

A Proposal for the 2021 Update of the WCWCD Water Conservation Plan

Background

This proposal suggests an incremental change to the [plan](#)¹ to improve its response to the county's strategic water management challenges in a way that is acceptable to those most responsible. [State law](#)² requires large water retail suppliers to have a Water Conservation Plan that (1) is updated a least every 5 years, (2) states a water use reduction goal, an implementation for each measure chosen to accomplish it, a timeline for action, and accountability to it, and (3) is accountable to public review and comment.

The proposal is intended to improve the core of the plan (item 2 above) using standard program/project planning methods³ to define appropriate strategic action. The county's per capita water use⁴ has been significantly improved using mostly "passive" actions without major lifestyle or financial impacts⁵. Future water supply and demand challenges will require a strategic plan, driven by goals and objectives and the concepts for achieving them, committing the actions necessary to implement them.

Proposed Change the Approach for the 2021 Update:

1. Set water demand objectives
2. Recommend implementation timing for conservation measure/methods to achieve them
3. Engage the public more actively

Proposed Approach:

1. Identify the stakeholders⁶ required to buy into the plan
2. Define the goal⁷
3. Identify the water demand objectives⁸ that will meet the goal
4. Identify concepts (i.e., solution strategies and tactics) for achieving the objectives⁹
5. Identify/update the conservation methods and their costs/yields to meet the objectives
6. Recommend, prioritize and propose implementation timeframes for the methods
7. Recommend an action plan (sequenced projects) for municipalities and the WCWCD
8. Implement robust public education and engagement

The 2015 Plan touches on many of these points, especially 4 and 5. Hitting the others more directly would create an initial strategic Water Management Program Plan for the county. Future improvements could evolve these elements, and integrate water district and municipality action plans, define and manage executable projects, and include supply improvements, operations/maintenance and Ag.

¹ <https://www.wcwcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2015-Conservation-Plan.pdf>

² https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title73/Chapter10/C73-10-S32_1800010118000101.pdf

³ <https://conserveswu.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Comparison-of-Standard-Planning-with-Utah-Water-Conservation-Plans-1.pdf>

⁴ See yearly Washington County M&I water use data: <https://dwre-utahdnr.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/mnireport2019-counties>

⁵ <https://conserveswu.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Water-Management-Plan-Project-Accounting-rev-1-1.xlsx>

⁶ E.g., representatives from municipal staffs, WCWCD staff, conservation experts, citizen groups, water users (Ag, business owners and residents).

⁷ A goal is a target general condition to be achieved or maintained, usually at some non-specific future time. Proposed goal statement this program: keep projected demand safety within projected supply. "Safely" should be quantified.

⁸ An objective is a specific condition to be achieved at a specific time in order to meet a goal. An example for this program: 200 GPCD by 2030. Proposal: define multiple supply scenarios on which to base demand objectives at 5-year intervals.

⁹ These might be obvious: increasing supply through various stated means, decreasing demand through various stated means, increasing re-use through various means, etc.