

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE WATER FINANCE BOARD

Monday, April 1, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Utah State Capitol, 350 N. State Street, Room 450

Members Present:

Phil Dean, Chairman

Juliette Tennert

Laura Briefer

Evan Curtis

Eric Millis

David Damschen

Members Absent:

Jon Bronson

Staff Present:

Miranda Jones, Board Staff

1. Call to Order

Chair Phil Dean called the meeting to order at 1:06 P.M.

Phil Dean also excused Jon Bronson from the meeting.

a. Approval of minutes

Laura Briefer moved to approve the minutes from the October 16 and November 2 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Legislative Update

Todd Adams from the Department of Natural Resources presented a legislative update on the 2019 General Session to the board, and the relevant bills regarding water. Todd specifically spoke about Senate Bill 52, Secondary Water Requirements, which requires secondary water suppliers to meter their water. He also spoke briefly to several resolutions on Bear Lake and water banking practices. He also described different appropriations and budget changes.

Todd also mentioned the status of various water studies including the regional conservation goal study, financing study, and elasticity study. He also mentioned a legislative audit.

The board briefly discussed the studies.

3. 2019 Study Topics

Phil asked the board to provide feedback on potential study topics for the 2019 calendar year.

Evan Curtis proposed coordination with the League of Cities and Towns on municipal water issues.

Phil proposed discussing the state's tax modernization effort.

Laura Briefer proposed to study the American Water Infrastructure Act, indicating she believes it would be helpful if the board understood its implications. She proposed that individuals who handle the state revolving loan funds present on this topic.

Phil and Jon Bronson discuss continuing to review WIFIA.

Laura proposed revisiting the topic of water rates, and specifically what constitutes affordable rates.

Evan Curtis proposed that the board revisit institutional water use and referenced the institutional water user summit that the board supported in its recent recommendation.

Evan proposed that the board should continue to study how tax issues in the context of tax reform, including property taxes.

4. Other Items/ Adjourn

Fred Finlinson was unable to attend the meeting to speak on credit enhancement, and Phil Dean opened the meeting up for public comment.

Zach Frankel from the Utah Rivers Council spoke to the board about studying water conservation in detail, including greater transparency.

Laura added a final study topic to receive input regarding a potential sales tax on water.

Eric Millis moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:41 PM.

The motion passed unanimously.