**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Public Lands Policy Coordination

**May 3, 2018**

**Department of Natural Resources**

**Room 112**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

**Members**

Bill James, DWR, *Vice Chair*

Jan Morse, DOGM

Jay Olsen, UDAF for Melissa Ure

Tom Chidsey, UGS

Carl Adams, DWQ

Hans Millican, DERR

Matt Sullivan, WMRC, for Allan Moore

Brad Bartholomew, UDEM

Elisa Albury, UDOT

Sonja Wallace, SITLA

James Greer, DWRi

**Invited Federal Agencies**

Susanne Tracy, Forest Service

Kerry Schwartz, BLM

**Guest**

Representative Timothy D. Hawkes

**Staff**

Sindy Smith, PLPCO

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**Welcome**

Bill James, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. After round table introductions, Bill welcomed everyone.

**Approval of Minutes**

The committee unanimously approved February 1, 2018, minutes.

**Governor’s Water Strategy Advisory Team Report**

Representative Timothy D. Hawkes was among the ‘*gang of 6*’ on the Governor’s Water Task Force and a Co-chair on the Water Strategy Advisory Team. Representative Hawkes currently serves as General Counsel to the Great Salt Lake Brine Shrimp Cooperative, Inc., and as a member of the Utah House of Representatives. Representative Hawkes reported on the actions taken to develop the key questions and recommendations and achieve the *Recommended State Water Strategy.*  Main discussion items included:

* The key steps in the planning process of developing the *Recommended State Water Strategy* were long and extended with a lot of input from a lot of stakeholders. The initial effort began in 2013. Governor Herbert selected a Water Task Force, a group of six Utah residents, known as the ‘*gang of 6*,’ who held diverse perspectives with a wide-range of experiences in various aspects of water and management and asked them to make recommendations. The ‘*gang of 6*’ included: Tage Flint, Weber Basin Conservancy District, Warren Peterson, Farmland Reserve, Inc., Tim Hawkes, Trout Unlimited, Voneene Jorgensen, Bear River Water Conservancy District, Bob Morgan, former State Engineer, and Dennis Strong, former Director of the Division of Water Resources; plus Alan Matheson, who organized the effort and was, at the time, the Governor’s Environmental Advisor.
* The first year involved town hall meetings, listening sessions around the state in Layton, Richfield, Salt Lake, Provo, Logan, Price, and Vernal. In addition to the comments received at public meetings, 800 responses were submitted *via* online. The Task Force prepared white papers informed by the public comments and through their own expertise on Water Delivery and Efficiency, Recreation and the Environment, Competition for Water, Water Law, Water for Agriculture, and Funding Water Infrastructure. These white papers can be found in Appendix B of the *Recommended State Water Strategy*.
* During the second year Governor Herbert decided the Task Force should be broader. He appointed 41 volunteers to form the Water Strategy Advisory Team to build upon the work completed by the Task Force with an objective to develop a 50-year water strategy. The goal was to figure out what decisions should be made today to address challenges in the future. The Advisory Team solicited and evaluated potential water management strategies, provided a framework for public feedback, and developed a set of strategies and ideas from a broad input. This was done in conjunction with Envision Utah’s statewide visioning project, *Your Utah, Your Future Survey*. The survey involved public input on transportation, air quality, education, and a range of other issues. Water was included in the survey.
* More than 50,000 people weighed in on different issues as part of the Envision Utah process. The Advisory Team collected significant information from the public surveys and responses.
* The next phase entailed coming up with a comprehensive strategy. The Advisory Team approached the challenge with a set of assumptions and developed key policy questions, identified sub-issues from the policy questions, and formulated methods that would meet the needs of Utah moving into the future.
* The Advisory Team co-chairs prepared and published a straw man draft of the 50-year water strategy on September 25, 2016. The co-chairs put it out for Advisory Team review and comment. There was enough consensus among the team to support the recommendations. The Advisory Team then formed drafting committees for the 11 key policy questions. Drafts were proposed and revised.
* The Advisory Team presented to the Governor July 2017 the final *Recommended State Water Strategy*. The Governor will use the *Recommended State Water Strategy* for future discussions and informed decisions for meeting Utah’s water needs. The Governor has in place an implementation team who made ready legislation for the 2018 Legislative Session. Representative Hawkes put forward *Agriculture Water Optimization*.
* Representative Hawkes pointed out the importance of optimization. We must understand how water is being used and its unintended consequences. The question remains as to how the State is going to balance ecosystem needs and maintain funding for the future.
* The PowerPoint Presentation is attached.

Representative Tim Hawkes responded to questions.

**Agency Reports**

* Hans Millican reported the following from the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR):
  + DERR will be evaluating the Army National Guard munition sites at Utah Lake and Eagle Mountain. Camp Williams also has a lot of issues with munitions.
* Carl Adams reported the following from the Division of Water Quality (DWQ):
  + DWQ is undergoing a concerted effort to study water quality in Utah Lake to increase common knowledge of the lake and the process of developing nutrient criteria. The first Joint Steering Committee and Science Panel Foundation-Setting meeting will be held May 31, 2018. The Joint Steering Committee is made up of municipalities and agriculture. The Science Panel is made up of experts from across the country.
  + Every year DWQ solicits applications for nonpoint source projects. DWQ received over $5 million in applications for approximately $1.5 million in available funding. The process of ranking applicants will be a challenge given the high number of great applications. Applications will be ranked next week. Each year DWQ focuses on a different watershed management unit. The majority of funding will address water quality concerns in the Uinta Basin.
  + DWQ continues to implement the technology-based phosphorus effluent limits rule for the point sources of waste water treatment plants. The rule has prompted several communities including Salt Lake City and Provo to embark on major infrastructure projects associated with waste water treatment.
* Elisa Albury reported the following from the Department of Transportation (UDOT):
  + As a result of SB 136, which addresses the governance of transportation in Utah, UDOT is undergoing restructuring. UDOT has an additional Deputy Director, Teri Newell. Teri Newell, who was Region Three Director in Orem, is now the Deputy of Planning and Investment. UDOT has an operations side and a planning and investment side.
* James Greer reported the following from the Division of Water Rights (DWRi):
  + DWRi finalized a policy for new water rights appropriation on the Malad River drainage. It had been closed. Now a limited amount of water will be available.
  + Two applications of interest have been filed with DWRi. Water Horse Resources LLC, out of Green River, plans to export a large amount of water from Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Utah to Colorado. The application has gone through the advertising and protest periods, and is currently under review by the State Engineer. The other application was filed by Division of Water Resources (DWRe) and the Board of Idaho Water Resources for a large appropriation of water for storage in Bear Lake. DWRi is waiting for additional information from DWRe to determine the use of the water.
  + DWRi together with Utah Geological Survey (UGS) will oversee a hydrologic study of Bryce Canyon City to develop a hydrogeologic framework of the area. Bryce Canyon City is a resort area. A lot of change applications have moved water up into the area. The goal of the study is to determine the impact of moving more water rights into the region.
* Kerry Schwartz, Branch Chief, Renewable Resources, reported the following from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM):
  + The BLM State Director, Ed Robison, and the Moab Field Office will host an Indian Tribal consultation meeting for the Bears Ears planning effort May 10th in Bluff, Utah.
  + BLM released five Recreation Business Plans throughout the State. The plans propose fee increases to pay for campgrounds, better access, and improvements to meet the demands of visitors to public lands in the State. The plans cover Moab, Monticello, Vernal, Cedar City, and Salt Lake Field Offices.
  + On May 1st EPA published a marginal nonattainment for ozone targeting the Duchesne and Uintah counties area. It is the least restrictive nonattainment designation EPA can give for that area. The marginal nonattainment only pertains to areas below 6,250 feet in elevation. Areas along the Wasatch Front are classified as marginal nonattainment areas as well. BLM will work with the State to complete a general conformity analysis on all projects. On the Federal side, there will be an implementation plan, specifically for Indian country, Uinta Basin and Duchesne County. BLM will be updating its 2011 Resource Management Strategy. A Settlement Agreement was reached with several partners including the State.
  + Planning efforts are ongoing for the modified Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). BLM received 300,000 comments. The Scoping Reports should be completed in May, which will include a summary of all comments, as well as identify the plan’s issues. BLM is under a tight schedule to finalize the EISs by January 2019.
  + BLM continues its work on revising the Cedar City RMP.
  + The comment period for the Greater Chapita Wells Natural Gas Infill project has been extended to June 7, 2018.
  + BLM released a draft EA for Milford Flats Solar Energy Project April 27, 2018, for comments by May 20, 2018. There is a public meeting on the project tonight in Minersville.
* Brad Bartholomew reported the following from the Division of Emergency Management (UDEM):
  + San Juan and Grand counties have declared drought declarations for the past several months. The counties are not asking for much now.
  + UDEM is preparing for above-average wild fire year.
  + UDEM continues to update the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
* Susanne Tracy reported the following from the U.S. Forest Service:
  + Both the Ashley and the Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revisions are moving forward. The Dixie National Forest Plan Revision slated to start in 2019 will likely be postponed.
  + As a result of the Brian Head Fire, the Dixie National Forest has proposed comprehensive resource restoration projects, such as aquatic habitat, stream channel improvements, fence construction, and trail restoration and construction.
  + The Forest Service received 50,535 greater sage-grouse comments in January, 2018. The Forest Service is developing a Proposed Action that will be formulated mid-June. The Record of Decision will be signed December 2019, a year after BLM’s Record of Decision.
  + Utah’s five forest supervisors have launched an enormous restoration initiative, the *Million Acre Challenge*. The goal is to restore a million acres of land within the next five years.
  + The Forest Service has organized Utah’s five forests into a pod. The five forests will work as a team instead of distinctly to manage statewide projects, such as timber, restoration, and fuels.
  + The Forest Service has been hosting round table discussions nationwide and has launched an Agency-wide effort to improve processes related to Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM). The goal of the effort is to increase the health, diversity, resilience, and productivity of the National Forests and Grasslands through increases in efficiency and reductions in the cost of NEPA.
  + The Forest Service is a Cooperating Agency on the proposed Bears Ears National Monument modification. BLM is the Lead Agency. The Forest Service is developing with the BLM a draft management plan, as well as preparations for an increase in visitor use.

**Other Business**

Next meeting: August 2, 2018

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:36 a.m.