



**CAC Meeting Minutes**  
**April 12th, 2023**  
**11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**Utah Water Rights Division**  
**319 N Carbonville Road, Price, Utah 84501**  
<https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/84584911401>

**CAC Members:** *William Merkley    Anthony Mancuso    Jon Richens    Sue Bellagamba*  
*Cody Allred    Derris Jones    Dex Winterton    Ben Musselman- Remote*

**Authority Staff:** *Cody Stewart and Holly McCall*

**Guests:** *Jay Humphrey-CRAU Board Member    Bart Leeflang- Central Water Conservancy*  
*David Horsley and Marc Stilson-Water rights*

**11:03 – Welcome- Meeting called to order by William Merkley**

Approval of the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes motion by Derris Jones seconded by Cody Allred. William reminded the council of the 2023 goals and urged the council members to refer to them and use them as a reference going forward.

**11:10 – Housekeeping/Administrative Items**

Cody Stewart informed the council of monthly newsletters that the Authority intends to send out and provided an update on current water levels and the recently released DSEIS.

Bart Leeflang provided a brief description of the 2 alternatives that were proposed by the DSEIS and compared them to the previously offered six-state alternative and the California alternative.

Cody Stewart notified the council that Teresa Wilhelmsen has agreed to do a discussion on curtailment at the next CAC meeting.

Holly McCall- 2023 Meeting Schedule – May meeting moved to May 17, virtual. The council agreed to a site tour at Flaming Gorge on June 15. July meeting will be virtual. No August meeting and then possibly a tour at the Tusher water diversion in September.

**11:25 – CAC Individual Member Reports**

William Merkley - The tremendous snowpack could cause flooding, but both local reservoirs will be filled and are currently at 50%. The Yampa River will most likely cause flooding in Jensen.

Tony Mancuso - Currently focused on flood hazard mitigation. Hoping to get a stream gauge at the mouth of Gipsy Canyon to measure real-time Lake Powell inflow.

Sue Bellagamba -The Nature Conservancy works to find durable solutions in water markets, like demand management, water banking, SPCP, and Conservative Consumptive use projects to benefit Lake Powell. Also working with the agricultural community to build relationships and feel like part of the solution instead of the problem.

Jon Richens - Carbon County has one reservoir, Scofield. Working with Trout Unlimited to restore lower Fish Creek to a blue-ribbon fishery. Concerned with making room for water and removing blockages.

Dex Winterton - We are currently above average for snowpack but have no record levels yet and are still accumulating. Water Resources was given funding and Dex is still unsure how it can be applied to the Uinta Basin.

Derris Jones -Trout Unlimited has funding to do an engineering design of a fish ladder. Would like to have DWR to discuss the details of the Navajo Agreement.

Cody Allred - Nothing specific, Pacificorp just grateful that they are not struggling for water.

Ben Musselman - Previously diverted water away from a reservoir in March. The irrigation system has 820 af of storage, lake was designed for high-flow events. Pac Creek drainage, looking working with locals to recharge the aquifer.

#### 12:00- **Bart Leeflang**

Central Utah Water Conservancy District- Presentation of 2023-24

Authority Work Plan. Bart gave a brief explanation and purpose of the five-year management plan and the annual work plan. Bart reviewed the CAC recommendations to the Authority Board. Bart Leeflang stated that the Authority originally focused on the importance of Measurement and where the gaps are. The authority has contracts with Bowen and Collins for a metering and gap analysis, Open ET to measure consumptive use measurement using remote sensing, and UGS Utah Flux Network

12:30-1:00 Lunch Break

1:00 Meeting Resumed **Bart Leeflang**- Authority Work Plan Presentation Continued.

The second pillar of the work plan is hydrology and operations, the Authority has been working with short, mid, and long-term modeling and forecasting water supply research. Bart then discussed the third pillar of the work plan, drought mitigation. Using agricultural optimization investigations, Agricultural Resiliency Pilot Projects, and implementing water conservation SPCP, USU Ag-DRIP and Ag Resiliency Demand Management Pilots. Another modeling program that CRAU is developing is a comprehensive drought mitigation planning tool called Utah Colorado River Accounting and Forecasting (UCRAF). This model allows them to route water by depletion instead of diversion and can replicate demand in canal systems.

The Authority along with other Utah agencies participates in several interstate and intrastate workgroups and programs.

2:00- Meeting Adjourn. Motion by Cody Allred and seconded by Dex Winterton