

Agenda Item: Environmental Committee reporting item

Background: During the January 23, 2018 Environmental Committee meeting, the committee developed an objectives summary that represented the spectrum of responsibility assigned to the Environmental Committee. These objectives correlate with the District's overall mission statement. The board finalized the following Environmental Mission Statement in February 2018.

Environmental Mission Statement

Actively promote the long term, sustainable development and wise use of water, energy and other resources under the stewardship of the Metropolitan Water District through conserving water and energy, protecting water quality and the watershed and assuring regulatory and environmental compliance. All actions will take into consideration the relevant goals and activities of the member cities, associated districts, and the state.

On an annual basis, the District will provide an update on efforts to support the objectives of the Environmental Mission Statement. Overall, the District has been very active in supporting these objectives. The following is an explanation of these efforts in 2018.

Water and Energy Conservation

Support water conservation and best management practices for energy and water conservation

- Support our member cities' implementation of effective water conservation measures
 1. Participate in the Utah State University water audits program
 - *District continued to support the Utah State University (USU) Water Audits program during 2018.*
 2. Support member cities' conservation programs
 - *Support of member cities' conservation programs was through the USU Water Audits program and Water Week, which took place in May.*
 3. Participate in the Governor's Water Conservation Team
 - *District has re-engaged with the Governor's Water Conservation Team. Annalee is the District representative on this team. A "Slow the Flow" strategic planning meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2018 to discuss goals and objectives for 2019.*
 4. Implement the District's water conservation plan
 - *The District's Water Conservation Plan was adopted in December 2005. In December 2010, the water conservation plan was updated. Recommended updates to the plan were considered in 2015 but have not been finalized. The District is not required to have a water conservation plan unless it is applying for grants funds that would support a conservation program. Effective utilization of and future updates to the*

District's plan will be evaluated and considered at an upcoming Environmental Committee meeting.

5. Provide annual Utah Lake System reporting
 - *Since 2000, the District has tracked per capita water use which documents conservation performance by the District and its member cities. This information is used to track the District's progress in meeting the State conservation goals of a 12.5% water use reduction by 2020 and a 25% water use reduction by 2050. The trend line of actual conservation is below the state conservation goals. The District completed its annual conservation report and submitted it to Central Utah Water Conservancy District in April.*
- Implement effective supply-side conservation measures
 1. Promote effective long-term planning
 - *District has engaged Bowen Collins & Associates to complete a comprehensive update to its water supply and demand study. Salt Lake City and Sandy City are involved in similar efforts with the same consultant. The District is coordinating efforts with the member cities. The updated plan is scheduled to be finalized by the end of 2018.*
 2. Plan and participate in Aquifer Storage and Recovery efforts
 - *Consistent with the District's Fiscal and Budget policy, when revenue is available, the District has contributed to the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Reserve fund. The current fund balance is \$1,688,904.79. The District will be discussing potential updates to the ASR implementation plan and schedule with its member cities.*
- Adopt best management practices for energy and water conservation at all District lands, properties, and facilities
 1. Implement the District's Energy Management Plan
 - *The District will evaluate and consider the development of renewable energy sources, such as solar, either as independent capital improvement projects, or in conjunction with the implementation of other capital improvement projects.*
 2. Evaluate other energy and water conservation BMPs
 - *The District is engaged with Rocky Mountain Power to conserve electricity, reduce power costs, and promote a culture of energy efficiency. Since January 2018, the District has established an Energy Management Team consisting of representatives from multiple departments. The team identifies and tracks energy savings activities throughout the District. During the October board meeting, staff made a presentation on energy savings at the District.*
- Promote public education regarding water conservation
 1. Participate in public outreach through events such as Water Week
 - *As a part of Water Week, the District held an Open House on May 9, 2018 at the Point of the Mountain Water Treatment Plant. Attendees of the Open House were able to visit the water conservation booth sponsored by Intermountain Section AWWA.*

Water Quality Protection

Support District's mission to provide high quality water to our customers

- Monitor and respond to harmful algal blooms in source water reservoirs
 - *District has prepared a Harmful Algal Bloom and Cyantoxin Response Plan. This plan was updated in November 2018.*
- Monitor and respond to aquatic invasive species such as quagga mussel
 - *District continues to monitor aquatic invasive species, especially quagga mussels. In January, Deer Creek was delisted as a suspected water body for quagga mussels.*
- Monitor and respond to the introduction of new water supplies in District conveyance and distribution systems
 - *District has coordinated quarterly meetings with Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and Salt Lake City Public Utilities to discuss potential water quality issues or concerns with deliveries through the Jordan Aqueduct facilities to 21st South.*

Watershed Planning and Protection Program

Support District's mission to effectively manage valuable resources and promote the sustainable use of water resources

- Implement and maintain the District's source water protection plans
 - *The District maintains source water protection plans for the following water sources: Provo River, Little Cottonwood Creek, Southeast Mountain Streams, Battle Creek, and Grove Creek. Every six years the source water protection plans are reviewed. The next review of the plans will occur in 2019.*
- Participate in watershed planning programs and efforts to protect the watershed
 1. Support Provo River Watershed Council
 - *District has re-engaged with the Provo River Watershed Council. An updated Interlocal Agreement will be ready for board review in early 2019.*
 2. Support Central Wasatch Commission (formerly Mountain Accord) efforts
 - *District continues to support the Central Wasatch Commission (CWC) efforts. The District hosted multiple CWC meetings where the CWC, congressional staff, and stakeholders discussed the language and merits of the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act.*
 3. Monitor and respond to legislative threats to watershed protection
 - *District staff as well as representatives from Sandy City and Salt Lake City participated in the legislative interim session subcommittees on extraterritorial jurisdiction for protection of drinking water sources and private property purchases in Wasatch Front protected watershed areas.*
 4. Monitor and respond to developments in the watershed
 - *District continues to monitor development in the watershed areas. On a monthly basis, District staff develop a report on potential development activity in the Provo River watershed and provide it to Sandy Wingert, Upper Provo and Jordan River Coordinator at the Division of Water Quality. This report is also shared with the Provo River Watershed Council.*

5. Participate in the development of the Bonanza Flats watershed protection easement
 - *The District is participating with other stakeholders in the review of draft easement language, which includes concepts that support watershed protection. Multiple stakeholder meetings have taken place during 2018. It is anticipated that the easement language will be finalized in 2019.*
 - *The Utah Open Land's 2018 Annual Report described its efforts to work with Park City on an Adaptive Stewardship Management Plan. An important objective of the plan is to reach a balance of use and protection on the land that "will be critical to its long-term health and the conservation of the watershed that sits directly above the Town of Midway, Wasatch County and the Provo River."*
6. Consider monitoring other watershed areas that have a potential impact on District source water supplies
 - *Through its involvement with the Provo River Watershed Council, the District is encouraging development review and water quality analysis of previously unmonitored watershed areas that feed into the Provo River system.*
- Consider and understand the implications of climate change to the District and its customers
 - *The comprehensive update to the water supply and demand study includes climate change implications. The District is also participating in the development of Salt Lake City's Drought Contingency Plan. Additionally, the District will evaluate and consider the CWC Environmental Dashboard as another resource.*

Regulatory Compliance

Recommend practices and programs that ensure regulatory compliance with the Division of Drinking Water and EPA

- Monitor and respond to changes in water quality regulatory compliance requirements that may impact water treatment processes as well as practices of the District's certified lab
 - *District provided input on proposed revisions to the Salt Lake County fluoride regulation.*
 - *District provided input on IPS rule (Improvement Priority System).*
 - *The IPS rule is an approach to evaluating and rating water systems. Ratings are in accordance with the Rule R309-400 – Water System Rating Criteria. The three possible ratings are: Approved, Correction Action (system deficiencies are in the process of being corrected), and Not Approved (significant deficiencies exist).*
 - *The District's current rating is "Approved". The last survey was completed in 2017. The next survey will occur by 2020.*

Environmental Compliance

Recommend action to the Board regarding environmental compliance

- Participate in NEPA compliance reviews as needed
 - *District is participating in two UDOT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes. They are Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS and the Parley's Interchange EIS (near Terminal Reservoir).

Committee Action: The Environmental Committee discussed the objectives during the November 27, 2018 committee meeting.

Board Action: None