

October 23, 2007

**Utah Water Users Association
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Editor: Carly B. Burton**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Randy Crozier

Fellow water users. As many of you are probably aware, this has been an extremely dry summer with huge impacts to many agricultural producers throughout the state, with some areas being impacted much more severely than others. This drought year has only emphasized more strongly the need for continued water conservation and the need for development of additional storage facilities throughout the state! May we join together as water users to work together in the development of additional water projects.

As many are aware, the fire season throughout the state has impacted critical watersheds, not only for loss of vegetation, but also for water quality-related issues. I would like to commend the State of Utah, federal government agencies, and our congressional delegation for their assistance in the re-seeding that is taking place on many of the burned areas throughout the state. We are deeply appreciative of their efforts.

The Utah Water Users Association Board of Directors held our September board meeting in Logan and were in agreement to oppose House legislation HR 2421 (Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007) sponsored by James Oberstar (D-MN) and proposed companion Senate legislation SB1870 (Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007) sponsored by Senator Russ Feingold (D-WIS). These bills would expand federal jurisdiction over "...all interstate and intrastate waters and their tributaries, including lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, natural ponds, and all impoundments of the foregoing..." and undermine state rights. We have sent letters in opposition to these two bills to our congressional delegation in both the House and the

Senate and would encourage you to read the proposed legislation and express your concerns, also to encourage your county commissioners to do likewise.

Also as many of you are aware, our state legislature is looking into ways to change the forfeiture law to allow municipalities exemptions in certain areas. As the Board of Directors met there was not a consensus as to whether to support or oppose the forfeiture legislation. We would strongly encourage all of you to take the time to investigate the issues and become involved in the process in order that legislation beneficial to all water users might be developed.

As President I extend a personal invitation to each of you to attend the Utah Water Summit to be held in Layton on December 4th. The main topic of the conference will be global warming so it should be a very interesting conference. I look forward to seeing you there!

WATER OUTLOOK

By: Randy Julander

Another hot, long, dry and miserable (my own editorial opinion) summer. Thinking back, how could it not remind me of all that time spent in the third grade? But there is a silver lining in every dark cloud and given sufficient irrigation, there was more time for growing crops. In a more pessimistic view, every silver lining has a dark cloud and that cloud is the fact that reservoir storage has taken a distinct hit this summer in some areas of the state. October 1 reservoir levels as a percent of capacity are: Bear-19%, Weber-32%, Provo-75%, Duchesne-75%, Southeast Utah-39%, Sevier-32%, Southwest Utah-59%. Back to that silver lining - the past few weekends, in fact, five weekends straight there have been pretty good storms. (I know because it started with the antelope hunt, went to the elk hunt and has now concluded with the deer hunt with every weekend a storm - Julander 0, Elk 1, Deer 1, Antelope hah! Got im)

The net result of these storms has been a significant increase in soil moisture. Values have doubled and tripled what they were at the end of summer and are now between 25% and 75% of saturation. Many sites are in the 50% range which is pretty healthy for this time of year. All those storms have even generated some snow in the mountains - in northern Utah they range from 80% of average up to about 175%. It's very early in the year, but it is better to score early and often than late to never as my poor Aggies of Utah State are apparently doing. Again, Southern Utah is not fairing nearly as well in the snowpack category with current levels at 10% to 50% of average. So, what might be in the future for this water year? When asked that question, my prediction is always the same - we will have snow, it will be white and cold and I haven't been wrong yet. However - we currently have a "La Nina" condition - the opposite of the all purpose excuse for broken forecasts, El Nino or a cooling of waters off the equatorial Pacific. When this condition sets up, 80% to 90% of the historical events have produced very dry conditions in southern Utah, Richfield south. Northern Utah typically has had a 60% to 70% probability of at least average or above snowpacks. This does not bode well for Southern Utah as reservoir conditions there are pretty low and the message at this point would be to conserve every drop this winter and spring. Now, there you have it, and remember that it will cost a dollar to enter the winter prediction pool. Dollars may be sent in unmarked bills to the Julander winter prediction pool. Let's hope and pray, as we do every year at this time, for a good snow year.

**STATUS OF RESERVOIRS OPERATED BY
THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
By Ed Vidmar**

**Provo Area Office Reservoir
Status for end of WY 2007**

As the irrigation season winds down, most of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs have reached their minimum elevations for the season and are beginning to fill back up. It is anticipated that for those reservoirs which continue to drop, irrigation demands will soon end, at which point the water storage will begin to slowly rebound throughout the fall and winter. The following values are as of September 30, 2007.

<u>Duchesne River</u>	<u>% Of Full Capacity</u>
Strawberry	80
Currant Creek	96
Starvation	58
Upper Stillwater	5
Moon Lake	0 (repairs)
Red Fleet	62
Steinaker	35
<u>Price/San Rafael River</u>	
Scofield	19 (spillway repairs)
Joes Valley	63
Huntington North	0 (repairs)
<u>Weber River</u>	
Pineview	30
Causey	30
Echo	18
Lost Creek	57
Rockport	49
East Canyon	52
Willard Bay	24 (repairs)
<u>Provo River</u>	
Deer Creek	31 (restriction)
Jordanelle	75
<u>Bear River</u>	
Hyrum	15
Newton	22
<u>Wyoming</u>	
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**MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS CORNER
By Carly Burton**

LeRoy Hooton Retirement

After 49 years in the water business LeRoy Hooton has decided to retire. LeRoy's amazing career was spent working for the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, the last 30 years as director. LeRoy also served as a board member on our Association for over 20 years as well as serving on numerous other water boards. Among other accomplishments, LeRoy was responsible for implementing the Wasatch Front Watershed Protection Program which greatly improved drinking water quality for the benefit of the residents of Salt Lake City. He was also instrumental at maintaining city sewer rates among the lowest in the nation.

Jeff Niermeyer has been named as LeRoy's replacement by Mayor Rocky Anderson. Jeff brings a wealth of experience and the Association looks forward to a long and productive relationship with Jeff and the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities. LeRoy

leaves a great legacy in the water community. We will always be in his debt for his vision and accomplishments and we wish him much happiness in his retirement years.

Annual Awards For 2008 Water Users Workshop

This is a reminder that if you have any individuals in your organization that are worthy of recognition for their work in the water community, call Roy Watts, Awards Chairman at (801)825-9744 or e-mail at roy@roywater.com.

The awards are as follows; Water Statesman of the Year, Life Service Award, and Annual Distinguished Service Award. The biographies should be sent to the committee for consideration. It is very gratifying to receive one of these awards, and I would encourage you to let us know who you think deserves an award.

Utah Water Summit

This is a final notice of the Utah Water Summit Conference. The conference will be held on December 4, 2007 at the Davis Convention Center located at 800 West Heritage Park Blvd. In Layton, Utah. Take the I-15 Antelope Drive Exit 332. Drive east to 700 West. Turn right on 700 West and follow the road about one half mile to the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center.

The theme this year is "Climate Change and Global Warming - Challenge to Water Users". We have an exceptional agenda this year which is shown below.

Climate Change - The Latest Science & Impacts In The West

Andrea Ray, Ph.D - NOAA

Impacts of Drought on Rangelands & Watersheds

Dick Buehler - Utah Fire Forestry & State Lands

Water Conservation - Future Impacts

Kelly Kopp, Ph.D - Utah State University

Lunch - Keynote Speaker

Lt. Governor Gary Herbert - (invited)

What Can Water Users Do To Prepare For Climate Change?

Tage Flint - Weber Basin, Steve Schnoor -Kennecott
Richard Bay - Jordan Valley, Keith Denos - Provo River
Water Users

Government Perspectives On Climate Change

Bruce Barnett - USBR, Dennis Strong - Water Resources,
Jeff Neirmeyer - Salt Lake City

Impacts Of Extended Drought On The Colorado River

Tom Ryan - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Water Outlook - Historical Perspectives & Trends

Randy Julander - NRCS, Brian McInerney - NOAA

If you haven't received a brochure in the mail you can simply fill in this registration form and mail to us. The registration form is also posted on our website at www.utahwaterusers.com.

**Registration Form
Fourteenth Annual Utah Water Summit
Davis Convention Center
Hilton Garden Inn
(801)416-8888**

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Preference for lunch: Pot Roast Halibut

Please return a \$75 registration fee for each participant. The fee will include your choice of lunch, continental breakfast, two breaks and free parking. Make your checks payable to:

**Utah Water Users Association
5047 S. Galleria Drive
Murray, Utah 84123**

Return this registration form by November 19th. If you have any questions, call Carly Burton at (801)268-3065 or cell (801)560-2533.
