

**MINUTES OF THE
STATE WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 – 3:03 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. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Kay L. McIff
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Comm. Leonard M. Blackham
Mr. Jay Mark Humphrey
Mr. Dallin W. Jensen
Ms. Voneene Jorgensen
Mr. Alan Matheson
Mr. Darrell H. Mensel
Mr. Warren Peterson

Mr. Gene Shawcroft
Mr. Mike Styler
Mr. Ron Thompson
Mr. David Ure

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Mr. Tage Flint
Mr. Joseph Paulick
Ms. Amanda Smith
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. Committee Business

Chair Dayton called the meeting to order at 3:14 p.m. Ms. Smith was excused from the meeting. Chair Dayton welcomed Mr. Alan Matheson in place of Mr. Mike Mower as the governor's new appointee to the commission.

MOTION: Rep. Grover moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Ipson and Rep. Noel absent for the vote.

2. Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Water Development in Utah

Mr. Jeremy Aguero, Principal Analyst, Applied Analysis, presented "Utah State Water Development Commission." Mr. Aguero discussed the importance of water resources in economic development. He stated that protecting water resources is essential to protecting Utah's economy, both now and in the future. He continued that in order to ensure future prosperity, the state must develop a master plan that includes water conservation, water supply development, and protecting and procuring water resources. Mr. Aguero responded to questions from the commission.

3. Impacts of the Lake Powell Pipeline

Ms. Christi Wedig, Executive Director, Glen Canyon Institute, presented "Impacts of the Lake Powell Pipeline." Ms. Wedig recommended that the state work to foster discussion that includes more views in opposition to the project. She expressed concern regarding the expense of the project on taxpayers, the sustainability of the pipeline, and the conflicting information that is being presented to the public.

Mr. Thompson stated there is public support for the Lake Powell Pipeline project and that it is vital to the future development of southern Utah. He also discussed how Lake Powell is an important water resource to the state.

Mr. Dennis Strong, Director, Division of Water Resources, said that Utah has a Colorado River compact allocation that it could more fully utilize, part of which includes a water right held by the Board of Water Resources. Mr. Strong commented on Washington County's growth and its need for water to accommodate that growth. He indicated that the water right held by the Board of Water Resources could be used to supply water for the Lake Powell Pipeline project.

The speakers responded to questions from the commission.

Mr. Thompson recommended the commission continue to show support for the development of the Lake Powell Pipeline project. Chair Dayton invited commission members to express their opinions on this recommendation. A poll of commission members present indicated support for Mr. Thompson's recommendation, with the exception of Mr. Mensel who did not support the recommendation. Sen. Jenkins, Sen. Van Tassell, and Rep. Briscoe were absent at the time the poll was taken.

4. Shareholder Change Applications

Mr. Steve Styler, Utah Irrigators Alliance, discussed the background of the alliance and distributed a handout of proposed changes to Utah Code Section 73-3-3.5. He also introduced the challenges to shareholder change applications relating to that section of code.

Mr. Peter Gessel, Utah Irrigators Alliance, discussed the proposed changes in more depth, highlighting the substantive changes. He stated that the goal of the changes is to remove any information that may be confusing in that code section and to foster an open exchange of information regarding shareholder change applications.

Mr. Sterling Brown, Vice President – Public Policy, Utah Farm Bureau Federation, stressed the importance of protecting the rights of shareholders and water companies. He also stated that the federation is open to amending the law if the changes help minimize litigation costs. He said that most water companies in Utah operate with small budgets, but have a large impact on the continued economic growth in the state, and that legislation should take this into consideration.

5. Canal Safety

The commission did not discuss this agenda item due to lack of time.

6. Update on Governor's Water Summit

Mr. Matheson discussed the governor's water summit and the development of a water plan for the state. He discussed the questions covered at public hearings throughout Utah and stated that public comments at the hearings thus far have focused on:

- conservation,
- utilization of technology for reusing water,
- water funding, and
- the need for more education about water systems.

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Mr. Matheson also reported that the office is in the first phase of addressing water issues in the state. He described the first phase as the preliminary gathering of materials for the substantive work to follow, and he also described the other phases for the future.

7. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Mr. Ure moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hinkins, Sen. Jenkins, Sen. Van Tassell, and Rep. Ipson absent for the vote.

Chair Dayton adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.