

WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, August 10th 2026. AT 9:00 A.M.
CASTLE VALLEY TOWN BUILDING - 2 CASTLE VALLEY DRIVE

**This meeting is 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=Q05sYm5qQ0lpNlY5TVp2bTU5VnZjQT09>

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Open Public Comment
2. Approval of Minutes
 - WAC meeting June 8th, 2026

NEW BUSINESS

3. Appoint a co-chair for the WAC
4. Presentation by Emily Lewis on Water Marketing Strategies

PRIORITY ACTION REPORTS

5. Water Management Plan Priority Action List
 - Water Rights - Groo
 - Well Metering – Stock/Groo/Honer
 - Castle Creek – Hackley
 - Aquifer Monitoring (UGS Program) – Stock/O’Brien
 - Non-Potable Water for Cisterns – Groo
 - Grand County Watershed Protection Overlay District – O’Brien
 - DRWi Appropriations Policy for CV – Erley
 - Explore options for protection of surplus water- Bellagamba

ADJOURNMENT

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Contact information: Sarah Stock, wateragent@castlevalleyutah.com

WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, June 8th 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 9:08 AM, and called the roll.

Water Committee Members Present: John Groo, Sue Bellagamba, Bob O'Brien

Water Committee Present on Zoom: Dave Erley, Pam Hackley, Ryan Anderson

Water Committee Absent:

Present at the anchor site: Sarah Stock, Diane Ackerman, Debbie Holland, Susan Auer, Egmont Honer, Laura Cameron, Kitty Calhoun, Roxanne DiSanto

Present on zoom:

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Open Public Comment

- None

2. Approval of Minutes

- WAC meeting May 11th, 2026
 - Bellagamba would like to clarify a section of the notes to read: "Bellagamba stresses that we are in a different scenario now that Lake Powell is so low. There are exemptions to the "Use it or lose it" clause in Utah Water Law. For example, special circumstances such as drought or hardship."
 - Groo moves to approve with the amendment. O'Brien seconds the motion. Erley, Hackley, O'Brien, Groo, Bellagamba vote in favor. Anderson abstains.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Calendar adjustment: Proposed cancellation of July 6th WAC meeting

- O'Brien moves to cancel the July 6th WAC meeting. Erley seconds the motion. All vote in favor.

PRIORITY ACTION REPORTS

4. Water Management Plan Priority Action List

- Water Rights - Groo
 - Groo is working on amendments to the Water Use Agreement and Permit and the Water Use Ordinance - which will require all new wells drilled using Town water rights to allow for the installation of a non-invasive water meter (measuring electrical use at the pump rather than water through the pipe).
 - Bellagamba clarifies that it is currently required by Utah Water Law to meter all new diversions.
 - Cameron asks for clarification on cost and existing users and how they fit into it.
 - Groo clarifies that this is for new wells and the town will install the meters.
 - Egmont throws out the ballpark estimate of \$150-300 per meter.

- Groo mentions that the end goal is for all the water users to have meters but the funding source has not been identified.
- O'Brien asks for clarification of who will pay for each new meter.
- Groo says that the cost will be rolled into the (soon to be updated) fee for new water users to cover the cost.
- Bellagamba mentions that Utah Code 73-1034 outlines requirements for metering on new diversion and water uses [of pressurized non-culinary water] and that enforcement will begin 2030.
- Erley stresses that we are not talking about measuring water flow because those devices are fickle. We are rather measuring the electrical use of the pump and inferring the flow, which is more accurate and cheaper.
- Hackley brings up previous meetings where we discussed doing test runs on these devices. She suggests putting out a call for volunteers to install meters for a pilot program.
- Bellagamba asks how the metering requirement from the state will be enforced.
- Groo explains that the Division of Water Rights deals with the water right holder, in this case, the Town of Castle Valley, so it is the Town's responsibility. The Town will attempt to enforce this with the caveat that the WAUP would not become valid until the meter is installed on new wells.
- Well Metering – Stock/Groo/Honer
 - Stock introduces a draft Water Monitoring Program Proposal with timelines attached to phases.
 - WAC discusses the draft of a Water Monitoring Program Proposal:
 - Bellagamba emphasises that the intro should include the idea that the state owns the water. We need to simplify the scope of the introduction to emphasize Utah Water Law, the requirements, and how we are trying to follow Utah Water Law - leave out Colorado River Compact stuff.
 - Groo clarifies that we have pending change applications on our water rights. Our water rights are perfected and under current water law, cannot be taken away. So if our change applications are denied or the proof requirement on the change application lapses, we can simply re-apply and start anew.
 - Holland asks if meters would help protect our water rights from being taken away by the state.
 - Groo: Current water law says that if a town has water rights, even if they aren't using all of them, they cannot be taken away. A 2009 Supreme Court case with the city of Roosevelt set this precedent. But this is current law, and it may change as water supplies get tighter and tighter. We currently have to measure surface water using estimates to prove our water rights. It would simplify things greatly to have all municipal water metered. If we did have all connections metered we could file a change application and move all of the Town's water rights to municipal use, which would make management much easier.
 - Holland states that this idea, that this is a step towards protecting our water, makes her want to participate in the pilot phase.
 - Erley adds that there is benefit of being able to get municipal status for all our rights that relate to our status in the whole Colorado River Basin. Municipal water will be protected by the Bureau of Reclamation along with dam operations.
 - DiSanto: Do you have to meter to get municipal status?
 - Groo responds to the affirmative.
 - Egmont gives a brief update of his research on the devices for water monitoring. He is going to supply us with a small catalog of off the shelf meters for comparison. During Jeep Safari,

- there were over 250 of these mesh network devices online in the area. There were no major glitches at first site, but upon examination, Egmont found that some of the data from his devices got lost. Egmont suggests developing a closed node system to avoid failure, with small repeaters in key spots in the valley. This is an additional cost, but in the range of \$150 each for repeater. These could be attached to Rocky Mountain Power poles with an agreement so as to be easily accessible.
- O'Brien asks if these are approved by the state.
 - Egmont mentions that we need to find out if inventing our own system would preclude us from getting grants or funding from the state.
 - Groo states that based on conversations with former Regional Engineer Marc Stilson, he is confident that if we can demonstrate the effectiveness of our system, that it will be approved by UDWRi.
- Castle Creek – Hackley
 - Hackley has been working on re-establishing the USGS streamgage on upper Castle Creek. USGS is now looking for funding sources.
 - Hackley discusses the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads)¹ impairment for E. coli on lower Castle Creek and how we might address this. Amy Dickey with UDWQ is working with Colton Lay, director of MAWP; they can apply for Non-point Source (NPS) funding to address TMDL. They want to do a synoptic study on the creek and sample many sites along the creek over 1 or 2 days to try to pinpoint sites where pollution comes into the creek. Septics and runoff from livestock are a potential source for contamination. Dickey will reach out to the SEUHD to see if there is any grant funding to do outreach mailers about septic maintenance.
 - Diane: Asks if there is current E. coli in the aquifer.
 - Hackley clarifies that the TMDL study was done on the creek surface waters, not the aquifer. E. coli starts showing up somewhere below Castleton. The upper section is clear. The focus of concern is for recreation aka swimming in the creek or Quaky Pond, etc.
 - Diane asks how you check the aquifer for E. coli.

¹ The purpose of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is to restore clean water by determining the amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive to support its beneficial uses and meet state water quality standards. It involves identifying the location and magnitude of pollutant exceedances, all potential sources of the pollutant, and best management practices (BMPs) to reduce pollutant loading. Once a TMDL is completed, it is reviewed and approved by the Utah Water Quality Board, incorporated into state rule, and then submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for final approval. The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) aims to maintain and restore the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. The CWA requires EPA, or delegated authorities such as states, tribes, and territories, to establish beneficial uses, and define water quality standards to protect those uses. Section 303(d) of the CWA requires each state to publish a 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies that fail to meet state water quality standards for their beneficial uses as part of its Integrated Report. A TMDL is required for 303(d) impaired waters for each pollutant responsible for the designated use(s) impairment. The State of Utah was delegated authority to administer the CWA, which is encoded in the Utah Water Quality Act (Utah Code Title 19 and UAC R-317). The Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) administers the water quality regulatory programs for the state. As part of those duties, DWQ collects water quality data and assesses whether a waterbody meets water quality standards for its designated beneficial uses. The 2024 Integrated Report identified three Assessment Units (AUs) in southeastern Utah as impaired for not meeting the drinking water (Beneficial Use Class 1C) and frequent primary contact recreation (Beneficial Use Class 2A) designated beneficial uses (Utah Administrative Code R317-2-6) due to exceedances of water quality standards for Escherichia Coli (E. coli) bacteria (Figure 1). This report defines the TMDLs that, when attained, will bring the creeks into full support of their drinking water and recreational beneficial uses.

- Groo explains that the UGS tests twice a year at seven wells around the valley. They test for phosphates, which can indicate problems with septics in the aquifer.
 - Hackley says that the TMDL is only 4% off from compliance, so it is close to attainment. Dickey told her that this is a great opportunity for us to take action and get results. Compliance is voluntary, not 'actionable'.
 - Erley explains that phosphates are in laundry detergent and are cheap to test for, so they are a good precursor and indicate septic contamination.
- Aquifer Monitoring (UGS Program) – Stock/O'Brien
 - Groo talks of the new 7th water monitoring well. The Kolm study pointed to the need of a new well in the area at the end of Shafer. There happened to be a newly abandoned well in just that area and the owner is letting us keep it open to use as a monitoring well.
- Non-Potable Water for Cisterns – Groo
 - Groo has no immediate updates. We are keeping our eye out for an existing source well.
 - Erley mentions that we should find out exactly what they do out at the airport for treatment.
 - Egmont mentions that the Synergy Company used UV lamps to create ozone for their small-scale treatment system.
- Grand County Watershed Protection Overlay District – O'Brien
 - O'Brien updates about his work to try to get County level protections for the lands over our sole-source aquifers. In the amendment to the Grand County General Plan it now says that the County should look at the land use issues in the two sole-source aquifers and there is a promise from the Planning Commission to look at the sole-source aquifers during land use code update. There are a number of things that you can do in conditional use on range and grazing that would be of great concern to the aquifer.
 - O'Brien explains that one protection from having a sole-source aquifer status is that if you are going to do a project with Federal money in our sole-source aquifer, it gets a review by the US EPA. The BLM has 'no surface occupancy' in the sole-source aquifer lands, but the County has no similar protections.
- DRWi Appropriations Policy for CV – Erley
 - No updates
 - Groo explains that we are looking at how much land is outside of the town that has yet to be developed and use this to look at appropriations policies.
 - Bellagamba mentioned that water rights are being moved around and this could be a factor of concern. The Town of Cisco just got a large appropriation of water from San Juan County.
 - WAC discusses interbasin water transfers.
- Explore options for protection of surplus water- Bellagamba
 - Bellagamba has been talking with Emily Lewis, a well connected water attorney who has worked on water marketing as well as in the Town Castle Valley. She says that she would be glad to come talk to us about water banking. She can tentatively attend our next meeting via zoom. Bellagamba would like to pull together a list of legal water questions that we have and send it to her beforehand.
 - Bellagamba briefly explains water leasing.
 - Cameron expresses concerns over the general idea of using our surplus water because of declining water availability.

- Bellagamba explains that she is most interested in the clause of water banking that would exempt us from showing beneficial use.
- WAC discusses general ideas of water banking and creek/groundwater interactions and ways in which water marketing could benefit Castle Valley water rights while keeping water in the system.
- DiSanto: Would this include leasing our water to data centers?
- Bellagamba responds that an entity could do this regardless of water banking, but wouldn't recommend that we pursue anything like this, rather it is a tool that could be used to preserve instream flows for example.
- Erlery mentions it would be good to get a brief opinion on water metering from Ms. Lewis as well as water banking.

ADJOURNMENT

Groo moves to adjourn at 10:53 AM.

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Contact information: Sarah Stock, wateragent@castlevalleyutah.com

Chair's Signature

Date