I wanted to share my excitement for the impressive work the team is doing to engage with communities and enhance our public outreach presence.

I have exciting news regarding the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan. After a lengthy federal contracting process, the Bureau of Reclamation has finally contracted with Hydros and Precision Engineering to develop the Riverware model. Jake and Laura diligently prepped for this for over a year. Additionally, the division contracted Envision Utah to facilitate planning and communication, including workshops anticipated in early 2026. A lot of work has gone into the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan project.

As far as the Unified Water Infrastructure Plan, we have been working with the relevant agencies to develop a ranking and prioritization process, the kind of draft process. We're going out to the public to gather public comment on this prioritization process. We have four meetings planned and I will send these out to you. They're all in October and will be held in Provo, Duchesne, Brigham City and Cedar City. We are working hard to do this public comment process and we still have to go through the formal rulemaking process and the formal 30 day public comment period.

DANA VAN HORN commented that her community is up in arms about the fees and are very concerned about what it is going to cost the water districts.

CANDICE HASENYAGER clarified that the Division of Drinking Water is currently going through a process to begin charging a new “Drinking Water” fee. In addition, HB280 required Water

Resources to conduct a Fee Study, and that study is proposing a fee on all users to help fund future water infrastructure. There was an initial presentation at the Utah Water Summit in September where some of this was shown. Representative Snyder did a really good job at the meeting saying this is just a number. This is just a smart financial team coming up with what it would take to fill in this estimated gap in water infrastructure, and it is just a study.

Bear River Commission meeting is on November 18 for their fall commission meeting. As far as the Colorado River is concerned, there is a looming deadline of November 11 to come up with an agreement "in principle". The Basin States negotiators continue to meet and discuss the future operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead with the goal of arriving at a consensus. But if an alternative is not agreed upon by the Seven Basin States then the Department of Interior alternative will become more likely. Everything has to be ironed out by February 14, 2026. The Colorado River Salinity Control Forum will hold its Fall meeting at the end of October.

SARAH SHECHTER, AG proposed to have a closed session to discuss the Great Salt Lake litigation.

BLAINE IPSON moved to close the meeting to discuss pending litigation pursuant to Utah Code Section 52-4-205(1)(c). JULIETTE TENNERT seconded the motion. Roll call vote was held. All voted in favor and the motion passed to close the session.

#### Closed Session at 12:09 PM

BLAINE IPSON made a motion to return to open public meeting at 12:44 PM. TIM HAWKES seconded the motion.

CHAIR MIKE DAVIS noted that no action was taken during the closed session.

BLAINE IPSON moved to adjourn the meeting. WILLIAM MERKLEY seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:46 PM.