

Colorado River Authority Advisory Councils



The Colorado River Authority of Utah (Authority) Advisory Councils present Utahns with a unique opportunity to engage and participate in critical discussions related to the Colorado River. These councils will serve as sources of advice and information for Authority leadership. Councils will be composed of engaged citizens, stakeholders, area and topical experts, and other Utahns who care deeply about the Colorado River. They will gather information, provide study and analysis, and serve as a deliberative forum for diverse points of view. While they will not officially speak for the Authority, council perspectives will help the Authority advise the River Commissioner and inform policymakers.

CHIEF OBJECTIVES

- 1) Provide a venue for a broad range of interested citizens to share opinions and recommend possible solutions to Colorado River challenges
- 2) Build trust and understanding between the Authority, stakeholders, and the public
- 3) Ensure the River Commissioner and the Authority Board have up-to-date information and consider a full suite of policy options as they address the critical issues facing the Colorado River

GEOGRAPHIC-BASED COUNCILS

After consultation with Authority staff and various stakeholders, we propose each Authority council be based on three geographic regions composed of the 17 counties mentioned in the founding statute. All the issues and challenges relevant to that specific council region would be within the purview of each council, although councils would not be limited in what they choose to discuss. The councils will be organized as follows:

NORTH - Salt Lake, Summit, Utah, Wasatch, Juab, Sanpete

CENTRAL - Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, Carbon, Emery, Grand

SOUTHERN - Washington, Garfield, Kane, Wayne, San Juan

COUNCIL PROTOCOLS

Each council will be composed of 7-9 members. Councils will meet at least four times each year, sometimes joining with other councils to ensure a cross pollination of ideas and viewpoints. Expectations and rules of decorum will be distributed to council members. Council members will be tasked with seeking practical outcomes and recommendations and to participate in good faith. Each council will also be provided with a template to structure feedback and facilitate consistent communication with the Authority Board.

PROPOSED TIMELINE (Subject to change):

4/21 – Board adopts geographic-based advisory councils’ plan

4/25 - Notice of advisory councils and solicitation for member applications

5/16-5/31 - Membership applications reviewed, and members appointed to councils

6/3 - Meeting notices and invitations sent to advisory council members

6/20–6/30 - First meetings scheduled for regional advisory councils

9/5-9/16 – Second regional advisory council meetings

12/2 – Regional co-chairs report to Authority at Board Meeting

ADVISORY COUNCIL GOVERNING RULE

This rule is established under the authority of the Colorado River Authority of Utah Act, Section 63M-14-209, to provide the general standards and procedures for the operation of the Colorado River Authority of Utah (“Authority”) Advisory Councils.

Advisory Council Membership.

- (1) There is created one or more Advisory Councils that shall consist of members representing a variety of Colorado River interests in the state of Utah.*
- (2) Advisory Councils will serve as a forum for civic engagement on the use, development, conservation, and protection of Utah’s Colorado River entitlement.*
- (3) Advisory Council Members may serve by appointment or by application.
 - (a) Each Advisory Council shall be governed by co-chairs, one selected by its membership and one selected by the Authority Board. The co-chairs will conduct meetings and present council recommendations to the Authority Board.*
 - (b) Authority staff shall provide administrative support to all Advisory Councils.**

Advisory Council Meetings.

- (1) Advisory Councils shall meet on dates and times as jointly determined by the co-chairs.*
- (2) Each Advisory Council shall:
 - (a) hear broad input, including recommendations, data and information regarding all matters affecting Utah’s Colorado River system water; and*
 - (b) make recommendations to the Authority Board in an advisory capacity.**