GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Water Rights

KENT L. JONES
State Engineer/Division Director

September 22, 2011

Dear Water Commissioners:

As the 2011 water year winds down, I want to take moment to attend to some administrative items and provide some updates. Most of the remaining content of this letter applies in a general nature and is being disseminated to all "my" commissioners.

First, want to express my appreciation for your work as a Water Commissioner in your area. You are part of a heritage that was started when the pioneers came into your valley area and settled. This legacy, now transcended by court actions and decrees, (or water user requests) requires that the State Engineer appoint Water Commissioners for four year terms. There are 38 such systems in Utah; you are part of one of them and part of a unique and special group of people that manage water in the state. Your job is important; your interaction with the water users is a critical aspect of your work. The records you keep are instrumental in documenting the existing rights, insuring they are maintained in perpetuity, to be put to beneficial use. I know there is a lot involved and truly appreciate your efforts and dedication.

I recently passed 5 years of tenure here at Water Rights. As a part of the State Engineer's office my job involves working with 14 distribution systems, involving a total of 17 appointed Water Commissioners and Deputies. I know you are doing an important job and leaving a credible legacy of fair and equitable distribution of Utah's water to those that have a legal right to use it. I am proud of you, I am glad to have you working for the division under my tutelage. During that time, and thanks to each one of you, I have learned a lot, primarily that things are always changing, and progress is being made. I have become familiar with you and your systems, and through this professional relationship we have, I consider you my friends. As always, you should never hesitate to ask for assistance when you need it, I am just a phone call away. My intent is to stay involved with all of you, as much as possible.

What a banner year it was for water here in the State of Utah. As we were recovering from damage during the late December 2010 flood event, the realization that we had significant record snowpack had everyone anticipating flooding for springtime 2010. However, a late and slow warm up resulted in beneficial runoff that was put to good use. Flooding, was mostly averted and controlled, with a higher than normal, and significantly sustained spring runoff period occurring 4 to 6 weeks later than normal. All rivers in the state ran longer and higher than normal. This huge volume of water resulted in all reservoirs filling and spilling for a long period. Flows that usually diminish in August are just now starting to recede, thanks to some late summer rainstorms. The Great Salt Lake rose 3 ½ feet, where it usually varies only about a foot each year.

After 37 years with the Division, Lee Sim retired from his position as Assistant State Engineer. Jared Manning was selected as his replacement and is now filling that role. If you don't have a chance to meet Jared soon, most likely you will meet him at the Annual Meeting in 2012.

1594 West North Temple, Suite 220, PO Box 146300, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6300
telephone (801) 538-7240 • facsimile (801) 538-7467 • TTY (801) 538-7458 • *www.waterrights.utah.gov*

UTAH DNR WATER RIGHTS

For those "down south", who are associated with the Cedar City office; I am planning a Water **Commissioner Training Seminar on December 2, 2011**. Some of you may have received an earlier email about it, so save the date. The Training will be held in the Visitor's center board room next to the Cedar City Water Rights office. Mapped systems (you know who you are) will attend at 9am. The other systems should show up for pre lunch Topic at 11:00. I have attached a copy of the agenda at the end of this letter.

For those systems "Up North", there has been discussion about another training session at the Salt Lake Water Rights office, similar to one held in January 2009. If you are "down south" and attend the December training, you won't need to attend the Salt Lake training. If you have a laptop computer, bring it to the training. If you have any topics you wish covered at either of the training sessions, please send me a note.

This is also the time of year when we need your commissioner's "**Pink Slip**" expenses and **mileage** submitted for payment, especially those of you that haven't submitted as yet. Be careful not to exceed your budget. If you submit based on mileage, the rate went up from $0.51 to $0.555 per mile on July 1st. Submit separate pink slips before and after that date. If you submit based on mileage, keep a record of it. If you simply submit a "Travel Expense" (no mileage) then you will get an IRS form 1099 at the end of the year. So it's always best to submit based on mileage. All Pink Slips need to be into the office before December 15th 2011. I have enclosed some "pinks" with this mailing. This year we would like to get all the pink slips in earlier than usual and avoid the rush that usually happens in December.

Since it's near the end of the season, you should now be entering "**diversion data**" to the water rights database, using your commissioner sign on. Along with the mailing of this letter, and as a motivating reminder, I will email you a "**commissioner authorization**" for data entry. You should book mark the website it takes you to. If you haven't received this "authorization", or we have not corresponded by Email, please contact me at MikeSilva@Utah.gov . As always, it's most helpful that I have your most current email address. If you need assistance on data entry or data transfers, don't hesitate to call me.

As a reminder to a letter sent in April this year, one of the important responsibilities of your job is the preparation of your system's **annual report**, which provides a valuable record of the delivery of water and the improvements needed to better regulate and distribute water on the system. The review of this report is one of the central purposes of the annual meeting. In the past, the water commissioner submitted the report to the water users and the Division at the annual meeting. This has made it difficult to have a good discussion since no one was familiar with it. A more effective discussion will ensue when the report is available prior to the annual meeting.

It is now required that all water commissioners submit their **annual report** to the Division of Water Rights in Salt Lake City **no later than January 15.** If you need an advance review, email a copy before that to get a faster response. The report will be scanned and made available on the Division's website for water users prior to the meeting. We will inform the water users in the annual meeting notice how to access the report. You should still continue to produce the paper copy of the report to be distributed to the water users just as you have done in the past. In the future, less paper copies may be needed, once the water users are able to print copies of the report and bring it to the meeting.

As you know the State went back on a 5 day schedule. Due to travel distances to my systems, I am still working a 4 day schedule (Monday – Thursday) from 7AM - 5:30 PM. I don't mind taking calls anytime. I would encourage you to call my cell phone if it's after hours or I am on the road, In the meantime; if you have any questions you can reach me at (801) 538-7430(w) or (801) 540-0388(c), always leave a message if I don't answer. The schedule for the annual meetings should be coming out soon; this will be under a separate mailing.

Sincerely,

Mike Silva

Mike Silva
Distribution Engineer

cc: Kurt Vest, Southwest Regional Office
Kirk Forbush, Southern Regional Office
Bob Leake, Eastern Regional Office
Teresa Wilhelmsen, Utah Lake/Jordan River Regional Office

Attached: Pink Slips

Tentative Agenda: Cedar City Water Commissioner Training, Dec 2, 2011

Mapped Systems:

9:00	Introductions and Welcome: Mike Silva to introduce Jared Manning
9:15	Discussion on vision for Distribution program, where it's heading: Jared Manning, Mike Silva
9:30	Mapping Process, What's involved, how does it come together? by Scott Zufelt
10:00	Short Break
10:10	GIS working with layers, loading maps, how to do edits & photo updates: Scott Zufelt
11:00	Ownership and updates, working with Excel spread sheets: Mike Silva & Scott Zufelt

All Systems

11:30	Fieldwork process, measuring distances, field verification, GPS use: Mike Silva
11:45	Enforcement & Documentation, using Enforcement Database, field verification: Kerry Carpenter
12:00	Lunch, Eat during the presentation below.
12:00	Lunch Presentation: Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program: Mike Suflita DNR Water Resources
12:30	Annual Report Preparation, Deadline, Data for reports, importance of records: Mike & Jared
12:45	Water Rights Lookup, Scanned Documents, Transfers, Segs, Title, Ownership: Nate Moses
1:00	Expansion of Water Rights, acreage, flow, what to look for
1:30	Short Break Mapped System dismissed (if they want to go)
1:40	Water Commissioner Data Entry Mike Silva
2:00	Flow Measurement: Mike Silva & Jared Manning
2:30	Stream Alteration Permits, when it's needed. Nate Moses?
3:00	Commissioner Tags, Enforcement Mike Silva
3:15	Q & A Debrief Summary Mike Silva & Jared Manning
3: 30	End of program – Closing Mike Silva

Letter being sent to:

Southern Systems:
Beaver - Steve Gale
East Fork Virgin - Jeff Medlin
Virgin - Loyd Jessop, Dave Jessop
Santa Clara - Jay Leavitt

Southern Systems: Mapped
Parowan - Shayne Scott
Milford - April McKeon
Beryl Enterprise - Todd Terry
Cedar Valley - Sam Bauer

"Up North" Systems:
Lower Jordan - Lane Jensen
Duchesne- Strawberry- John Swasey
Little Cottonwood Creek - Tim O'Hara, Max Reese
Upper San Pitch - Randy Allred
Lower San Pitch - David Beck, Garth Sorenson
Lower Fremont - Becky Taft