WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, April 6th 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.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
Groo called the Meeting to Order at 9:02 AM, and called the roll.

Water Committee Members Present: John Groo, Pam Hackley, Ryan Anderson
Water Committee Present on Zoom: Dave Erley
Absent: Sue Bellagamba, Bob O'Brien
Present at the anchor site: Jocelyn Buck, Sarah Stock, Colleen Thompson, Egmont Honer, Sue de Vall, Charleen Radley, Ray Radley, Darr Hatch, Richard Williams, Danny Prickett, Michael Carlyle
Present on zoom: Leslie Craig, Larry Craig

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
1. Open Public Comment
    - None
2. Approval of Minutes
    - WAC meeting March 9th, 2026
        - Groo moves to approve, O'Brien seconds. Groo, Early Hackley, vote in favor. O'Brien, Bellagamba abstain.

PRIORITY ACTION REPORTS
3. Water Management Plan Priority Action List
    - Water Rights - Groo
        - Groo has a meeting with Cash in the coming weeks.
        - Hackley asks about the state of the Colorado River Water and if we should have a water attorney on hand.
        - Groo mentions that we have a water attorney on retainer and he's abreast of most current hydrologic study. It is John Clyde of Clyde and Snow.
    - Well Metering – Stock/Groo/Honer
        - Stock reports on her conversation with Marissa Egbert with the Division of Water Resources and potential funding for a water metering program. The funding through this division is loan based and requires revenue bonding, which can become very expensive for smaller projects.
        - Erley reminds us that we need to do something different from in-line water meters.
        - Charleen Radley asks questions about the timeline of water metering and why we would try to do it before a state mandate.
        - Groo responds that this isn't about limiting use, it's about measuring use and getting ahead of the expected future requirements.
        - Erley outlines some benefits of metering. He says if we meter our water, we could shift our use to "municipal," instead of "domestic," and "agricultural," and it could simplify our water rights accounting. This would only be for people on Town water rights, not those administered directly through the state.

- Stock mentions the future cost of proving water rights, either through survey or through meters, and that if we think ahead and make a good plan, it could be a cost savings.
- Darr Hatch asks if it is possible to implement electrical water metering even with solar systems.
- Groo answers yes, it's simply measuring the electrical use at the pump. The first step would be to require it on new wells.
- Stock will look into the Division of Drinking Water Funding next and report back.

- Castle Creek – Hackley
  - Hackley is working to reinstall the USGS gaging station on Castle Creek. She is working with Marc Stiltson to identify potential funding for this.
  - Hackley discusses UDWQ and augmenting our watershed studies with more Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies using Non-Point Source (NPS) funding. Hackley will make contact with Amy Dickey in UDWQ, who administers this funding.

- Aquifer Monitoring (UGS Program) – Stock/O'Brien
  - WAC briefly discusses the program and continuity between Janae and Greg and other new staff who are taking over her work. Stock will reach out about dates for sampling this spring.
  - Prickett states that water level data is available on the State Water Rights web site.

- Aquifer Monitoring (additional well) - Groo
  - Groo states that we have permission to use the abandoned well on Lot 194, we must make sure this is included in the UGS sampling this spring. Stock will follow up with Greg about this.

- The WAC briefly discusses legislative actions and agrees to add this as a future agenda item. Anderson reports that he has been bringing updates about our work to Hinkins and Monson

- Non-Potable Water for Cisterns – Groo
  - Groo introduces the topic, saying this has to start with a well, which we don't have. We also have to find out from the state if we are legally allowed to provide non-potable water for cistern fill up.
  - Richard Williams mentioned the large 16" well on Shafer. This is a historically shared well, originally from the old ranch. It's in the road easement. It has good water. This well could be a possibility for this sort of infrastructure.
  - Colleen Thompson asks for clarification about the easement and property.
  - Prickett says that it is David Berrey's property.
  - Richard Williams says they installed three different pipes for different pumps, but the hole is 16."
  - Prickett mentions an alternate potential well site at the end of the pavement on Castle Valley Drive where there is good water and the elevation drop along the road could be used to create head pressure.
  - Prickett talks of treatment options to make a source like this potable. Chlorine injection treatments and a tank with a holdover time could be achieved pretty simply. It is similar to what the airport has in place. He's skeptical that you could provide public water that isn't treated.
  - Stock brings up the additional cost of regular sampling involved with providing treated potable water.

- Grand County Watershed Protection Overlay District – O'Brien
  - Groo gives a brief introduction to the agenda item.
  - No further updates.

- DRWi Appropriations Policy for CV – Erley
  - Groo summarizes previous discussions on this matter.
  - Erley talks about the limitations of a groundwater management plan and is more interested in looking at the watershed-wide potential for future water development.
  - Stock is also interested in looking at this data through GIS.
  - Groo clarifies that the benefit of implementing a groundwater management plan would be that it could also consider water quality as well as water quantity. Quality would never be factored into a UDWRi appropriation policy, whereas it could be considered with a groundwater management plan.
  - Erley says that the State has yet to do one because of water quality, even though that's on the books, so we are charting new territory once again. He says that surface water is more variable than groundwater, so the future water battles will play out on surface water regardless of water rights priority.
  - Groo points out that our recent USGS study showed that the aquifer may not show rainwater deficits for 20-30 years, but we see those deficits in surface water as they play out in real time.
  - Groo will talk to Cash this coming week and ask his perspective on a groundwater management plan in regards to water quality and how it may play out for us.

- WAC discusses water quality conclusions from the USGS report and the omitted conclusion that Janae Wallace shared with the committee.
  - Prickett asks what will happen as more wells are drilled on the rim where water quality is poor. Will this offset the amount of pumping in the center of the valley? General discussion of drought and the future of water ensues.

- Explore options for protection of surplus water- Bellagamba
  - Groo clarifies that according to State law, the water rights of a municipality are perfected and cannot be lost, at this moment in time (though we have to prove our change applications). Emily Lewis, water rights attorney, may present to us in the future and explain options for leasing and water banking and how we may use these tools to our advantage.
  - Erley: Explains "surplus" water as water leaving the valley. If we can find a beneficial use down stream, this could potentially be used to protect our water rights and avoid upstream diversions.
  - The WAC and audience have a general discussion of beaver-dam-analogues, checkdams, and the potential to increase infiltration into the aquifer with small scale structures in the aquifer.

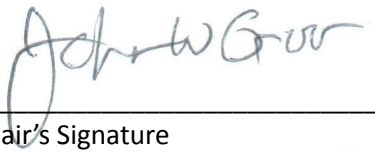
- Anderson reports from his board meeting with the La Sal Mountain Alliance (LSMA). They invited Utah Open Lands to come talk with them about the State parcel in the upper watershed. LSMA and Utah Open Lands would like to meet with the WAC to discuss watershed protection. Anderson will send out a date for this meeting.

Anderson motions to adjourn at 10:58.

ADJOURNMENT

For Meeting Packets go to: https://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html Government: select "Cites" Entity: select "Castle Valley" Body: select "Town of Castle Valley "Select this meeting and click on "Download attachments"

Contact information: Sarah Stock, wateragent@castlevalleyutah.com



May 11th, 2026

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Chair's Signature Date