

WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 12th 2026. AT 9:00 A.M.
CASTLE VALLEY TOWN BUILDING - 2 CASTLE VALLEY DRIVE

**This meeting was a hybrid meeting held electronically by Zoom and also in person at the anchor site of the Town Building.

PLEASE NOTE: **** HOW TO JOIN THE ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL ****

Meeting ID: 660 541 0108 Passcode: 84532

Option 1: Dial-in phone number(US):(253)215-8782 follow prompts.

Option 2: Join the online meeting(must have computer speakers and microphone):

<https://zoom.us/j/6605410108?pwd=Q05sYm5qQ0lpNlY5TVp2bTU5VnZjOT09>

Water Committee Members Present: Bob O'Brien, Pam Hackley, Dave Erley

Water Committee Present on Zoom: John Groo

Absent: Sue Bellagamba

Present at the anchor site: Ryan Anderson (pending appointment to the WAC), Jocelyn Buck, Sarah Stock, Faylene Roth, Egmont Honer, Laura Cameron, Michael Carlyle

Others Present on Zoom: Colleen Thompson

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING

WCM Groo called the Meeting to Order at 9:00 AM, Buck called the roll .

1. Open Public Comment: **Roth** brings up Castle Valley leasing of water rights and sole source aquifer status. Asks how hard it is to end such leases and why has it taken so long to get the federal land managers to honor the sole source aquifer status.
WC responds:
Groo: No leasing has been proposed as of this point. The water budget study of 2025 has implications for the future of leasing, but we haven't moved on any of this yet.
Hackley: Sole Source Aquifer designation is in place and the federal agencies understand this. There has been engagement with the EPA on this as well.
O'Brien: Clarifies the protections offered by SSA status. If federal money is going to be used in the SSA, the EPA can look at it and make recommendations on those projects. Symbolically it is important as a hook to get further protections.
Erley: FS and BLM can use categorical exclusions to get around SSA designation. They have used this, including the big project up in Willow Basin, which did happen. But, we have a good position as a town where we are talking directly with both of those agencies as projects come up.
Anderson brings up the ordinance creating WAC and the inclusion of a PLUC member. Ryan is here pending the PLUC meeting and pending approval.
Cameron: Thinks it's great to have an official water committee with public minutes and recordings because there are so many people with interest. Questions about metering: would it be different for those that had water rights from the town vs. those that have rights through the state directly.
WC responds: Groo: Directs those that are interested to check out the Water Management Plan ([link](#)). This has all the relevant information up to date and is the place where we will be working from for this WAC.
2. Approval of Minutes: None

3. Executive Reports:

- MAWP- Hackley explains Moab Area Watershed Partnership (MAWP) is a partnership of local governments, state and federal agencies, watershed interest groups, and concerned citizens. O'Brien is the representative, a meeting is happening next week. Zoom option and recording now available.
WC discussed the agenda item "executive reports."

NEW BUSINESS

4. Water Management Plan Priority Action List (attached); strategies for implementation

Groo introduces the document which is split between items requiring funding and those requiring time and effort but no funding.

- Metering of wells using TCV water

WC discusses: If we had a metering system, UDWRi would likely let us administer water as a municipal water system. This would simplify accounting for the Town's water system. The future of water in the west is that one day there will be a state mandate for metering. If we stay ahead of it, we can save money. There are non-invasive options, like metering electrical currents on pumps rather than installing meters at physical pumps. What is the timeline for this? How much will it cost? The public process would be extensive to mandate water metering in Castle Valley, and the decision would not be made by this body alone. Metering would be for the purpose of accurately determining total water use and seeking a Municipal designation for TCV's water rights.

TCV should seek assurances from DWRi that the municipal designation would be approved before implementing metering.

We should make sure that if we implement metering, that the DWRi will allow CV to have a municipal designation.

There is a public presentation on the 2025 USG Water Study Tuesday 2.24.2026 6:30PM

Stock agrees to work with Honer and move this forward.

- Gauging station on upper Castle Creek

WC discusses: There is a new stream gauge at the outlet of Castle Creek. We still need to understand water flow in Castle Creek above the diversions, to understand groundwater/ creek interactions.

MAWP's Arne Hulquist was using a temporary gauge last summer. This is important and should be continued under new MAWP coordinator Colton Lay.

We will seek outside funding for this.

Hackley will work on this.

- Ongoing monitoring of UGS Wells:

Groo explains this includes maintaining the current cost sharing agreement between the UGS and TCV to continue monitoring these wells. Greg Gavin is the current UGS contact.

Stock and O'Brien will take this on.

- Additional monitoring well near the Castle Creek Shafer Lane intersection.

WC discusses: Explains this area has been identified as an important location to understand creek/aquifer interactions. Discussion of well on lot 194, an abandoned well, which would be cheaper than drilling a new well. The well is subject to sanding problems. This well was used for the 2025 study. If the owner is willing, we could re-fit the well to equip it for monitoring. The issue may be the permanent easement that we would require. The ideal location is about 200 yards SE of this site.

Outside funding, including NGWMN (National Groundwater Monitoring Network) funding, should be explored for this.

Groo will initiate conversation with the property owner.

- Non-potable water source (water to be delivered to those without wells).

Groo: There is a demand, though we don't know how big. Currently property owners without wells have to have the water hauled in from Moab. There is the potential to make this potable. The water from the fire department well on lot 13 has some sanding issues. We are seeking an appropriate well for this.

Erely: We have an obligation to look into this as a Public Water Supplier.

Roth: Doesn't see much of an issue with having your water delivered. Brings up the issue of folks getting water from other people's lots and how that is not a trackable use.

Cameron: The City of Moab and the County are becoming more aware of the scarcity of water and we may lose the option of hauling from these communities in the future.

Anderson: Indicates that responses from the recent survey on this issue all over the spectrum, but it is clear we need more information about this option. Matrimony is becoming increasingly difficult to get water from. Some folks report changes to water quality and flow in the survey.

Hackley: Another important aspect of this might be for property owners to have cisterns on their own property for firefighting.

Erely: Could look at getting a well on BLM land near the upper 80 with an eye to a future where we have some fire hydrants along Castle Valley Drive.

Groo will talk to communities with current systems like these in Colorado.

- Ensure inclusion in Grand County WSPOD (Watershed Protection Overlay District)

O'Brien: Explains the WSPOD. This exists for "water suppliers" and large provider wells. Extra protections are afforded to lands within this district. We have a WSP zone near the Mormon Church, because they provide enough water to enough people on enough days to qualify. Also, at the Castle Valley Inc. Academy Campus.

O'Brien will continue this work

- Work with DWRi to develop an appropriation policy for the CV aquifer.

Groo: The town can make a proposal to UDWRi to close the basin to future appropriations.

Erely will work on this and pass it to O'Brien

- Work with DWRi to improve water rights management (consolidation, move towards municipal model)

Groo will continue this work

- Explore options for use of surplus water (banking or leasing water options)

Discussion postponed.

Anderson: Brings up the importance of working with state legislators in order to inform them of our issues and stories and also to craft legislation that would benefit us.

Anderson will work on this.

5. Time goal for metering implementation

WC discussed the need for more information on cost and logistics before setting a timeline. Honer explains that he already has four electrical metering devices running for over a year. The devices seem to be working. Asks what the vision for the complete system looks like. How many devices do we need

to connect? The system will be integrated with the Emergency Communication System. 50 wells would be a different route of development than one that includes monitoring all the wells.

Erley: We should leave it open to all people regardless of water rights source.

Thompson: We could position ourselves as a pilot program for the state.

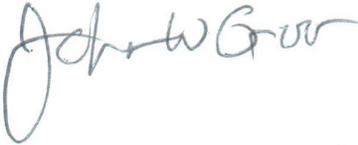
6. Closing the CV watershed to new appropriations-no further discussion

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-None

ADJOURNMENT

Erley makes a motion to adjourn. All voted in favor.

For Meeting Packets go to: <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html> Government: select "Cities"
Entity: select "Castle Valley" Body: select "Town of Castle Valley," select this meeting and click on
"download attachments." Minutes and audio recording are also available on this site.



March 2, 2026

Chair's Signature

Date