

Provo (7/18/2013) Breakout Session

Bob Morgan – Water Law

- Unhappy with past protection of irrigation water rights.
- Underfunded office of the State Engineer. Needs more work force to investigate water rights and issues related to water rights. Improved laws to protect water users and water rights. Not enough monitoring of people and their water use. Illegal uses occurring impacting senior water rights but nobody is stopping the construction of illegal ponds.
- Protect canals from canal infringement by land developers.
- Secondary water needs to be metered at the residential level to account for all water uses.
- Interested in the Ute Indian Tribe Compact.
- Better Water Law understanding for all citizens. Water law does not promote conservation. No reward for being more efficient in their delivery of water. Home owners, not near their storage reservoir, have little understanding of reservoir health, where their water comes from and the consequences of bad water practices
- Ability to sell saved water in Oregon.
- Remote sensing of consumptive use via landsat similar to Idaho.
- Over allocated areas and groundwater management plans. Compensation for water rights that are affected by the groundwater management plans.

Dennis Strong – Maintenance, Infrastructure & Funding

- As deterioration takes its toll on dams and canals over time, there should be a concerned about lack of help with maintenance and replacing infrastructure if grant and loan money goes away. If the governor wants these things to happen he is going to have to find the money. There needs to be a better way to get the funds from the people into the Development projects. Some way to get all of the people involved. One of the ways that can be accomplished is through some form of sales tax. Can we affect a change in the paradigm of how funding is achieved.
- Users can be made to pay for the water. How any funding program is presented to the public will determine whether or not it is accepted.
- In the east there are cities that have sold off a quarter of their bridges to private contractors so that tolls can be collected for funding. This privatization of infrastructure could be employed to fund water development. This is one method or tool that could be used but there are many other tool available to fund water supplies.
- There are also examples of Cities paying users for water conservation.
- I understand that Wyoming has over 6 million dollars in community impact funds at their disposal. Utah does have community impact board funds but they are restricted to development of M&I projects.
- Federal funding originally dedicated for water development has be reduced or eliminated in recent years. The Utah State legislature has to step up and fill the void created by the Federal Government's backing off from water development.
- Federal funds are still available for drinking water development, but generally speaking the regulatory requirements associated with those funds result in an increased total project cost. Is there a way to get at the federal money in grants that do not include all the regulations?

Tage Flint – Delivery and Water Efficiency

- Work with groundwater drilling and pumping in Utah, Nevada & Colorado. We may be in a drought right now, but give us two wet years and we'll have more water than we know what to do with.
- Isotoping water. Their website uses USGS to track groundwater and he feels we are not mining the groundwater. The groundwater levels are connected to precipitation. We sees wells come back to historic levels after a good water year.
- Conservation in the Nephi area just means more water into Utah Lake.
- Groundwater injection can work well, almost did it in Nephi, but main proponent passed away.
- They are doing groundwater recharge in Weber Co.
- Salt water is old groundwater – this is what drillers typically say.
- Groundwater injection can save us from having to build new reservoirs.
- When an aquifer drops 5 feet, everyone pays more, raising groundwater levels saves everybody money.
- Great Salt Lake needs to maintain its water level too. People are seeing the benefits to Great Salt Lake.
- Cooperation among all groups is more difficult nowadays than it was back when much of these water systems were built.
- Do your water rights homework before building a project so that you will know you can use the saved water.
- It is a shame to conserve water and then not have the water right to use it.
- We are now seeing meters that can work in dirty secondary water.
- Can treat water for 1 cent per gallon.
- Plan to be able to treat salt water in next two years.

Tim Hawks – Water and the Environment

- Everyone (farmers, environmentalists, etc.) needs to work together.
- Enclosing canals 90-110 million dollars. Find creative ways to fund projects.
- Farmers are caretakers of the water until it is needed for municipal use.
- Instream flows are important and it is short sighted to take every drop out of the streams. Messing with the ecology is dangerous and the water quality depends on water in the streams. It is frustrating that when a landowner has extra water they can't just leave it in the stream.
- Water rights laws needs to change.
- Motivate conservation in agriculture. Farmers need funding to conserve.
- Financial burden shouldn't just fall on the upstream farmers when the benefits of the conservation go downstream. Water banking.

Mike Styler for Warren Peterson – Water for Agriculture

- Our package treatment plant can provide water for about \$0.005 per gallon. We are not quite to the point of reverse osmosis, but getting close. We can take GSL water and get it down to 1,700 ppm TDS. Our technology can be used for any purpose.
- What percent of our Colorado River Water allocation are we using?

- We are letting our water go down the river to be used by others. We need to put every drop to use in Utah. We need to protect our ability to grow food. We need to preserve water to produce our own food.
- We need to make it possible financially for agricultural water users to benefit from water conservation that they implement.
- We need to make it possible for the farmer to partnership with a municipality to take some of the water savings so the ditch doesn't dry up, etc. That way the farmer can remain profitable.
- Farmers and municipalities need to be able to work within a cooperative environment to make progress. We need to get away from the use it or lose it policies that exist today. Farmers don't have much incentive in today's environment to implement conservation practices.
- We feel vulnerable to canal safety issues due to the high cost to pipe our canal, etc. There is a need to fix it ahead of time before it becomes a problem.
- When agricultural water is converted to M&I, the municipalities want to get all the water without a haircut and what is going on with the legislature now is headed toward that. And they don't want it subject to depletion limits or forfeiture for nonuse. We need to not let the legislature change water law at all. Existing laws have protected agricultural interests well.
- WGA just put out a report on water transfers and how to maintain agricultural economies in the process of transferring water.
- We need to do a better job with water measurement. It is a real challenge to deal with water issues appropriately when we really don't know how much water is available.
- Our friends to the north do thermal sensing to estimate water use and keep on top of it over very short time frames.

Voneene Jorgensen – Competition for Water

- The NSA building near camp Williams is reported to use 1.7MGD of water. Where is this water coming from? This could supply 6,000 single family homes at the current usage rate.
- Competition from neighboring states for Utah's water. We need to protect our water rights and use water in Utah. What are the competing uses for water and is there a weighted priority system for competing values? What is the human right to water? Some view water as human right rather than a commodity. Protect Utah water rights and keep the water here. Everything that competes for water probably has a legitimate claim on it, what values most often win in the competition for water?
- Small groups can own large amounts of water such as irrigation companies, could these groups sell their water out of an area or the state?
- Should those who use the water pay the full cost of the water or should we all pay some of the costs since we all benefit from its uses in a similar manner that we all benefit from the highway system?
- Heard that Strawberry water being used in Salt Lake City, we need to protect agriculture from water transfers.
- Can the federal government buy any water they want? Is Utah letting other states use their water through mismanagement?