



Water Issues – 2020 Possible Study Items

Legislative Water Development Commission | June 5, 2020

Water Issues Study Items

Aquatic Invasive Species: review the existing programs and study the next steps to address aquatic invasive species in Utah. The committee would also study creating a statewide emergency plan to address the spread of aquatic invasive species if other bodies of water are invaded.

Water Testing: currently, testing the purity and quality of water in streams and lakes is routed through the DEQ through the state lab at the Department of Health. The committee would evaluate whether DEQ should be allowed to order the testing through other labs.

Water Supply: study and review the existing and projected water supply in the state.

Release of Water from Flaming Gorge: continue to study 2020 H.C.R. 23, “Encouraging a Balanced Approach to the Release of Water from Flaming Gorge.”

Water Quality in Utah Lake and other bodies of water: study the current treatment and revitalization efforts.

Water Task Force Recommendations: receive and consider recommendations from the Utah Water Task Force.

Public Entity Water Users: study the use and development of water by public entities (S.B. 84, 2020 General Session).

Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of Municipalities in Watersheds: study municipalities’ extraterritorial jurisdiction related to water sheds and water works. The 2019 Interim committee studied this issue and agreed that it warranted further discussion and study.

Lake Powell Pipeline Project: The 2019 Interim committee discussed a legislative audit regarding the repayment feasibility of the Lake Powell Pipeline. The committee passed motions to recommend that legislation be drafted to clarify the terms for repayment including state bond interest costs for the Lake Powell Pipeline, how repayment costs can be divided among and within repayment contracts, final repayment time frames for outstanding pipeline reimbursable costs, and whether multiple sources of funding for the Lake Powell Pipeline would be in the best interests of the state. Additionally, the committee would study the impact of Kane County’s decision to remove its support for the project.