COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES – DAVIS COUNTY

WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 28, 2023

The Board of Davis County Commissioners met for a Work Session at 9:00 a.m. on March 28, 2023, in room 306 of the Davis County Administration Building, 61 South Main Street, Farmington, Utah. Notice of this meeting was given under the requirements of UCA § 52-4-202.

AGENDA AS POSTED

Roll Call

9:00 a.m. **Emergency preparation and procedures in the event of flooding within the County**
- Presented by Commissioner Elliott

DISCLAIMER

The meeting was an open dialogue. Critical points in the discussion have only been briefly summarized. The reader may refer to the audio recording and the publicly distributed materials for further clarification of the content. Timestamps have been noted in the minutes to aid in locating points of discussion in the audio record. The audio recording for this meeting is available based upon the County's current retention schedule.

All documents from this meeting are on file in the Davis County (DC) Clerk's office.

ROLL CALL

Davis County Commissioners in attendance: Commissioner Lorene Miner Kamalu, Chair; and Commissioner Randy B. Elliott.

Davis County Staff in attendance: Jessy Turner, Deputy Clerk; Brian McKenzie, Clerk; Neal Geddes, Chief Civil Deputy Attorney; Curtis Koch, Auditor; Chris Bone, Human Resources Director; Lane Rose, Facilities Director; Andrew Oblad, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Mitch Matern, Justice Center Maintenance Manager; Kent Andersen, Community and Economic Development Director; Adam Wright, Public Works Director; Jason Fielding, Public Works Operations Manager; Josh Johnson, Library Director; and Cynda Melville, Commission Office. The Risk Management Administrator; Terri Devires, joined the meeting after it commenced.

The meeting commenced at 9:04 a.m.

WORK SESSION DISCUSSION

Emergency preparation and procedures in the event of flooding within the County - *Presented by Commissioner Elliott* (Minute 2:04)

Commissioner Elliott began by stating the intent of the meeting was to discuss preparations for the upcoming snow run-off season and to get the word out to the public regarding flooding preparations. He stated that Utah is now above and beyond 1983's snowpack totals and has entered into historic territory. He then turned the time over to the Public Works Director, Adam Wright.

Adam said that the Public Works Department's phones have been ringing off the hook for the past three weeks given the amount of media coverage and discussions surrounding the recent historic snow levels. The high elevations have not surpassed the snow levels of 2011 yet. However, in the 15 - 20 years that snow level records have been kept, the mid-level and low-level snow packs are now at record levels.

It was further explained that the concern is not with the depth of the snow but with the amount of precipitation in the snow. Adam said that there are three USDA gauge stations, called SNOTEL Sites, that measure the snow water equivalent, located in Davis County. Currently, at the top of Farmington Canyon, the snow water equivalent is 58 inches, which is 188% of the normal in Davis County. In 2011, the total on top of Farmington Canyon was 67 inches of snow water equivalent; it is on the path to hitting that number this year. He explained that in 2011, the weather warmed up quickly, which was worrisome but the channels handled the runoff well. Adam said he is cautiously optimistic that the channels will be able to handle this year's totals, noting that in 2011, there was still a lot of room for water in the flood channels. Adam explained that the channel systems are designed for clear water flows so mudslides could potentially cause issues if those were to happen.

Commissioner Elliott asked about Farmington Creek and the amount of snow there. Adam explained that Farmington has two SNOTEL Sites and the creek has a gauge for when the water runs off. Adam noted that the channel at Farmington Creek could handle 600 cubic feet per second (CFS); so far, it has only seen 10 CFS.

Potential flooding issues at the jail were discussed. It was explained that FEMA has not accounted for the berm on the west side of 600 West as they consider it an uncertified levy. Adam showed a few maps of the area and where the water flows. *(See Attachment A).*
Calculations and reviews have been done and that channel can handle a significant amount of water. Adam noted there is a 1% chance of exceedance in the 500-year flood plan.

Commissioner Elliott asked if there are any problem areas that the County should be preparing for. Adam stated the residents in the areas that have had issues with flooding in the past, such as Barton Creek, have already been spoken to regarding flood preparedness and other residents have called in on their own. He explained that there are no areas identified as a weakness and there has been no significant flooding in Davis County in several years. The basins that were built in the mouth of the canyons to catch debris have allowed the channels to function well.

Curtis Koch asked if there are any burn areas from recent years causing any concern. Both the Public Works Director and the Operations Manager said most of the burned areas have vegetation established now. Jason Fielding mentioned that Public Works is watching an area of forest land with a lot of sediment that is moving downstream at Stone Creek, above Bountiful B.

Sandbags were discussed and the restrictions put in place with them. It was explained that it is best to wait to put sandbags out until there is a confidence that there will be some sort of flooding. Sandbags are currently being handed out at Public Works along with a guidance document; addresses and phone numbers are being requested from the residents who take the sandbags. It was noted that there are already hundreds of sandbags lined in areas of Millcreek in Bountiful. This is already causing issues as empty sandbags are washing up in the grates. It was discussed that well-intentioned sandbags could cause damage and that sandbags are meant to keep shallow flooding from homes. It was explained that 20 - 25 bags will typically be given per home, and they are not intended to act as large flood walls.

The Public Works Operations Manager explained many of the culverts are designed to handle large amounts of water, but debris can cause the culverts to fail. He stated that in big weather events, Public Works will assign teams to drive around and clear out debris from the grates in all of the channels. The Public Works Director noted that a lot of the debris getting caught in the channels are coming from residential yards as in past years, lawn furniture, lawn ornaments, tree clippings, and firewood have been found. Adam spoke about the issues with his crews not having access to the areas alongside these channels as there are so many residences alongside the creeks now.

There was a conversation about the amount of work that went into creating the flood channels to prevent a flood like 1983's from happening again. Adam noted the channels have handled the several big events he has witnessed in the last 15 years well, stating that the flooding that has occurred has been very minimal.

It was explained that cities are the Floodplain Administrators and allow and permit the building of homes, businesses, and streets to be constructed in their jurisdictions. Cities also manage the National Flood Insurance Program and flood plans. Davis County's responsibility, as a Flood Control Entity, is to get the water from the mountains to the lake, and said that the channels that Davis County has in place have the capacity to handle that water flow.

Public Works' focus in the next few months will be on keeping the culverts, basins, and flood control structures functioning as intended and free and clear of debris. Citizen safety and the potential dangers with the high flow from snow run-off was addressed.

Adam Wright explained the Flood Emergency Plan in place and that in the event of a flood, staff from Public Works will be divided out into three different areas along with all of the city's crews. He explained that the plan is missing on-call contractors, which needs to be established. It was decided that a meeting between Public Works and the Auditor's Office will occur at a future date to discuss the issue as well as budget. The Auditor advised the Public Works Director to spend the reserve money as wisely as possible on the supplies needed, such as plywood and 2 x 4s, to prepare for potential flooding.

It was noted that Davis County currently has 80,000 sandbags and the cities have reported having thousands of their own. It was explained that private companies offer sandbags in big events as well. Adam advised that the State has reached out asking what the counties are needing in regard to flood response. Public Works has been in touch with them regarding what the current needs are.
The Public Works Director's plan for this year's historic snow levels is to use it as an opportunity to thoroughly document how each of the channels operate in order to strengthen the flood system and better prepare for future emergency response.

Public outreach regarding flood preparation was discussed further. It was suggested to add a web page or link with information regarding flood preparation to the County's website.

Adam suggested that a letter be sent to the residents residing along the channels asking for the areas around the creeks to be cleaned up to prevent potential issues with flooding. It was suggested that this information also be put out to the public via social media.

The Auditor suggested a press release be done in addition to including it in the Commission newsletter and contacting the individual cities to get the information out to the public. The Auditor suggested "Free the Debris" as the message to be sent to all the Davis County residents, encouraging them regardless of where they reside, to clean up the gutters etc, countywide.

Kent Andersen noted the value in reminding the people who reside along the creeks to review their flood insurance plans as it is not covered by Home Insurance. He also explained that with the County's updated Ordinance, the unincorporated areas of the County are in compliance with the Flood Insurance Program. **Kent Andersen suggested putting together a sample social media post with the information to send to the City Mayors and City Managers to post to their city's social media pages.**

It was decided that the Commission Office would assist Public Works with putting that information together as well as the press release highlighting flood preparedness, safety, the proper usage of sandbags, the updated flood channels, and the flood prevention measures taken by the County.

County assistance from the different departments in the event of a flood was a topic of conversation, as well as the use of volunteers. It was noted that The Red Barn has offered volunteer services in the event of an emergency and the HR Director advised that volunteers need to be registered with Davis County.

Commissioner Kamalu and the Public Works Director discussed the construction going on at **the Gailey Trail at Nicholls Park in Fruit Heights; including the exposed pipe, the erosion, and the potential large debris load in the event of flooding in that area.**

Adam Wright said that runoff is expected to begin in three weeks, lasting from mid-April to possibly June. The importance of getting the information out to the public within the next few weeks was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

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MATERIALS PRESENTED

All publicly distributed materials associated with this meeting are noted as the following attachments:

A. Flood Maps

Minutes prepared by:

Rian-Paige Santoro
Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved on: April 18, 2023

STATE OF UTAH DAVIS COUNTY

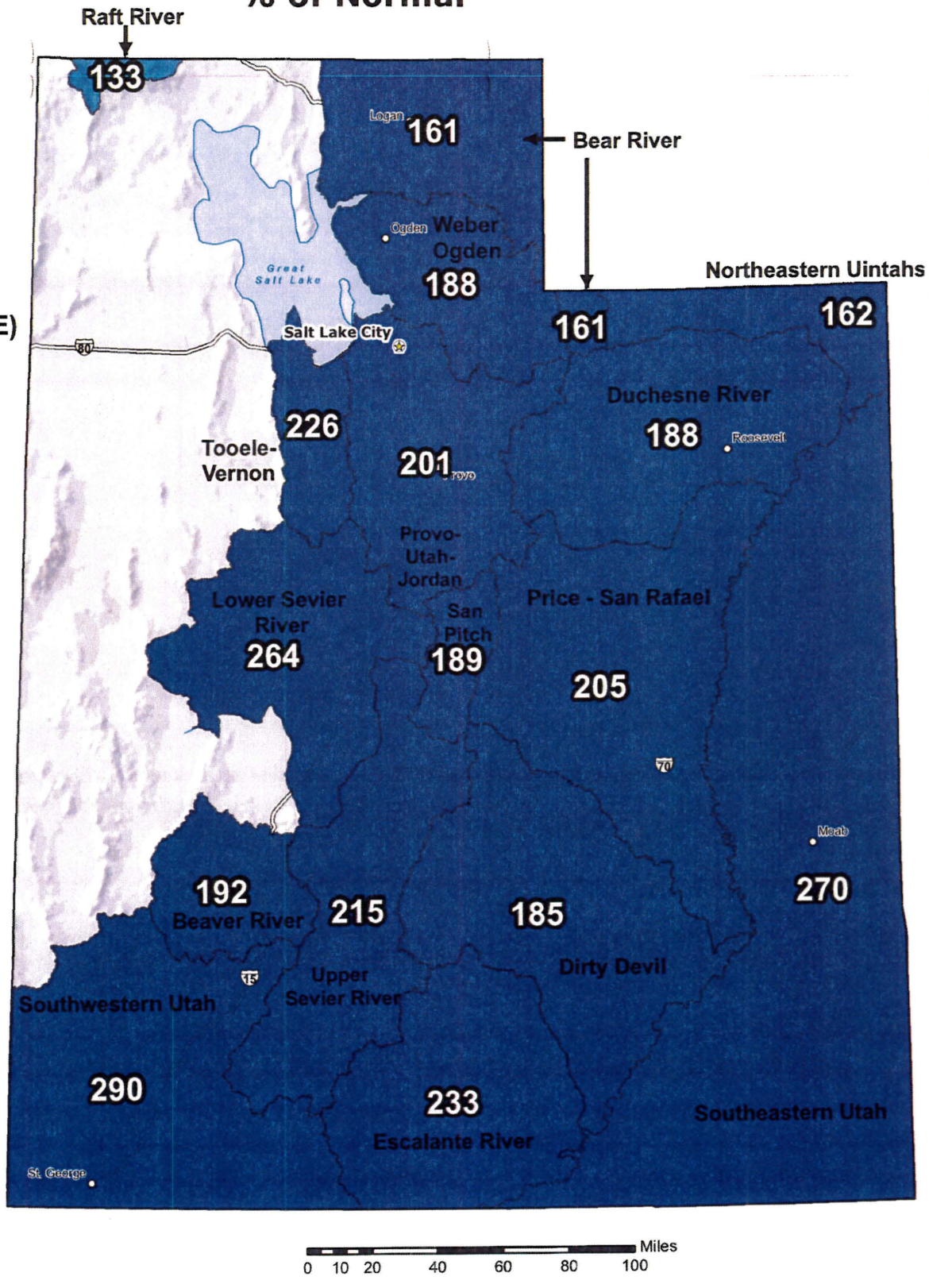
FOR

Brian McKenzie
Davis County Clerk

Lorene Miner Kamalu
Commission Chair

Utah
SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)
% of Normal

Mar 28, 2023



Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1991-2020 Median

- unavailable *
- <50%
- 50 - 69%
- 70 - 89%
- 90 - 109%
- 110 - 129%
- 130 - 149%
- >=150%

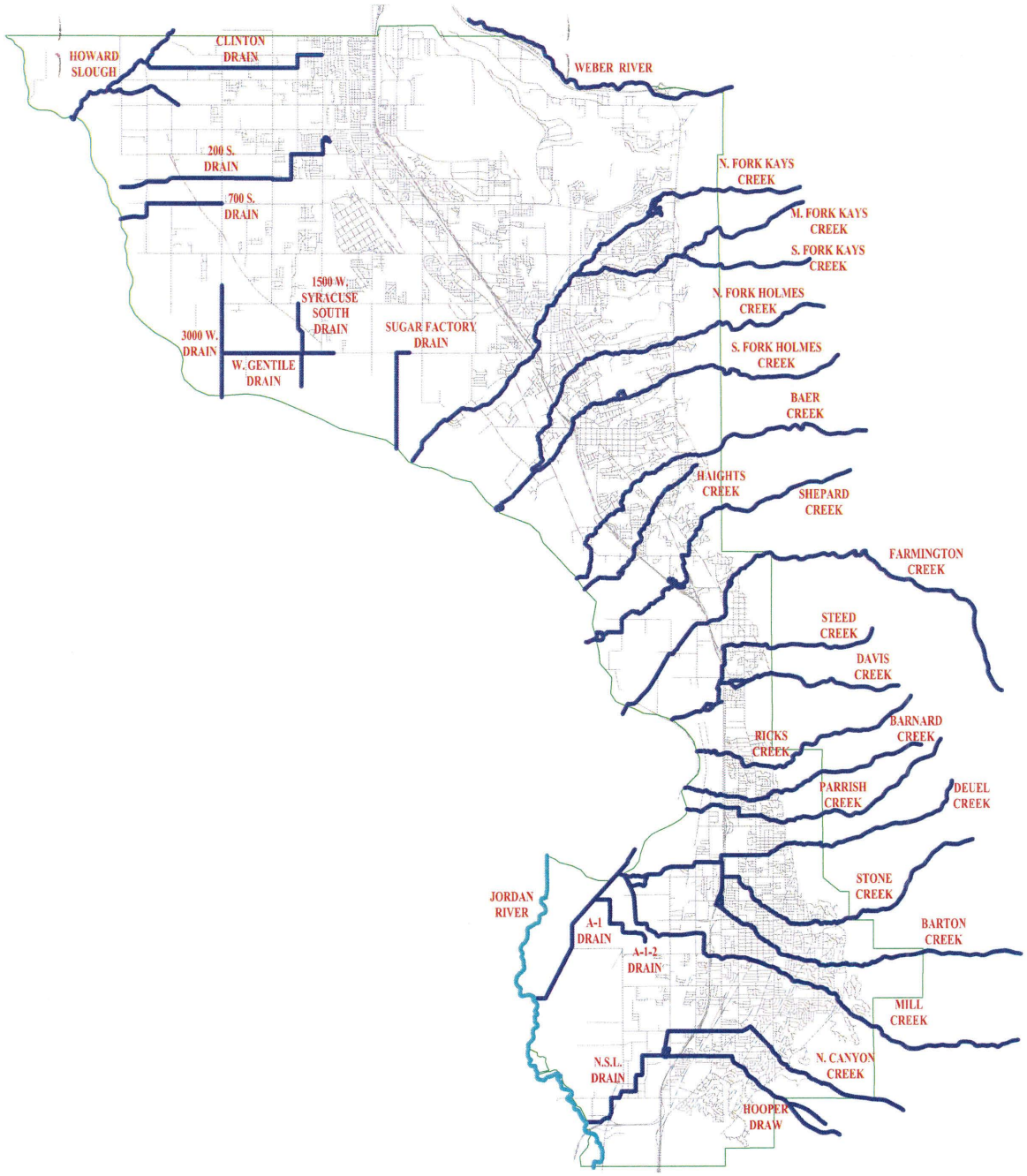
* *Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year*

Provisional Data Subject to Revision

USDA NRCS

The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/



Davis County Flood Control Map

Department of Public Works
Davis County, Utah

January 2007

Data Current as of:
03/21/2023

Bear, Weber, and Provo River Basins

