

# Groundwater Management Plan Committee

October 25, 2018

12pm – 2pm at Division of Natural Resources  
646 N Main St. Cedar City, Utah 84720

## **Committee Members in attendance:**

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

## **Committee Members not in attendance:**

Paul Nelson	Joe Melling
-------------	-------------

## **Division of Water Rights Staff:**

Kent Jones	James Greer	James Reese	Clark Adams
Teresa Wilhelmsen	Nathan Moses	Locke Hahn	Boyd Clayton

## **Others in attendance:**

Jessica Staheli	Mike Coronado	Verl Prestwich	Janae Carpenter
Kelly Crane			

*Vice Chairman Bittmenn called the meeting to order at 12:23pm. (Meeting Delayed due to Water Right Hearings).*

### **1. Review Draft Groundwater Management Plan:**

K. Jones said that the Division of Water Rights has created a draft of the Groundwater Management Plan for the Cedar Valley. He stated that it is not currently finalized. There will be public meetings and hearings before it can be put in place. He went over the plan section by section. The plan's introduction references the depletion and safe yield of water in the Cedar Valley. The reduction schedule looks at a 25% reduction that happens in the next 10 years. Every 5 years after there would be another reduction. The groundwater depletions are shown. There would be calculations that would credit the Valley for Recharge projects and other information. There will be irrigation and crop surveys completed.

Meters will be required in order to find the accurate depletion numbers. The cost of the meter will be given to the water user. S. Jones wondered if it needed to be a certain type of meter. Greer said they have not discussed that yet, but it will just need to be a meter that is acceptable so that the water commissioner can regulate all the management. He stated that this

plan is just thoughts currently, until it has gone through the public processes. K. Jones said that this is already statute, but it has not really been forced at the time. Maybe there could be funds that would help people get these meters.

V. Prestwich said there may be issues with the different types of meters that farmers might not know the accurate use of them. There might not be accurate measures from the meters. K. Jones agreed, however said that it does need to be measured in some way so that we can see the water that is being used.

K. Jones said the plan shows domestic and stock watering. Municipalities will be required to submit water usage, calculated diversion and depletion. It will also need to calculate recharge and recovery. The plan will also require these calculations to be reported from industrial users. He discussed recharge and recovery for several minutes.

If further reductions need to be made, they will be made based solely on water right priority, starting with the most junior rights. The statute shows that volunteering arrangements and compromises between community members could be made as well in order to reduce the water right cuts.

The Committee and Water Rights Staff discussed metering in Beryl/Enterprise area for several minutes. They also discussed the volunteering arrangements that could be created.

K. Jones said they just need to get the groundwater trends to start to level out. It might not ever get back up to what it was, but it should level out. He said that the plan will be looked over each year, to make sure everything still applies. He said things could be changed as needed, but to change, it would need to go through the public processes.

The Committee and Water Rights Staff discussed the West Desert Project that is in progress for the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District for several minutes.

K. Jones discussed the boundary on HWY 56 that will change up to the Iron Springs Rd. This boundary change will allow changes from the south area to the north area. However, not from the north to south area. K. Jones said that the surface and groundwater is fully appropriated except in the terminus lake areas. He discussed the changes of a surface water right to a groundwater right.

He also discussed how rights will be determined according to recharge and recovery projects. The Committee and Water Rights Staff discussed recharge and recovery for several minutes.

Kent Jones said that this is the plan that they would recommend to the committee/community. He would like the committee to look closer at it, and then bring back

comments to the Water Rights Staff. Then they would set a public meeting for the community to see how the plan is going to work.

The committee discussed when they could meet with the State Engineer again before the public meeting. Reese said they would like to have the approval of the committee before going to the public meeting.

Bittmenn wondered how the timeline in the plan was determined. Ericksen said it might be good to make them all ten years instead of 5 years. It was determined that there is room to talk and change those different numbers.

Monroe said they might want to discuss the water right numbers as well. Monroe said that the community is growing, so people might be using less water, but overall it could be the same amount with the growing population. Reese said those numbers are calculated by today's numbers. The committee discussed adding a growth factor to the numbers. K. Jones said that this plan will only be in place while the water levels continue to stay down. If the water levels ever go up and stay constant, the plan can be discontinued and there would not be any more cuts.

Discussion continued for several minutes in regard to the possibilities of water levels going up through climate change, recharge, etc.

*Prestwich stepped out at 1:42pm*

Hunter said it may be good to look over this plan before meeting with the State Engineer again. Bittmenn wondered if one meeting would be sufficient. The committee decided that they would like to have 2 meetings to discuss the plan before meeting with the State Engineer again. Then they will plan on a Public Meeting in February or March.

## **2. Public Comment (Limit to 3 minutes each)**

None.

Paul Bittmenn closed the meeting. *(Meeting adjourned at 1:46pm)*

### **Next Meeting Date:**

Thursday, November 8th @ 12pm  
Festival Hall | 105 N 100 E  
Cedar City, UT 84720