

1 **Mantua Reservoir State Park Echo State Park Visit — Meeting Minutes Date: 6 February 2026**

2 **Location: Echo State Park**

3 Attendees (unofficial)

- 4 • DNR: Chris Haramoto (Deputy Director, host), Scott Strong, Amber Goodell (Echo SP Manager), Rick
- 5 Haskins (Construction), Echo Park Ranger, Eric Bradshaw
- 6 • Bureau of Reclamation: Ben Woolf, Mark W.
- 7 • Willard Bay: Ben “Benny” (Manager)
- 8 • Media: Tameron Williams (Box Elder News Journal)
- 9 • Mantua: Annette Ash (Mayor), Cheryl Burgan, Scott Ross, Rob T., Dave H., Sherita Schaefer, Hank
- 10 Dovey
- 11 • Brigham City: DJ Bott (Mayor)
- 12 • Coalville: Roy Swenson (Mayor)
- 13 • Other: Wendy, BE News Journal

14 Host and Opening

- 15 • Meeting hosted by Chris Haramoto, DNR Deputy Director. Welcome and site overview; noted Chris
- 16 Haramoto’s Brigham City background.

17 Background / Park History

- 18 • Echo State Park construction completed December 2017.
- 19 • Echo Dam originally built in the 1930s for water storage. Concessionaire previously managed the site
- 20 under a long lease that expired before park designation; that period had significant safety, sanitation, and
- 21 maintenance issues that have improved under state park management.

22 Key Presentations / Topics

- 23 1. Bureau of Reclamation (Ben Woolf)
  - 24 ○ Reviewed original purpose of Echo Dam (water storage) and current water-management
  - 25 responsibilities under existing agreements.
  - 26 ○ Echo serves as a point of diversion for multiple flows/projects (including Central Utah and
  - 27 Weber Basin projects); BOR coordinates with DNR to control water output.
- 28 2. Coalville (Mayor Roy Swenson)
  - 29 ○ Noted improved conditions around reservoir since state park designation.
  - 30 ○ Clarified Coalville city boundaries lie outside Echo SP; the city does not directly receive state
  - 31 reservoir fee revenue.
  - 32 ○ Echo SP has increased tourism and local business support during summer boating season; ice
  - 33 fishing important in off-season.
- 34 3. Echo SP Management (Amber Goodell)
  - 35 ○ Park offers expanded boat ramp (up to three simultaneous launches), improved parking, cleaner
  - 36 facilities, restrooms, camping and cabins.
  - 37 ○ Park open year-round; staffed by full-time and seasonal employees (local young workers).
  - 38 ○ Park runs community events (e.g., Easter egg hunt, ice fishing tournament); fishing is a major
  - 39 draw. Peak season March–October, slower November–February.

40 General Discussion / Issues Raised

- 41 • Infrastructure outside park boundaries (UDOT, Mantua streets, north highway interchange) are not
- 42 included in park planning costs; coordination with appropriate agencies required for improvements.

- 43 • DNR noted Echo construction cost was in the ~\$10M range (over ten years ago).
- 44 • Algae blooms: occur at south end due to agricultural inflow; conditions have improved under state park  
45 management. Representative Peterson introduced legislation for additional algae study/clean-up funding  
46 for Mantua in 2026.
- 47 • Lost Creek described as a wakeless reservoir aimed at anglers.
- 48 • Positive remarks regarding state park staff support for local law enforcement and emergency medical  
49 resources.
- 50 • Park currently does not use a concessionaire.
- 51 • Community pushback: examples of public concern about state park planning timelines and local impacts  
52 discussed (Echo/Coalville and Hyrum Reservoir referenced). DNR currently engaged with Central Utah  
53 residents on Gooseberry Narrows project facing public pushback.
- 54 • Park utilities: Echo reservoir has its own culinary well with water piped to a tank; a wastewater field is  
55 sited well away from the well. Park staff manage maintenance and waste disposal.

## 56 Legislation for Mantua State Park — History & Status

- 57 • 2026 legislation includes \$2M that could be used for study/planning for Mantua SP; funds must still pass  
58 appropriations and DNR review. Mantua community support will be an important factor for  
59 authorization. Unused funds would return to a restricted account.
- 60 • The funding idea was generated in fall 2025 without input from Mantua officials. Separate early-2025  
61 discussions among government officials were noted but did not involve Mantua representatives.

## 62 Site Tour

- 63 • Group toured main park entrance, boat ramp, and cabin area.
- 64 • Observations: improved ramp and parking, cabins and restrooms, park well and water tank, waste field  
65 location, and general park maintenance.

## 66 Local Business Perspective (pre-meeting in Coalville)

- 67 • Polar King Restaurant owner reported improved lake-level control, longer boating season, and increased  
68 summer business from improved boating/camping facilities. Off-season business sustained by locals;  
69 some area businesses close in winter.

## 70 Media

- 71 • Tameron Williams (Box Elder News Journal) attended morning events and is covering the Governor's  
72 proposal and Mantua SP assignment.

## 73 Actions / Follow-up Items

- 74 • DNR to review legislative funding language and criteria for use of the 2026 \$2M for study/planning;  
75 report back to Mantua leadership on process and timelines.
- 76 • Mantua officials to assess and document local support and priorities for Mantua SP to inform DNR and  
77 appropriations process.
- 78 • DNR and Bureau of Reclamation to continue coordination on water-management issues and share  
79 operational impacts relevant to Mantua planning.
- 80 • Clarify responsibilities and potential costs for off-park infrastructure (UDOT, Mantua streets, north  
81 interchange) with respective agencies; Mantua to identify immediate infrastructure concerns for  
82 planning.
- 83 • Monitor and share updates on algae-study funding and any Rep. Peterson initiatives relevant to Mantua.

- 84 • DNR to provide information about community engagement best practices and timelines based on Echo  
85 experience, to assist Mantua in local outreach.

86 Next Steps / Meetings

- 87 • Mantua to schedule follow-up with DNR to discuss local support documentation and specific planning  
88 needs.  
89 • DNR to provide timeline for review of 2026 funds and recommended next steps for study/planning if  
90 funds are authorized.  
91 • Parties agreed to remain in contact; further coordination meetings to be scheduled as needed.

92 Adjournment

- 93 • Visit concluded shortly after noon on 6 February 2026.

94 Prepared by: Hank Dovey (notes provided by meeting participant) (For distribution: Mantua officials, DNR,  
95 Bureau of Reclamation, Coalville, Brigham City, Box Elder News Journal)