

6/22/21

Central Utah Water Conservancy District Discussion

- History:
 1. Residence of Juab County, by a large margin, voted to become part of the district in 1965.
 2. In the 1980's, there was discussion of building the "Spanish Fork to Nephi Pipeline" that was to carry 42,000 acre feet of water to Juab County. (I have a copy of a contract for this project that was never signed.) There was some litigation involved and it was fortunately decided to abandon this project.
 3. In 2002, due to efforts by Ross Garrett, a "Resolution" passed by the Central Utah Water conservancy District Board of Trustees reserved 10,000 acre feet of water in Utah Lake for Juab County. Central Utah had by that time purchased significant underground and surface water rights that were owned by Geneva Steel.
 4. In 2019, CUWCD contracted with an engineering firm to do the Southern Utah County and Juab County Water Resource Plan.
 - a. Identified that in the next 30 years Juab County will need at least 6,000 acre feet of additional water. That includes water for commercial and residential growth. It also takes into account that some of the agricultural water now being used will be converted to municipal water.
- Concerns of the residents of Juab County:
 1. Juab County has never received a drop of water from the CUP. (How many of our communities have actually approached CUWCD with an actual request and a time frame for delivery of water?)
 2. Why are we paying taxes to CUP and not receiving anything from it?
 - a. Property tax collections from Juab County from 1965-May, 2021 equals \$8,551,953 with \$489,339 collected I 2020.
 - b. Direct expenditures by CUWCD in Juab County, including the East Juab County Water Efficiency Project, School of Music Well Improvements, and the Power Plant Bypass equal \$15,488,278. (If we were to leave CUWCD, there is no reason why they would reimburse the County for any taxes paid.)
 - c. During the period of time ranging from 1965 until now CUWCD has spent millions to develop the infrastructure to deliver water throughout the district.
 3. CUWCD does not have enough remaining water to provide for Juab County.
 4. Additional water may promote additional and unwanted growth to our communities.
 5. Some of our communities pay taxes into CUP, but will never see any benefit.
- My recommendations:
 1. At least for now, stay with CUWCD!
 2. The communities and Juab County need to carefully consider future water needs and existing resources.
 - a. Look at the need for future commercial and industrial development to provide tax base.
 - b. Use your best "crystal ball" to figure out what climate change is going to do to us.
 3. Once needs are determined start negotiations with CUWCD for delivery of that water.
 - a. It may take from 5 to 15 years for delivery of water.