

Groundwater Management Plan Committee

September 14, 2017

12pm – 2pm @ Cedar City Council Chamber

Committee Members in Attendance

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Joe Melling | Brent Hunter | Paul Bittmenn |
| Paul Cozzens | Paul Nelson | |
| Reed Erickson | Paul Monroe | |

Committee Members in Excused

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Spencer Jones | Rob Dotson |
| Ramon Prestwich | |

Minutes

Items of Discussion

1. Review Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Reed Erickson
Second by Paul Cozzens

2. Legislative Update

Paul Monroe updated the committee with advancements made with our representatives on agricultural pivot conservation incentives.

3. Aquifer Recharge Progress and Plans

Bittmenn-The City has been working with the state Division of Water Quality on our effluent project, and it was mentioned that they may have avenues for funding at 0% and opportunities for grants that will help with our Groundwater Management Plan. Discussion of possible funding for several minutes.

Cozzens- Asked about other funds for other projects, like this lake we want to build just below the diversion structure near Quichapa. Monroe-There is a lot of planning and other things to consider with this project, the EIS or EA studies will have to take place first. The BLM has initially agreed to do these studies in house which will save around \$50,000 but they believe it will have to be a full EIS because this area is a designated wetland by the US Fish and Wildlife.

Cozzens- suggested talking with the Jones family to move the channel further south and increase the size of the lake.

Cozzens-Paul Bittmenn met with the FAA and discussed recharge near the airport. They in the utilization of the Schmidt pit that we monitor and document the bird activity for the course of two years. After which we can make a plan to mitigate the issue. They discouraged the use of the pit at the end of the runway.

Nelson-Billy Grimshaw said that they could handle anything we send out to Worth Grimshaw's this fall as well. This would be beneficial to the recharge in the Graben area. Cozzens-Cedar City has been talking about best ways to use the Effluent water from the sewer plant. They've discussed using a sand filter and bringing the water up to a grade one, pumping it down 2300 W through an easement and letting the farmers out in the Graben area use that water on their fields. I think this would be financially more feasible. Hunter-the only concern we need to address as far as putting so much water into the Enoch Graben is that it isn't close enough to benefit the main part of the valley. Bittmenn-We knew that was a concern a lot of people would have. We really won't have a definite plan until we get the cost

breakdowns from our engineers. We want to be able to see how much it will cost to pipe the water to the Graben and the cost of using it further south. Discussion on migration of water continues for several minutes.

4. Groundwater Management Plan drafting the plan

Melling- I think the discussions we are having are great, but we need to start putting together a plan and policy. That is what we are going to need to do to convince the State Engineer that we are doing what is needed here to avoid cutting our priorities. It seems to me that this should be our number one goal. To show the SE office that we are doing several things to stabilize this valley. Hunter-I think you are right, but at this point in time, I think we need to supply a list of our ideas and our estimations of how much water will be saved with those ideas. I believe he will put things on hold long enough for us to show him that we can save the water.

Melling-I think that we need to be spending time during our meetings and in between meetings thinking of how we are going to achieve our goals. Cozzens-If the farmers could save 30% we could balance the aquifer right now. In this valley we have 8,000 acre feet of water being used through pivot irrigation. Even at conserving 25% we are looking to save 5,000 acre feet of water. Discussion on agricultural watering last for several minutes.

Cozzens-We need to start putting in some time on how we are going to pay to bring the water from the West Desert. We need to be ahead of the curve.

Melling-in closing I am going to be reaching out to those who were unable to attend this meeting and ask that they begin writing down what their goals are for this committee and I hope that we will be able to start collaborating on those ideas in the next few months.

5. Public Comment (Limit to 3 minutes each)

None

6. Next Meeting Date

- a. October 12, 2017 Cedar City Council Chambers