

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
**Colorado River Authority of Utah**  
**March 13, 2025 --8:00 a.m. MDT**

1. **Call to Order – Gene Shawcroft, Chair**

Mr. Shawcroft called the meeting to order at 9:00 am stating there was a quorum. Board members briefly introduced themselves and Executive Director Amy Haas introduced Colorado River Authority of Utah staff. Attendee names were read aloud by Holly McCall. A list of attendees is included in Attachment I.

2. **Public Comment Pursuant to the Public Comment Policy of the Authority (limit of 2 minutes per person) – Gene Shawcroft**

There were no public comments.

3. **Consideration of approval of Utah Demand Management Pilot Program Projects for 2025 – Lily Bosworth, Staff Engineer**

Mr. Shawcroft explained the purpose of the meeting was for Board action on the project recommendations for the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program (DMPP), originally discussed at the February 13, 2025, Special Board Meeting, and that the Board had previously received a comprehensive report on DMPP, including the application and scoring process.

Ms. Bosworth reviewed three project types for the 2025-26 DMPP: Partial or full season temporary fallowing, \$390 per acre foot of conserved consumptive use; Irrigation system conversions, \$150 per acre foot of conserved consumptive use; and Storage forbearance or lease change projects, \$150 per acre foot of conserved consumptive use. Conserved consumptive use was estimated by Jacobs Engineering Group for all applications.

Ms. Bosworth explained 27 applications were received for a proposed 22,924 acre feet of estimated conserved consumptive use and up to \$6,502,080 in compensation for 2025. Ms. Bosworth described the breakdown of applications received and their locations.

Ms. Bosworth explained the recommendations were based on project scores, available budget, maximizing the impact of funds, program objectives, and relationship building, and the Board could take a different approach to selection than the staff proposed.

Ms. Bosworth explained the options recommended for selection of temporary fallowing projects:

- **Option A (Preferred):** Combine Southeast tributary number one canal shares applications into one pilot project for two years, estimated 4,917 acre feet of depletion reduction, \$1,917,630 in compensation.
- **Option B (Update, Refined, and Preferred):** Select the single highest scoring East Green River region application for two years, estimated 4,454 acre feet of depletion reduction, \$1,737,060 in compensation. Ms. Bosworth explained this recommendation was updated due to a clerical error from the previous Board meeting, and to bring the project into budget in advance of that day's meeting.
- **Option C:** Select the single highest scoring Southeast Green River application over two years, estimated maximum 5,616 acre feet of depletion reduction, maximum

\$2,190,240 in compensation. Ms. Bosworth explained this is not a preferred option in the final budget.

Ms. Bosworth discussed the Storage Forbearance recommended option and explained the first part would combine Southeast tributary number one applications into one pilot project for two years, potentially saving up to 4,000 acre feet with up to \$600,000 in total compensation. 1,055 acre feet and \$158,250 is certain for this project, and more may be added. Ms. Bosworth discussed the second part which was to select the East tributary number one application estimated to conserve up to 4,500-acre feet per year with no compensation requested.

Ms. Bosworth discussed the overall DMPP budget. \$5 million is being targeted for the program through June 30, 2027 and that approximately \$4.2 million is recommended across 2025 and 2026 based on the presented options. Ms. Bosworth explained consultant expenses are separate from the \$5 million project budget and there will be remaining funds of approximately \$745,000 for another program cycle for 2026 allowing for the potential selection of projects above upstream reservoirs and geographic expansion.

Ms. Bosworth summarized the Q&A from the previous board meeting.

- **Shepherding Water Without an Approved Change Application** – Ms. Bosworth explained that for 2025, while change applications will be required to be submitted and defended, Division of Water Rights will not have the authority to proactively shepherd water without approved change applications. Ms. Bosworth explained that measurement will be crucial in the first year to understand water flow through the system and identify key shepherding points. Ms. Bosworth explained approved change applications will be a requirement for projects continuing into the 2026 irrigation season.
- **Water Loss to the System** – Ms. Bosworth explained the amount of water lost between the project location and Lake Powell needs to be learned through the pilot program.
- **Risk of Not Producing Maximum Potential Volume** – Ms. Bosworth explained the Authority will accept the risk of low water yields in dry years for participants and compensate them for committed actions, quantifying the conserved volume at the end of the season.
- **Coordination with Water Companies** – Ms. Bosworth explained all applicants who were shareholders in a company holding water rights were required to have a letter from their water company to apply, and coordination is ongoing.
- **Upstream Storage** – Ms. Bosworth explained no high-scoring applications were received above reservoirs for 2025 due to the voluntary nature of the program and limitations on carrying water over year-to-year in many reservoirs.
- **Warren Act Compliance** – Ms. Bosworth and Ms. Haas explained this was not required for 2025 but would need to be addressed for upstream storage projects with Warren Act requirements in later years.

Ms. Hasenyager inquired about additional measurement on diversion structures and Ms. Bosworth explained the Authority is working with the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) to develop a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funded diversion measurement program for Utah and is coordinating with United States Geological Survey (USGS) for

temporary gauges funded through BIL. Ms. Bosworth explained measurement capability was part of the scoring criteria for recommended projects.

Ms. Haas clarified that the pilot projects are exclusively state-funded and the Authority will not exhaust the appropriation received in 2025.

Mr. Ferry sought clarification on how the proposed options totaled \$4.2 million and Ms. Bosworth explained it included Option A (\$1.9 million), Option B (\$1.7 million per year), and the storage option (up to \$600,000 over two years), noting that Option C was not a preferred option in the final budget.

Ms. Hasenyager inquired about coordination with Water Rights on installing diversion structures. Ms. Bosworth stated that for 2025, temporary USGS gauges are planned in coordination with Water Rights regional staff to identify useful data points. Ms. Bosworth explained long-term measurement needs will be determined through the change application process and Water Rights decisions. Mr. Stilson added that BIL-funded projects will require instrumentation compatible with Water Rights' system for reporting.

Mr. Ferry requested more detail on the storage forbearance recommendation. Ms. Bosworth explained that applications were received from both individual shareholders and the reservoir company. Ms. Bosworth explained the recommendation trims the reservoir company's request, and the 1,055 acre-feet per year is a known quantity from individual shareholder applications. Ms. Bosworth explained the range in the recommendation allows flexibility to include more shareholders if they come forward, up to the \$300,000 compensation limit per year.

Mr. Ferry made a motion to direct staff to pursue the recommended preferred projects, subject to successful negotiation of contracts and submittal of change applications, including terms for termination if change applications are not approved. Mr. Ferry explained the motion also directs staff to limit expenditures to remain well under the legislative appropriation and to work closely with Water Rights on measurement as appropriate to ensure DMPP's objectives are met. Mr. Larson seconded the motion and discussion ensued regarding the timeline for change application approval and the associated risks for producers.

Ms. Coleman performed a roll call:

Mr. Larsen: Yes

Mr. Ferry: Yes

Mr. Renstrom: Nay

Mr. Shawcroft: Yes

Ms. Hasenyager: Yes

Mr. Humphrey: Yes

The motion passed.

#### 4. **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Larsen and seconded by Ms. Hasenyager. The Special Board meeting was adjourned at 8:45 am.

**March 13, 2025**  
**Colorado River Authority of Utah Special Board Meeting – Virtual Only**

**Board Member Attendees:**

Gene Shawcroft, Chair  
Joel Ferry, Vice Chair  
Candice Hasenyager  
Jay Mark Humphrey  
Dan Larsen  
Zach Renstrom

**Attendees:**

Amy Haas, CRAU  
Betsy Coleman, CRAU  
Betsy Morgan, CRAU  
Lily Bosworth, CRAU  
Holly McCall, CRAU  
Marc Stilson, CRAU  
Logan Anderson, CRAU  
Bart Leeftang, CUWCD  
Brian Andrew, Hansen, Allen & Luce, Inc.  
Ethan Smith, Smith Hartvigsen, PLLC  
Scott McGettigan, Water Resources  
Teresa Wilhelmsen, Utah State Engineer  
Joshua Ward, Bowen Collins  
Gordon Rowe, Assistant Attorney General  
Ed Mueller, Utah Deputy State Water Agent  
Calhan Worthen, Jacobs Engineering  
Avan Thayn  
Brad Bunderson  
Nick Sampinos  
Morgan Freeman  
John Sampinos  
Diane Branham  
Michael Drake  
William Butcher  
Kent Raim  
Brad Bunderson