



CITY OF OREM
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION
January 8, 2026

Those present: Paul Dunn, Quinn Mecham (Online), Sarah Bateman (Online), Darren Hawkins, Hilary Hungerford, – Natural Resources Advisory Commission members; Jenn Gale – City Council Rep. (Online), Tyler Peay – Public Works Assistant Director, April Nielson – Public Works Administrative Assistant, Reed Price – Public Works Assistant Director

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Commission Chair, Paul Dunn, called the meeting to order.
- Time was turned over to Reed Price, Public Works Assistant Director over Water Resources
<https://youtu.be/PLav8nPsbio?t=245>

2. Guest: Reed Price - Water Consumption and Conservation:

<https://youtu.be/PLav8nPsbio?t=280>

- **Water Sources and Infrastructure** - Reed Price detailed the city's water sources, which include surface sources (Deer Creek Reservoir, Jordanell reservoir, and Provo River natural flow), 10 deep wells (nine currently working), and two natural springs. The natural springs were noted as the cheapest water source, primarily serving the northeast area of the city. The storage capacity totals 32 million gallons across seven storage tanks, including a new 10 million-gallon tank. Reed Price provided a breakdown of water sources over a period from 2016 to 2025: 61% surface water, 27% wells, and 12% springs.
- **Water Consumption and Production Statistics** - Reed Price shared statistics showing that average daily water production spikes significantly in summer months, which is attributed to outdoor irrigation, while consistently staying around 10 million gallons per day in the winter. The 10-year average annual water production is 8.66 billion gallons. The annual average consumption per capita per day in 2025 was 258 gallons, with a low of about 105 gallons in winter months and a high of 346 gallons in summer. Reed Price clarified that sewer rates are charged based on consistent winter use (December, January, and February).
- **Water Production vs. Consumption Terminology** - Quinn Mecham inquired about the difference between water produced and water consumed. Reed Price explained that water produced is the total amount drawn from all sources, while consumption is what customers use and are billed for. Reed Price noted that they use production numbers and refer to it as consumption in the presentation because it includes leaky systems, which are a focus of conservation efforts. Reed Price confirmed that production is responsive to demand, with storage tanks helping to equalize the system and additional wells kicking on as needed.

- **Water Conservation Trends and Goals** - Reed Price presented data showing that the community had been actively conserving water, with a 10-year trend (dating back to 2012) showing a decrease of 6.5 gallons per capita per day. They also noted that conservation efforts were highly effective during severe drought conditions in 2021 but have since waned. The state-mandated regional water conservation goals aim for a 20% reduction in water use by 2030, using 2015 as the base year. Reed Price reported that the city is currently meeting the 2025 target goal of 225.3 gallons per capita per day with a rolling average of 220.6.
 - **Water Conservation Plan Goals and Status** - The city's water conservation plan includes several key goals: Goal 1 is to meet the regional conservation goals by 2030. Goal 2 is to maintain effective, conservation-oriented tiered pricing, which was implemented in 2016 and continues to be supported by the city council. Goal 3, the meter replacement project with automatic metering infrastructure, was completed in December 2024, slightly behind the 2022 target. Goal 4, constructing a tertiary treatment process for water reuse for irrigation, was recently completed and is undergoing testing to begin supplying water to local parks and the golf course. Goal 5 is ongoing public education efforts, and Goal 6, replacing automatic sprinkler controllers on all city-owned property, was completed in 2025.
- **Conservation Practices and Public Engagement** - Reed Price outlined several conservation practices, including a leak detection program and the replacement of leaky galvanized service lines. The city is also working on a federally mandated program to verify service line materials and identify any lead lines. Policies are in place to prevent watering between 10 AM and 6 PM unless for maintenance purposes. The city has installed automatic meter reading technology and provides residents access to the Water Smart portal (mywater.orem.org) for daily water use monitoring and alerts.
 - **Water Smart Portal Utilization and Commission Support** - The Water Smart portal allows users to track their daily water use and set sensitivity levels for alerts. However, Reed Price noted that only 1,837 accounts are registered, representing 7.5% of the city, indicating low adoption despite outreach efforts. Reed Price asked the commission for support in messaging to help meet the 2030 conservation goals and to advertise the Water Smart portal. They also welcomed ideas for fresh content on water conservation from the commission to share via the city's communications team.

3. Invitations for Future Guests – February:

<https://youtu.be/PLav8nPsbio?t=3399>

- The commission decided to invite a representative from Waste Management for their February meeting. Discussion topics will focus on recycling methods, potential messaging assistance, and the status of initiatives like the plastic film recycling pilot program. It was noted that tours of Waste Management facilities have been arranged in the past, and suggested that might be an option again.

4. Plan for Tree Initiative - Sarah Bateman & Darren Hawkins:

<https://youtu.be/PLav8nPsbio?t=3516>

- **Tree Initiative Plan and City Council Strategy** - The plan for the tree initiative, detailed by Sarah Bateman, was acknowledged, and Darren Hawkins was noted for adding spatial and time-series

data to provide context for the need. Jenn Gale and Quinn Mecham are starting a retreat the next day, and Sarah Bateman proposed that Jenn Gale introduce the initiative at the retreat to plant the idea for a future city council work session. Jenn Gale confirmed that they have already discussed the idea with City Manager Brenn Bybee and Mayor McCandless and plan to introduce it at a high level during the retreat.

- **Preparation for Council Discussion on Tree Initiative** - Jenn Gale requested highly concise, high-level context from the group for the retreat discussion, specifically two to three bullet points, covering the loss of trees in Orem and how the city compares to other cities of similar size. Which will be used to gauge council traction before moving forward with presenting a detailed timeline or a full plan. Jenn Gale suggested that if the council is supportive, the group would likely meet with Brenn for feedback before presenting the plan at a work session.

5. Discussion of agenda for commission retreat in February:

<https://youtu.be/PLav8nPsbio?t=3773>

- **Postponement of Committee Retreat and Policy Review** - Paul Dunn raised the question of whether to proceed with or postpone the two-hour committee retreat planned for the next month, as they are in a state of uncertainty regarding new committee members. Jenn Gale explained that the mayor is reviewing the policy on term limits for all commissions, which could impact the current members, and the council member overseeing the commission is also yet to be decided. Quinn Mecham confirmed that term limits are on the retreat agenda, and Jenn Gale noted the training takes a fair amount of time, suggesting this should be considered alongside scheduling a visitor for next month. Given the "limbo state," the commission decided to postpone the retreat and hold a regular meeting in February instead.

6. **Update of NRAC award website:** Tabled due to time constraints.

7. **Other items of business:** Tabled due to time constraints.

8. Review & approval of December 4, 2025, meeting minutes:

<https://youtu.be/PLav8nPsbio?t=3882>

Hilary Hungerford moved to approve the December 4, 2025, meeting minutes.

Darren Hawkins seconded the motion.

Aye – 5 – Quinn Mecham, Paul Dunn, Sarah Bateman, Hilary Hungerford, Darren Hawkins; Nay – 0
Minutes approved.

7. Adjournment:

<https://youtu.be/PLav8nPsbio?t=3914>

Sarah Bateman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Darren Hawkins seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned.

Full video recording can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLav8nPsbio>

Meeting minutes approved 05/07/2026