

**MINUTES OF THE
STATE WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**
Tuesday, June 18, 2013 – 3:00 p.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Margaret Dayton, Senate Chair
Rep. Keith Grover, House Chair
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Kay L. McIff
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Mr. Tage Flint
Mr. Dallin W. Jensen
Ms. Voneene Jorgensen
Mr. Darrell H. Mensel
Mr. Mike Mower
Mr. Joseph Paulick
Ms. Amanda Smith
Mr. Mike Styler

Mr. Ron Thompson
Mr. David Ure

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Commissioner Leonard M. Blackham
Mr. Jay Mark Humphrey
Mr. Warren Peterson
Mr. Gene Shawcroft
Mr. Boyd Workman

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Ms. RuthAnne Frost, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Anna Allen, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Commission Business

Chair Dayton called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. She relinquished the chair to Rep. Grover. Sen. Davis, Commissioner Blackham, and Mr. Workman were excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Van Tassell, Rep. Briscoe, and Rep. Froerer absent for the vote.

2. Snake Valley Water Sharing Agreement

Mr. Mower discussed the governor's response to the commission's letter regarding the Snake Valley water sharing agreement. Mr. Mower stated that the governor stands behind his decision and will continue to work with Snake Valley residents to come to an agreement that protects the residents and the environment. Mr. Mower responded to questions from the commission.

Mr. Steve Erickson, Utah Coordinator and member of the board of directors, Great Basin Water Network, described his concerns with, and dispelled certain misconceptions about, the water sharing agreement. He stated that he supports the governor's decision. He recommended that in the future the agreement should have more transparency, public input, and emphasis on historical use of water. Mr. Erickson responded to questions from the commission.

3. Update on Lake Powell Pipeline and Bear River Development

Mr. Dennis Strong, Director, Division of Water Resources, presented "Utah Water Development Commission" and discussed the development programs and efforts of the division and the Board of Water Resources.

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Mr. Strong described four ways the division hopes to meet future water needs in Utah: water conversion, agricultural conversion, management strategies, and water development. Mr. Strong distributed “Utah’s Water Future” and gave a brief overview of the Lake Powell Pipeline project. Mr. Strong responded to questions from the commission.

Mr. Ron Thompson, General Manager, Washington County Water Conservancy District, presented “Washington County Water Analysis.” He discussed Washington County’s current water situation, historical and forecasted growth, conservation efforts and accomplishments, the county’s need for the Lake Powell Pipeline, and the economic benefits of water development in the county. Mr. Thompson responded to questions from the commission.

Mr. Tage Flint, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, discussed the extent and impacts of the Bear River development project. He stated that before the state utilizes this water source, it needs to change its ethics of water use, meet the 25% water conservation goal by 2025, and optimize its current water sources.

Sen. Jenkins discussed 2013 General Session S.B. 154, “Sales and Use Taxation of Water,” which modifies the funding sources for the Water Resources Conservation and Development Fund to include sales and use tax allocations.

4. Report on Water Rights Discussion in the Congressional House Water and Power Subcommittee

Mr. Randy Parker, Chief Executive Officer, Utah Farm Bureau Federation, presented “United States Forest Service ‘Western Water Grab’” and distributed “Federal Impediments to Water Rights, Job Creation and Recreation” and “State – Federal Livestock Water Rights Conflicts.” Mr. Parker discussed the importance and history of water rights, specifically in the Southwest. He also described the conflict between Utah and both the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service regarding these rights.

Mr. Glenn Porzak, National Ski Areas Association, discussed “Testimony of the National Ski Areas Association to the State Water Development Commission, Utah Legislature.” He expressed concern about efforts by the United States Forest Service to claim water rights from ski areas throughout Colorado.

Mr. John Loomis, General Manager, Snowbasin Resort, presented “Testimony of Snowbasin Resort to the State Water Development Commission, Utah Legislature.” Mr. Loomis discussed how the proposed water right actions of the United States Forest Service would negatively affect Snowbasin Resort and its plans for future development.

Commission discussion followed.

5. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Jenkins, Rep. Froerer, and Rep. McIff absent for the vote.

Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.