



NOTICE is hereby given that there will be a Public Meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah of the:

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Colorado River Authority of Utah
January 11, 2022
1:00 p.m.
World Trade Center - Main Floor Conference Room
60 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah**

Pre-Registration for Virtual Public Attendance available via ZOOM

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Tg43ioZfSWCpRrM603dGvA

1. Call to Order—Gene Shawcroft, Chair

Gene Shawcroft called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. noting there was a quorum of the Board and all six members attending in person.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the December 2, 2021 Colorado River Authority of Utah (Authority) Meeting – Chair Shawcroft

Mr. Shawcroft asked if there were any comments or edits to the draft minutes of the December 2, 2021 Authority meeting. There being no comments, Mr. Shawcroft asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Steed, seconded by Ms. Hasenyager, and unanimously approved by the Board.

3. Request Approval of Proposed Interlocal Agreement between the Authority of Utah and The Central Utah Water Conservancy District (Central) – Amy Haas, Executive Director

Ms. Haas announced she was requesting approval of an agreement between the Authority and Central to permit in-kind and cash contributions by Central to the Authority. Ms. Haas explained that HB 297, which created the Authority, authorizes Colorado River water users, including conservancy districts, to contribute in-kind goods and services and cash to the Authority. Ms. Haas explained the Utah Interlocal Cooperation Act provides that the Authority and Central may contract with each other to provide cash and in-kind services to the Authority. Ms. Haas stated that Central wishes to begin making contributions of in-kind goods and services to the Authority pursuant to the Authority Act, the Interlocal Act and the FY22 Budget.

Ms. Haas reminded the Board that this is the second time they have seen this agreement as it was included as an informational item on the December 2, 2022 Authority meeting agenda. Ms. Haas mentioned there were a few minor clarification changes to the draft after that meeting, but nothing significant.

Ms. Haas mentioned staff's efforts to develop an Authority Management Plan. Under the Colorado River Authority of Utah Act, the Authority may develop a management plan to ensure that Utah can protect and develop its Colorado River system water and ensure that Utah can live within its apportionment. Ms. Haas explained that her team is currently developing a plan for the Board's consideration and hopes to have something before them soon. Ms. Haas explained that in

addition to the budget and continued appropriations, support from conservancy districts and water users will be essential to ensuring the Authority has the wherewithal to implement a management plan and the associated work. Mr. Steed asked if this was a stand alone agreement or whether there would be additional agreements in the future. Ms. Haas replied that she hoped other Districts would contribute as well. Mr. Shawcroft asked for a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement, which was made by Mr. Renstrom, seconded by Mr. Larsen, and unanimously approved by the Board.

4. Hydrology Update – Bart Leeflang, PE, Colorado River Program Manager, Central Utah Water Conservancy District

Mr. Leeflang began by noting we are in between 24-month studies, so the study released in December would be outdated given what has transpired since then, and that much of his information came from the forecast from the Reclamation’s weekly report and the January Colorado River Basin Water Supply webinar that was held last week. Mr. Leeflang stated Lake Powell is 27% full, elevation is 3526’, and total system storage is 37%. Mr. Leeflang explained that one year ago the total system storage was 46%, and we’ve lost about five and a half million acre-feet (MAF) in one year.

Mr. Leeflang next displayed a slide showing Lake Powell, at 3,536’, was in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier and Lake Mead, at 1,067’ elevation, was in a Shortage Condition, and explained the release for Lake Powell this year would be 7.48 MAF under the 2007 Interim Guidelines.

Mr. Leeflang discussed a slide showing Lake Powell unregulated inflow from November 2021 through January 2022 which showed large fluctuations and the need for about 5.9 MAF to stay above the 3525’ elevation we want to protect. Mr. Leeflang presented slides on the Duchesne River Group, Price Group, and Virgin Group that demonstrated we’re moving in a good direction with 154%, 132% and 168% snow water equivalent, respectively, which is really good compared to where we were a month ago.

In summary, Mr. Leeflang’s presentation explained a wet monsoon season helped soil moisture conditions, which are improved from a year ago, but soil moisture deficits are still out there, notably across much of western Colorado. Current SWE Conditions are mostly above normal across the Colorado River Basin: Upper Colorado 130-160%; Lower Colorado 50-165% and January water supply forecasts are 75-140% for Upper Colorado and 40-155% for Lower Colorado. A copy of this presentation is provided.

5. Drought Response Operations Agreement: Potential Actions in 2022 – Dr. Katrina Grantz, PE, Deputy Director, Upper Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation

Ms. Grantz provided an update on the Drought Response Operating Agreement (DROA) stating that the uncertainty in the lower Powell elevations it has necessitated action under the agreement. Ms. Grantz mentioned that on January 1, 2022, reductions in the releases from Lake Powell began in accordance with the DROA, and monthly volumes will be reduced through April 2022. Ms. Grantz mentioned they are planning to release 7.48 MAF this year from Lake Powell but are holding back releases until later in the water year as a result of the DROA action. Ms. Grantz further stated that later in the June through September period they will release more, for a total of 350,000 acre-feet. These monthly adjustments were shared with states and tribes and federal partners in early December and coordinated with key stakeholders. Ms. Grantz stated the operational adjustments are consistent with Glen Canyon Dam’s Long-term Experimental and

Management Plan (LTEMP) and the new 24-month study will be published this Friday.

Ms. Grantz mentioned that Reclamation has been working to finalize the DROA Framework Document which is guidance that will be used to develop their yearly drought response actions and plans. Ms. Grantz stated a webinar has been planned for late January to roll out the Framework Document to a broad group of stakeholders in the Colorado River Basin and the public.

Mr. Shawcroft asked about the various committees that have been created to work on this document, and Ms. Grantz briefly described the various teams, their focuses and how they worked together to create this document, stating there were multiple meetings held every day among all the various groups reviewing it and refining it to make sure it was a good document.

6. Report of the River Commissioner –Chair Shawcroft

Mr. Shawcroft mentioned the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) meetings that were held in connection with the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) conference in Las Vegas in December and emphasized the importance of getting our message out. Mr. Shawcroft suggested we could learn from the Lower Basin who seems to have a better connection with the media and messaging. Mr. Shawcroft briefly discussed the 500 plus plan put together by the Lower Basin States to reduce flows out of Lake Mead by 500,000 acre-feet each year and showed several slides pertaining to the fluctuating hydrology over time and changes to our forecast.

Mr. Shawcroft introduced Chuck Cullom as the new UCRC Executive Director. Mr. Cullom thanked Gene and introduced himself to the Board, stating he has lived in Midway, Utah since 2011 and previously worked for the Central Arizona Project for 21 years.

7. Report of the Executive Director – Amy Haas

Ms. Haas stated the Authority will be posting the DROA Framework Document on the Authority website on or around January 21st and emphasized CRAU will not be taking comments; rather, all comments must go to the Bureau of Reclamation in accordance with the process posted on the website.

Ms. Haas mentioned there was ongoing Basin-wide technical work on improvements to the CRSS model, which is a Basin-wide model used to project conditions over a period of years to decades in the future. Ms. Haas explained this model is used to support the operation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the Drought Contingency Plans (DCPs) and will be used for the modeling required for the Post-2026 Operational Criteria. Ms. Haas further explained that improvements to the model focus on 3 priorities: modeling, or technical questions regarding the upcoming 2 and 5-year probabilistic projections; the Lower Basin 500+ Plan; and post 2026 operations. Ms. Haas commented that within the last category, the two focuses are to decrease bias and model error with respect to inflows to Lake Powell; and improve the ability to portray projected Upper Basin storage. Ms. Haas stated April 1st was the deadline to make these improvements before the 7 States move into a sensitivity analysis using the CRSS model to inform the states of possible post 2026 operational criteria.

Ms. Haas mentioned that she and Danny Schoenfeld, Director of Administration for the Authority, met with the Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs this morning to discuss the

Authority's FY 2023 budget request. Ms. Haas explained this was just an introductory meeting and that they will be briefing the full Appropriations Subcommittee on January 24th.

Ms. Haas discussed the Infrastructure Bill and other federal funding opportunities and mentioned specific interest in the \$8.3 Billion allocated specifically to western water infrastructure through the Bureau of Reclamation. Ms. Haas explained that within this funding there are 3 categories of funding opportunities: Dam Safety, WaterSMART Program, and Colorado River DCP and Endangered Species Recovery Programs. Ms. Haas provided several slides to explain these programs and stated the PowerPoint presentation would be posted on the Authority website.

Ms. Haas mentioned one more piece related to additional funding that has nothing to do with the infrastructure bill and that is the Aging Infrastructure Revolving Account. Ms. Haas explained that the Bureau of Reclamation was accepting proposals to fund aging infrastructure through the end of January. Ms. Haas explained the funding of this account that was established years ago and there's funding in the form of low interest loans, not grants, with a loan repayment term of up to 50 years. Ms. Haas stated the Provo Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation has contacted various water districts around the state who may benefit from loans.

8. Status of Advisory Council Development – Cody Stewart, Director of Strategic Engagement

Mr. Stewart mentioned an informal Advisory Council Steering Committee, comprised of three Board members, has been established to help make some decisions and move forward in creating the Advisory Councils. Mr. Stewart explained the timeline for standing up the Councils first, to seek Board approval for the final structure at the February meeting, review member applications by mid-February, and have the Council's established and meeting in early April 2022. Director Steed asked about the application process and the number of Advisory Councils and Mr. Stewart replied that the process would involve an application being submitted online, or something similar, and the number of Councils was still to be determined. Mr. Stewart explained the two objectives of the Advisory Councils were to provide a broad range of stakeholders a venue to share their opinions and to recommend possible solutions to Colorado River challenges, and to ensure that the river commissioner and Board members understand various points of view and have access to a full suite of options and alternatives to address critical issues.

9. Public Comment Pursuant to the Public Comment Policy of the Authority (limit of 2 minutes per person)

- Fred Finlinson from Prep60 suggested the Board to contact individuals they believe would be appropriate to serve on the Advisory Councils because there's a tendency in the State of Utah for people not to apply but to be contacted by a Board and encouraged to apply.
- Nick Halberg with the Utah Rivers Council stated they recently published a report detailing the risks the upper basin faces. Mr. Halberg stated the main findings of this report have been vetted and upheld by experts across the Colorado River Basin, however they have been disappointed to see that many state officials have dismissed their reports. Mr. Halberg explained the main point of their report was that if overusing water and proposing additional Colorado River Diversions continues the state will soon find it very difficult to continue making the required deliveries and potentially face a curtailment scenario.

10. Law of the River: Colorado River 101 – Amy Haas

Mr. Shawcroft introduced the next item and as being a new standing agenda item. Ms. Haas explained the genesis of this agenda item was based on a request from several Board members

and to have a primer on the Law of the Colorado River, what we refer to as the Law of the River, which is shorthand for the compendium of laws, treaties, policies and regulations that govern the operation of the Colorado River and have grown up since the Colorado River Compact was signed 100 years ago this year. Ms. Haas added that today was an experiment of sorts to see whether this is a productive use of time during our regularly scheduled meetings, or if we should consider an alternative arrangement. Ms. Haas further mentioned it would take hours upon hours to satisfactorily cover the Law of the River so she has opted to cover various aspects of it in smaller pieces, beginning today with a summary of the 1922 Compact. Ms. Haas then provided a brief presentation on the 1922 Compact, along with several related PowerPoint slides.

11. Other Business

Mr. Renstrom mentioned he served on the Utah Tourism Board and they would hold their meetings throughout the state of Utah so they could learn more about different areas of the state. Mr. Renstrom requested that Authority Staff consider holding Board meetings in other locations within the state of Utah for this reason.

12. Next Meeting Date: February 17, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

13. Adjourn

Mr. Shawcroft asked if there was a motion to adjourn, which was made by Ms. Hasenyager and seconded by Mr. Renstrom. The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Attachment #1 – January 11, 2022 Attendee List

January 11, 2021

Colorado River Authority of Utah Board Meeting

Attendee List

Board Members: Gene Shawcroft, Brian Steed, Dan Larsen, Candice Hasenyager, Jay Humphrey, Zach Renstrom

In-Person Attendees:

Amy Haas, CRAU
Danny Schoenfeld, CRAU
Betsy Coleman, CRAU
Cody Stewart, CRAU
Lisa Anderson, CUWCD
Bart Leeflang, CUWCD
Scott McGettigan, Utah Water Resources
Sarah Larsen, UCRC
Chuck Cullom, UCRC
Fred Finlinson, Prep 60
Wendy Crowther, Utah Attorney General

Virtual Attendees:

Bryan Dixon
Calah Worthen
Colby Hartman
Dan Hartman
John Weisheit
Karry Rathje
Katrina Grantz
Kim Wells
Lexi Peery
Lindsey Hutchison
Lisa Rutherford
Malcolm Nash
Marcelle Shoop
Marcie Bainson
Megan Nelson
Nick Halberg
Norma Wills
Teresa Wilhelmsen
Todd Adams