

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE WATER FINANCE BOARD

Thursday, July 20, 2017

1:30 p.m.

Kletting Room, Senate Building, 350 North State Street

Members Present:

Phil Dean, Chairman

Evan Curtis

David Damschen

Juliette Tennert

Jon Bronson

Laura Briefer

Eric Millis

Staff Present:

Miranda Jones, Finance Specialist

Chair Phil Dean called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions**
- 2. Adoption of Rules**

Motion: Phil Dean recommended that the board work under legislative committee rules. Treasurer Damschen moved that the board adopt the committee rules. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0-0.

- 3. Review Executive Order**

Chair Dean reviews Governor Gary Herbert's Executive Finance Water Board Executive Order. Mentions that the board should review both the demand for water and supply of water funding, including financing mechanisms.

Jon Bronson and the board discussed the possibility of new water data, and Eric Millis discussed the current RFP's for water data. Chair Dean mentions that he would like water data to be a future study topic.

Chair Dean mentions that the board should study the current state funding of entities, State and Federal funding, wastewater, and a comprehensive state financial water funding policy. Chair Dean asks that the board take a broad approach to what has been tasked.

Members of the board ask for the Legislative Research and General Counsel's water briefing paper.

- 4. Consideration of Board Study Topics**
 - a. Demand for Water**

Chair Dean asks that Pam Perlich, from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute present to the group about newly released state and county population projections.

The board discussed valuing water appropriately, such as comprehensive water rate analysis. The board also mentioned that Weber Basin Water Conservancy District has begun efforts to meter secondary water.

Various issues were raised associated with water rates, including possible statutory changes.

User fees and subsidizing, conservation, and price elasticity were mentioned and proposed to discuss further. Juliette Tennert mentioned market incentives for water, in a public vs. a traditional market.

b. Water Supply

The board discussed the potential timelines for the Lake Powell Pipeline and Bear River and other projects, and discussed possible federal funding for projects.

Laura briefer discussed decreasing volume trends in canyons and streams including water quality impairments. Evan Curtis discussed groundwater issues.

3. Other Items/adjourn

The board asks for additional reading material before the next meeting.

The next meetings of the Executive Water Finance Board are scheduled for Friday, August 4th at 9:00 a.m., and Tuesday August 22nd at 12:30 p.m.

Motion: David Damschen moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-0.