

Utah Water Users Association
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UTAH WATER USERS ASSOCIATION

October 25, 2015
Utah Water Users Association
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Editor: Carly B. Burton

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Ivan Ray

Early this year, prior to water season, many water users, including farmers, municipalities, ditch companies, water districts, and associations were worried about having enough water to make it through the summer irrigation season, including secondary water users and municipalities. Thanks to mother nature in May and June and again in August and September significant moisture came in the form of rain throughout the State of Utah, more predominantly in southern Utah. Unfortunately some areas received significant flooding from the Monsoon Storms and thunder showers. Most of the reservoir storage facilities were managed during this period of time to maximize conservation in order to increase carryover possibilities at the end of the water season. I am sure that water managers throughout the state appreciate the personal conservation efforts made by the public and all water users for this water season.

This year is the beginning for development of a 'Statewide Water Infrastructure Plan' called "Prepare 60 Securing Utah's Economic Future". There will be several meetings held with water managers throughout the various regions and water drainage basins in the state. The purpose of Prepare 60 is many fold. The purpose of prepare 60 is to make sure that ample water supplies are available for agriculture and population increases to the year 2060 and beyond through balanced planning, conservation, and investment in infrastructure. The State of Utah currently has a population of nearly three million

people.

It is projected that in the next forty five years that population will double. Similarly, agriculture uses for land will be converted to residential living in many areas. In order to accommodate these changes and still provide ample water supplies for both agriculture and M&I needs the State of Utah has developed a special commission to oversee, educate, and inform the public, water managers, and legislature officials about water needs, infrastructure repairs and improvements, the needs for conservation, and additional infrastructure necessary for future water plans. You can become involved and learn more through the "Prepare 60" web site; www.prep60.com. The leadership and efforts of this special commission will benefit all types of water users and help in planning and implementation for the best water conservation practices, and necessary development needs. Keep in mind three things: 1. Utah is the second driest state in the nation, 2. Utah has experienced several drought years in the past two decades, including temperatures warmer on average than normal, and 3. Utah's population is growing.

Most of the conferences that are sponsored by the Utah Water Users' Association Board of Directors in 2015 and 2016 will be oriented toward water planning for the future. The Water Summit on October 27, 2015, "Beginning a New Era for Utah's Water" to be held at the Utah Valley Convention Center, 220 West Center Street, Provo, Utah will include information relating to financing requirements, conservation measures that can be implemented, and water supply developments.

The Utah Water Users' Association Board of Directors wish to thank you for your support, comments made, recommendations for consideration, and consciousness for helping preserve Utah's precious water supply now and into the future.

WATER OUTLOOK

By Randy Julander

And here is the Cliff Notes version of the past water year 2015: it was a bust. The long version isn't much better – no snow, no flow, impending doom but saved to some extent by May and July precipitation. When you look back, it could have been so much worse – May and July were remarkable in the duration, extent and amount of rainfall which rescued a lot of forage and small grain production as well as allowing us to retain water in our reservoirs. Considering that streamflow was as low as it was, Utah is only down 3% of reservoir storage (52% vs 55%) compared to where we were in October of 2014. That is truly remarkable – given April 1 snow packs in many cases less than 25% of normal and resultant stream flows that were equally low. Looking forward to water year 2016 there is a pretty good probability that southern Utah will have an above average year due to strong El Nino conditions. Central and northern Utah are in less predictable conditions and could go any direction. Soil moisture conditions are near normal across the state. Some areas have exceptionally low reservoir storage: Upper Sevier, Lower Sevier, San Pitch and the Price River basins. We are looking forward to a great water year and hopeful there will be snow aplenty across the entire state.

WHAT'S THE WINTER LOOKING LIKE?

National Weather Service

By Brian McInerney

On Monday, September 14th around 1pm a thunderstorm formed over Mojave County, Arizona. This storm and others forming in the area tracked in a north by northeast direction heading for Southern Utah. They were moving fast, and all were being monitored by National Weather Service Forecasters. Unsaid communication by those

studying the cells indicated these storms warranted continued observation, but were not out of the ordinary for this time and place. Salt Lake City Forecasters had been tracking thunderstorms and flash floods since May and were seasoned in the ways of desert thunderstorm activity.

As the storms tracked northeast, two cells began to merge. This was noted by the staff and the energy of the room picked up a notch. If the storms combined, they would intensify in this very moist and dynamic airmass.

The National Weather Service radar requires about 5 minutes to complete a total scan of the atmosphere. In that 5 minutes, the images are continually looped back from about 30 minutes. During that time, the forecaster is trying to find nuances of the storm that may reveal how powerful and dangerous the storm may be in the future. When a new scan arrives, additional information is pieced into the puzzle.

The two thunderstorms merged, forming one. The lone storm now bore down on the town of Hildale/Colorado City. This area is well known to Salt Lake City personal as it's an incredibly flash flood prone area. Steep slopes descend directly into the town. Vegetation is scarce and sandstone underlies a very shallow soil layer, if any.

At 2:22 pm, a flash flood warning was issued and calls to Washington County and Hildale Dispatch was made. Around 3pm, the flash flood hit.

Unfortunately, two additional cells south of the Utah/Arizona border picked up energy as they too merged into a single massive thunderstorm and targeted the now flash flood affected small town.

This cell was incredibly powerful but also traveling very fast. It raced through the headwater areas of Hildale. This small 2 square mile drainage where vegetation is scarce, and impenetrable sandstone falls away in an incredible steep gradient was inundated with massive amounts of rainfall.

The storm only resided over the small town for approximately 15 minutes. But it was enough. The second flash flood roared through the town leaving devastation.

This same cell tracked North with the same intensity and moved through Zion

National Park about an hour later. As a result, 21 souls lost their lives that day.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

CORNER

By Carly Burton

I am very happy to introduce our newest member of the Association. Electrical Consultants, Inc. provides a wide range of electrical, land acquisition, renewable energy and environmental services throughout the west. A detailed summary of their services is shown below. You will be seeing more of their firm at the Utah Water Users Workshop in 2016.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are a few important dates coming up so mark them on your calendar.

Oct. 27 - Utah Water Summit in Provo

Nov. 4-6 - Assoc. of Special District in Provo

Nov. 4-6 - NWRA (National) in Denver

Nov. 16-19 - AWRA (National) in Denver

Nov. 18-20 - Utah Farm Bureau/Layton

Dec. 16-18 - Colorado River Water/Vegas

Feb. 29 - March 4, 2016 - RWU/St. George

March 14, 2016 - Legal Seminar/ St. George

March 14-16, 2016 - Utah Water Users

Workshop/ St. George

UPDATE OF NON-PROFIT STATUS OF MUTUAL IRRIGATION COMPANIES

Recently we sent a letter to Senator Orrin Hatch to express our appreciation for congressional legislation of the Water & Agriculture Tax Reform Act of 2015. This Act is very important because it will allow hundreds of Utah Mutual Irrigation & Ditch Companies to meet increasing operation and maintenance costs and funding improvements without jeopardizing their non-profit status under Section 501(c)(12) of the IRS code. We will keep you posted on developments.

ELECTRICAL CONSULTANTS, INC.

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Electrical Consultants Inc. (ECI) was founded in 1985 and is a leading electrical engineering consulting firm located in Woods Cross, Utah offering a wide range of utility/industrial power delivery ranging

from T&D system designs from 600 volt through 500 kV, as well as hydro generation, wind, solar, water/pipeline land acquisition. ECI's Electrical Planning, Land Services, Survey and Environmental group are an integral part of ECI's whole-team approach in providing a seamless transition to the planning, design, permitting and construction phases of our projects.

POWER DELIVERY ENGINEERING

Generation/Transmission Switchyards

Transmission & Distribution Substations

Gas Insulated & Line Comp & SVC Stations

T&D ENGINEERING

Overhead HV/EHV PLS-CADD f Based T-Design

Wood, Steel, Concrete & Hybrid Pole Design

Lattice Tower Analysis & Application

Underground Transmission thru 345 kV

OH/UG - 5 kV to 34.5 kV

SYSTEM ANALYSIS and STUDIES

Feasibility & Economic Studies

Construction & Long Range Studies

LAND & SURVEY SERVICES

Initial Ownership Research & Due Diligence

Right-of-Way Feasibility Studies

Permitting – City/County/Government

Acquisition-Hydro, O&G/Water Pipeline, Wind,

Solar, T&D, Trail Systems, Communications

Corridor Acquisition Support

Lattice Tower Layout & T-line Staking

Aerial, LIDAR & 3D Scanning

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Project Development

Feasibility Studies, System Impact & Studies

Substation & Transmission Design

Wind/Solar OH/UG Collection Design

Wind Turbine Grounding

Utility Scale Battery Storage

COMMUNICATIONS

Teleprotection & Telemetry

SCADA Specification, Design & Integration

ISP/OSP

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Siting and Permitting, Public Process Serv.

Environmental Studies, Mitigation/Compliance
