

A G E N D A

EXECUTIVE WATER TASK FORCE

June 1, 2010, 1:30 PM
Room 2000, Natural Resources Complex

- I. Welcome and Introductions - Mike Styler
- II. Review of Study Items Ranking List
- III. Other Issues - All

EXECUTIVE WATER TASK FORCE MINUTES

June 1, 2010 1:00 p.m.
Room 2000, Natural Resources Complex

Task Force Members:

Mike Styler, Department of Natural Resources
Warren Peterson, Farmland Reserve, Inc.
Merril Bingham, Provo City Public Works/Water Resources
Voneene Jorgensen, Bear River Water Conservancy District
Sterling Brown, Utah Farm Bureau
Mark Stratford, Ogden City/Utah League of Cities and Towns
Dallin Jensen, Parsons, Behle & Latimer
Randy Crozier, Duchesne Water Conservancy District
Tage Flint, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District
Ed Bowler, Washington County Conservancy District
Steve Clyde, Clyde Snow and Sessions
Dale Pierson, Rural Water Association of Utah
Troy Rindlisbacher, U. I. A.

Ex-Officios:

Dennis Strong, Division of Water Resources
Kent Jones, Division of Water Rights
Boyd Clayton, Division of Water Rights
Mike Quealy, Utah Attorney General's Office
Norm Johnson, Utah Attorney General's Office

Guests:

John Mabey, Mabey Wright and James
Rusty Vetter, Salt Lake City Corporation
Scott Martin, Snow, Christensen and Martineau
Scott Wilson, Central Iron County WCD
Shawn Draney, Snow, Christensen and Martineau
Patrick Casaday, Sandy City
Don Barnett, Barnett Water
Todd Adams, Division of Water Resources
Jay Franson, Franson Civil Engineers
Dan Davidson, Bear River Canal Company
Bob Fotheringham, Cache County
The Honorable Jack Draxler, House of Representatives
Chris Brimhall, Kirton & McKonkie
Carly Burton, Utah Water Users Association
Richard Bay, Jordan Valley WCD
Fred Finlinson, Utah Water Coalition
Christine Finlinson, Central Utah Water Conservancy District

The Honorable Mike Noel, House of Rep./KCWCD
Mike Mower, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
David Hartvigsen, Smith Hartvigsen
Jody Hoffman, Utah League of Cities & Towns

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Mike Styler welcomed the group and introduced the newest member of the Task Force, Troy Rindlisbacher. Mike then asked everyone to introduce themselves. He excused Craig Johansen who was unable to attend the meeting today.
- Mike discussed the ranking steps of Fred Finlinson's Water Coalition group and suggested thinking about these as the priority list is discussed.

II. Priority 1 - Funding/Aging Infrastructures

- This item was discussed during Governor Leavitt's Task Force in 2003. Warren and Tague sat on that committee. A stern reminder from Mike Mower was that there is NO money, and the current Task Force should not bring requests to the Legislature unless they have a plan to pay for it.
- The statement was made that we should position ourselves now for the time when money is available.
- *Request was made of Dennis Strong to provide a list of what's currently being worked on; what is being funded; and what it to be funded; and all funding sources. Dale Pierson, Warren Peterson, Craig Peterson, and Mark Stratford were also asked to help put this list together. They are to present this list at the June 29th meeting with a draft update at the June 15th meeting.*
- Mike reminded this group that they have a very loud and powerful voice in working with and educating Legislators, on water matters.

III. Priority 2 - Water Banking

- Discussion on this topic will proceed later in the meeting.

IV. Priority 3 - Colorado River

- Mike Styler made a presentation on this topic.
- The River is over allocated. Utah must and always has released at least 8.23 mill. acf per year to the lower basin as required by the compact. The problem is the lower basin is consuming and/or releasing more than that from Lake Mead (around 10 mill acf) which is creating a crisis in Lake Mead.

- The benefit of discussion on this issue is to “Know the Facts and Be Informed”
- With the Ute Compact complete and the Navajo Compact almost final we should be able to establish what minimum flow should be.
- This committee should take a position on water balances and the use of water.
- Water sheds need management/quality control, for conservation, policy issues, and public welfare and interest.
- *Joint resolution would be in line for the Washington staff, and teaching and education would be in line for the Utah Legislative staff.*

V. Priority 4 - Lost Share Certificates

- This item will take much thought and affects all, and will require new legislation.
- *Fred Finlinson has a working group on this and was asked to report to us on June 29th with a draft.*

VI. Priority 5 – Management of Surface and Ground Water

- *This is also a priority issue and Troy Rindlisbacher, Steve Clyde, Shawn Draney, Mark Stratford, Bob Fotheringham, and Jay Franson were asked to identify specific issues and to re-address this item by the June 15th meeting.*

VII. Priority 6 – Canal Safety

- This item will be one to monitor and watch. At this time the committee will wait and watch the process. The only challenge needed is money.
- *Mike Mower will keep this committee updated.*
- This issue is Local government vs. Canal Companies, but our concern is on small companies, which we should partner and help.

VIII. Priority 7 – Beneficial Use

- There was talk about parameters, and the need for more definition. We do not want too broad a definition.
- *Kent Jones was asked to provide specifics, including conflicts with developed use, public welfare, at our June 15th meeting.*

IX. Priority 8 – Ground Water in Millard County

- This item is another item to monitor and gather information and data particularly regarding Snake Valley. Upcoming Nevada elections may change the results of this issue.

X. Priority 9 – Share Changes (SB99)

- A previous draft of SB99 was submitted by this Committee, however, issues were raised by CUWCD and others. All would like to re-visit and find a middle ground. In 2002 a bill was passed which is still the best document to date, but has issues with the Agriculture community.
- *A copy of the August 19 draft will be located and brought to this meeting on June 29th, for discussion.*

XI. Priority 10 – Change Applications/Historical Use, Supply, Priority

- This item is a Category I priority.
- *It was decided that this issue should be brought back to the Task Force and Jody Hoffman will bring wording back to this group at a later meeting.*

XII. Other Priority items

- *Kent Jones will draft language for wording changes on 73-3-18 and the recording of Water Certificates (priority items 11 and 12).*
- Items 13 and 14 on the list tie in to other items previously discussed, and will be addressed at a later date.
- Continued discussion was held on Colorado River and noted the use has gone up 1/3 to 1/2 as they are growing more crops. Do we force efficiencies up or down the system, or protect return flow?

XIV. Water Banking

- A discussion was led by Rep. Draxler and Bob Fotheringham.
- The committee asked the question – Why is Banking necessary? Utah has the ability to bank water/ moving from appropriation to re-appropriation, and can store unused water.
- It was stated that there is unique language in the compact, it allows banking however, maybe not throughout the state.

- Does there need to be a policy? Throughout the state?
- Norman Johnson commented, we do not NEED a bank. Could it make things better? Possibly.
- Rep. Draxler and Bob will continue to work with the State Engineer and bring this issue back to the Task Force at a later time if needed.

The meeting was adjourned and the next meetings were scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 2:00 PM with the following meeting to be held on June 29, 2010 at 1:30 PM, both to be held at DNR in Room 2000.