

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE WATER FINANCE BOARD

Friday, August 4, 2017

9:00 a.m.

Kletting Room, Senate Building, 350 North State Street

Members Present:

Phil Dean, Chairman

David Damschen

Eric Millis

Jon Bronson

Laura Briefer

Members Absent:

Evan Curtis

Juliette Tennert

Staff Present:

Miranda Jones, Finance Specialist

Chair Phil Dean called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of minutes**

Motion: Laura Briefer motioned to approve the minutes from Thursday, July 20. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0-2.

3. **Recommended State Water Strategy**

Phil Dean tasks the committee with Governor Herbert's directive to conduct an extensive review of the Recommended State Water Strategy Report, and is to be further explored at a future meeting.

4. **Review of Previous Water Studies**

a. **Performance Audit of Projections of Utah's Water Needs**

Jim Behunin from the Legislative Auditor General's office of the State of Utah spoke to the water performance audit and the data issues surrounding their findings, including poor data inputs, high per-capita use, metering, property tax pricing policies, pricing structures, block rate structures, and local vs. state bonding. He indicated that the Division of Water Resources had made reasonable progress addressing the concerns.

The Committee discussed necessary and discretionary use, revenue stability, and rate studies of local entities.

Ron Thompson from the Washington County Water Conservancy District mentioned data issues surrounding vacation and secondary homes.

Phil Dean discussed property taxes as they currently finance water.

b. **LRGC Briefing Paper – How Utah Water Works and GOMB Water Study**

Phil Dean briefly addressed key provisions within each paper.

5. Population Projections

Pam Perlich, Director of Demographic Research at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah presented on Utah's Long-Term Demographic and Economic Projections Summary.

Phil and Pam discussed reliable daytime population estimates and county/sub-county estimates.

6. Water Use Data Overview

Eric Millis, division director of Utah's Division of Water Resources discussed how the division is working to address the data concerns within the performance audit. These included moving to annual data reporting, as well as new conservation goals per basin.

Questions were raised regarding the amount of variability in data over a single year.

7. Other Items/adjourn

The next meeting of the Executive Water Finance Board is scheduled for Tuesday August 22nd at 12:30 p.m.

Motion: David Damschen moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0-2.