

The following is a general discussion of powers and duties of the Legislative Water Development Commission (commission). It is not a comprehensive review of all relevant statutes including Title 73, Chapter 27, Legislative Water Development Commission. For more detailed information, please contact the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

Purpose

Section 73-27-102 provides that the commission "is created to determine the state's role in the protection, conservation, and development of the state's water resources."

Substantive Duties

Recommendations to the Legislature and Governor:

Section 73-27-103 provides that the commission shall consider and make recommendations to the Legislature and governor on the following issues:

- how the water needs of the state's growing agricultural, municipal, and industrial sectors will be met;
- what the impact of federal regulations and legislation will be on the ability of the state to manage and develop its compacted water rights;
- how the state will fund water projects;
- whether the state should become an owner and operator of water projects;
- how the state will encourage the implementation of water conservation programs; and
- other water issues of statewide importance.

Consultations:

The commission shall consult with the Division of Water Resources and the Board of Water Resources regarding:

- recommendations for rules, criteria, targets, processes, and plans described in Subsection 73-10g-105(3); and
- the scope of any request for proposals that may be issued by the Division of Water Resources and Board of Water Resources to assist in creating the rules, criteria, targets, processes, and plans described in Subsection 73-10g-105(3).

Subsection 73-10g-105(3) provides the following:

The division and the board shall, in making the rules described in Subsection (1) and in consultation with the commission:

- establish criteria for better water data and data reporting;
- establish new conservation targets based on the data;
- institute a process for the independent verification of the data;
- establish a plan for an independent review of:
 - the proposed construction plan for an applicant's qualifying water infrastructure project; and
 - the applicant's plan to repay the loan for the construction of the proposed water infrastructure project;
- invite and recommend public involvement; and
- set appropriate financing and repayment terms.

Receive Reports

By statute, the following reports are required to be given to the commission.

- *Water loss accounting:* The working group examining water loss accounting is to report the working group's findings and recommendations to the Utah Water Task Force and the commission by October 1, 2020.
- *Agricultural Water Optimization Task Force:* The task force shall report to the commission and other entities on the task force's progress under the section by November 30, of each year.
- *Utah Watersheds Council:* The state council shall provide updates on the state council's activities annually, or as invited, to the commission and other entities.

Organization Powers

The commission may:

- form working groups from the membership of the commission to consider and study the issues described in Section 73-27-103; and
- meet up to six times per calendar year without approval from the Legislative Management Committee.

Sunset Date

The commission is subject to a sunset repeal date of January 1, 2031.