

Minutes
Groundwater Management Plan Committee
May 11, 2017
12pm – 2pm @ Cedar City Council Chambers

Committee Members

Joe Melling	Brent Hunter	Spencer Jones	Paul Bittmenn
Paul Cozzens	Paul Nelson	Ramon Prestwich	Rob Dotson
Reed Erickson	Paul Monroe		

Members Excused:

Rob Dotson
Paul Nelson
Brent Hunter

Other Attendees:

Dan Jessen
Shane Prestwich
Gary Player
Roice Nelson

Items of Discussion

1. Review Minutes
 - a. Minutes were reviewed and approved from last month's meeting held March 9, 2017. Motion by Reed Erickson, second by Paul Bittmenn

2. Water Rights Modeling and Data
 - a. A presentation by Dan Jessen on a technical model which he had created that shows the change in water supply and demand as different inputs and outputs are adjusted. For example, the model can show the outcome of multiple variables such as population, conservation, recharge, and importation of is water and the effect if it is increased or decreased. Cozzens asked Dan to adjust the model to reveal agriculture conserving 30% more. He discussed the importance of encouraging agricultural community to explore new efficient practices of irrigation. If farmers could become 30% more efficient with their water uses we could potentially save an additional 5,000 to 6,000 AF.

3. How do we Manage Unused Water Rights?
 - a. Ramon Prestwich discussed the issues of spring and surface water rights being transferred to underground. There is a problem with these water rights that either have never been used and were just an application and the fact that many of them have not been used in decades. If they are approved they keep the underling water right priority date and will artificially bump the safe yield date further down.

4. Recommendation for future direction and drafting of the GMP plan

a. State Engineer Involvement

Spencer Jones motioned to send a letter to the State Engineer encouraging him to postpone decisions on change applications for surface/spring water rights to underground within the Cedar Valley aquifer basin and south in area 81 to the County line of Washington County until the Groundwater Management Plan for Cedar Valley is adopted and complete. Second by Reed Erickson.

b. Public Involvement

Joe Melling suggested that we need to be transparent and vocal of our processes as we will need to get buy in from all water users in the basin.

5. Public Comment (Limit to 3 minutes each)

- a. Shane Prestwich – There needs to be an accurate calculation of current flows in streams and springs. We also need to consider the increased number of conifers, Pinion and juniper among our watersheds along with climate change. How will that affect the future water management of our basin?

6. Next Meeting Date

- a. June Meeting will be canceled.
b. July 13, 2017 Cedar City Council Chambers