

Weber River Watershed Council & Weber River Partnership Meeting

May 12, 2026

Attendees: Darren Hess, Jeff Young, Eric McCulley, Yaeko Bryner, Adam Wickline, Jessica Reynolds, Anna Zack, Dawna Zukirmi, Carly Payne, McKinley Smoot, Clint Brunson, Tanner Cox, Carla Trentleman

Remote Attendees: Emily Bishop-Valles, Jess Kirby, Andy Garland, Rick Smith, Mike Luers, Lily Wetterlin, Marek Matyjasik, Parker Wayment, Melissa Noble

APPROVE WRWC MEETINGS PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1st- Jeff Young
- 2nd- Darren Hess

OVERVIEW OF BOTH ORGANIZATION'S PRIORITIES & CURRENT PROJETS

Partnership-

- Goals for projects, funding, & grants- didn't fit with state legislation for the Council (reason it became two completely separate groups)
- Diversions in the river & health of the waters
- Created 10 years ago
 - Hosting Confluence Symposium each year
 - 2027 Confluence will be held at Weber State- January 12, 2027
- Tanner Cox & Christine Osborne headed up and wrote WaterSmart Grant for the Partnership to do more in the watershed
- Ogden Valley Action Group- funded by Partnership
 - Working on speakers for a series
 - Summer schedule of speaking events
- Primary Grants Objectives-
 - Collect project ideas
 - Prioritize the projects
- Partner communication in the basin

Partnership provided letter of support for Weber River Helpers Group

- Wrote grant through Ogden- cleaning garbage down the river I
- Increase efforts on cleaning began May 12, 2026

Council-

- Struggling to know what the state actually wants from the Council
- Figuring out problems with potential solutions to take to the state
- No budget, no authority, no money

How to create a role for the Council within the Partnership

State to put together actual written process for Councils

Carly will send out

- Makes state council accountable
 - Take something to the state, they must consider and vote to take action on it
 - Form sub-committees and report
 - Advise governor and legislature
- Have yet to see it in action
- Broad watershed issues
 - River restoration
 - Reduce garbage
 - Make a change
 - Find root cause of major issues
- Partnership to come up with suggestions to bring to Council (difference representation) to work together before taking projects up the chain

Put together “problems list”-

- What do we want to see fixed?
- Options to fix the issues
- Present as- “opportunities for improvement” not “problems to be solved”
- Get people to work with you by using positive wording

Education to the public

- We can't have another winter like 25-26
- Manage basic needs
- Follow guidelines
- Work on conservation
- More direction on water use
- Instruction and education on water meters and secondary use
- Know about the problem and how to improve the situation

Good soil moisture, but nothing to runoff.

- Good precip, but came from rain, not snow
 - Super small amount of snowpack for this year
- Look at storage as a whole
 - 20% reduction water use for 2026
- Anytime water is released to the lake, releasing drinking water for the next year or two

- More we can store and spill the better
- Begin bill by gallon by 2030
 - Hopes to bring all communities to comply (irrigation and cities) to do all the same thing
 - Structure appropriately to conserve the most water
- With the installation of meters we have seen a reduction in water use
- Continuing to install meters

Tools in place to help

- Weber Basin Water has programs to help individual water users and homeowners to save water
- Ogden Nature Center hosts events for individual home owners, irrigation managers

Agriculture in the Basin

- Conservation districts to talk about issues with the producer
 - Drought year- producers reduce their operations
 - Possibility of being sold/bought out by developers
- Use best practices in agriculture to protect the watershed
- We all eat, so it's all connected
- How do we say that we want agriculture to continue in the basin?
 - How to put together the message to take to legislature?
 - Collectively, we want to encourage agriculture in the basin
 - Keeping the land designated as agricultural land
- Encourage state easements, conservation easements
 - Tools that comes after the ranch isn't making money and not working anymore
 - Tradition and heritage in ranching
- Conservation easements can have water tied to easements
 - Making sure water stays on the land
- Currently a lot of conversation around conservation, especially water
 - Legislature has taken away local control to allow development to create towns without local input
 - Can't protect land with zoning anymore
 - Shouldn't discourage conservation easements

People don't understand how important the reservoirs are in our basin and how difficult it is to manage the water in those reservoirs, so we have sufficient water, year after year.

- Haven't had many really wet winters in a long time
- None of those wet years have been back-to-back

Carly-

- Working with State Watershed Council to get paid staff support for watershed councils
- Support the request for state funding for staff

- Figuring what that means- combination of admin support, projects, grant seeking, etc
- Most likely share between a few watersheds
- Liaison to track bills

DISCUSSION OF WATERSHED COUNCIL PURPOSE, MISSION, GOALS, ETC

- Share and educate- possibly through school programs
- Collaboration
- How can updating the Watershed Plan document play into this?
- Support the request for state funding for staff

COLLABORATION WITHOUT BEING ORGANIZATIONALLY COMBINED

DISCUSSION ON PRESENTING AN OVERVIEW OF WRP'S TOP CONCERNS/PRIORITIES LETTER TO THE STATE WATERSHED COUNCIL ON JULY 9th

More than one to present, more voices with expertise in different areas

- Select representative(s)

RETREAT IN HENEFER

- June 9th, 9:30am-2:00pm
 - RSVP- watch for invite from Dawna
 - Rafting in the morning with lunch and meeting to follow

WRWC CONFIRM/ELECT VICE CHAIR

CONCLUSION

- WRP Next Meeting- June 9th, 9:00am, virtual only
- WRWC & WRP Next Meeting- July 14th, 9:00am at Weber Basin Water