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2025 WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

JANUARY 2026

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January 2026

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INTRODUCTION

Over the last several decades, attitudes toward water supplies in Utah have changed. Water is no longer seen as an endless supply, but as a valuable commodity that needs to be managed carefully. With this shift in attitude, conservation is becoming a larger part of water suppliers' plans to meet future water needs. Many water suppliers throughout the country have adopted conservation programs. Benefits experienced as a result of these programs include:

- Using existing water supplies more efficiently.
- Maximizing utilization of existing water conveyance, treatment and distribution facilities
- Delaying or deferring expensive construction of capital improvement projects
- Reducing the need for additional water supplies.

Officials at the State of Utah Department of Water Resources recognize the potential of conservation programs to extend current water supplies. In their recently released Regional Conservation Goals, they have established conservation goals for various regions through the State that, if achieved, will result in a statewide reduction in per capita water use from levels measured in 2015 by 18 percent by the year 2030.

UWCD recognizes the potential benefits of conservation efforts, which ultimately will reduce costs to individual customers. With this in mind, UWCD has adopted water conservation as a key element in its long-term master plan to serve its customers. Since sustained additional water conservation will be an important component in the District's plans for future water use, this report will evaluate current conservation efforts within the District and will discuss additional measures that will allow UWCD to conserve water.

WATER SYSTEM SERVICE AREA

The Uintah Water Conservancy District delivers water to four retail water districts:

- Ashley Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District (AVWSID),
- Jensen Water Improvement District (JWID),
- Maeser Water Improvement District (MWID), and
- Vernal City

These four providers serve the water needs of nearly all the residents in the Ashley Valley and Jensen areas of Uintah County. These service areas, along with UWCD conveyance facilities, are shown in Figure 1. Historic and future demands for these water districts were analyzed to determine the total municipal and industrial (M&I) demand for the UWCD system.

In addition to these municipal water users, there are three other entities that receive water from the UWCD system. These entities include:

- Simplot
- Ramsey Hill Exploration Company
- Uintah County

Simplot receives its water through an exchange for Red Fleet Reservoir water through several wells on its site, Ramsey Hill is serviced by AVWSID, and Uintah County receives water directly from Red Fleet reservoir. Unlike the municipal water districts, water demands for each of these entities are not directly related to population growth. It is assumed that existing and future demands for each of these entities will be exactly as defined in agreements between the entity and UWCD. Correspondingly, these entities will not be discussed further in this conservation plan.

EXISTING WATER USERS (MUNICIPAL & INDUSTRIAL CONNECTIONS)

Existing connections by connection type for each of the four retail water districts within the UWCD boundary is provided in Table 1. Existing water usage by connection type for each of the four retail water districts within the UWCD boundary is provided in Table 2.

Table 1
2024 Connections by Connection Type

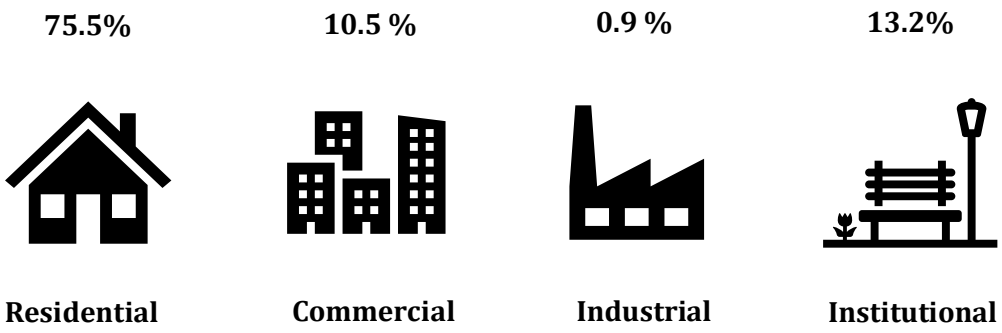
Customer Class	Ashley Valley	Jensen Water Improvement	Vernal City Municipal	Maeser Water Improvement	Total	% of Total
Residential	4,673	513	2,667	1,382	9,235	89.7%
Commercial	277	22	429	17	745	7.2%
Industrial	1	53	9	19	82	0.8%
Institutional	68	11	143	12	234	2.3%
Total	**5,019**	**599**	**3,248**	**1,430**	**10,296**	**100.0%**

[1]Number of connections by connection type data obtained from the Utah Division of Water Rights Public Water Supplier Information.

Table 2
2024 Water Usage (Acre-Feet) by Connection Type

Customer Class	Ashley Valley	Jensen Water Improvement	Vernal City Municipal	Maeser Water Improvement	Total	% of Total
Residential	2,352	214	1,303	687	4,556	75.5%
Commercial	189	13	429	4	635	10.5%
Industrial	23	19	8	2	52	0.9%
Institutional	369	14	346	67	796	13.2%
Total	**2,933**	**260**	**2,086**	**759**	**6,038**	**100.0%**

[1]Water usage by connection type data obtained from the Utah Division of Water Rights Public Water Supplier Information.



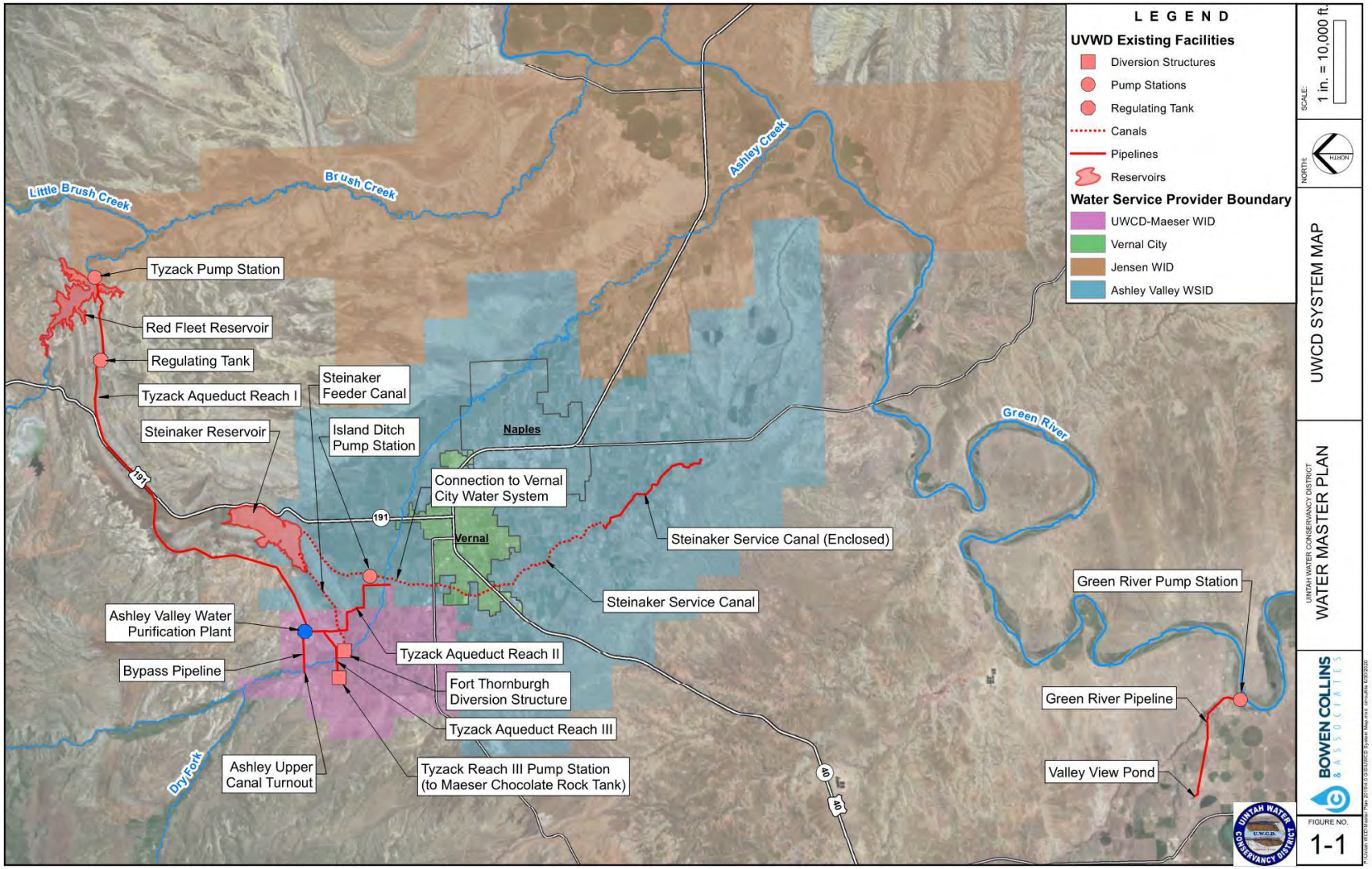


Figure 1
Uintah Water Conservancy District Service Area

HISTORIC POPULATION AND FUTURE GROWTH

Ashley Valley has experienced boom and bust periods of population growth related to oil and anticipated shale oil development in the past. As shown in Figure 2, population growth in Vernal (the largest city in Uintah County) has varied from positive 5.4 percent average annual growth in the 1970's (boom) to stagnant in the 1980's (bust). During the last several decades, annual growth has been close to the long-term average for growth in the City of 1.5 percent. Figure 2 also shows that the total population in Uintah County follows a similar growth pattern to that of Vernal City, but with more growth since the year 2000. All this data confirms that the region is susceptible to volatile growth cycles and greatly influenced by actual and anticipated economic development.

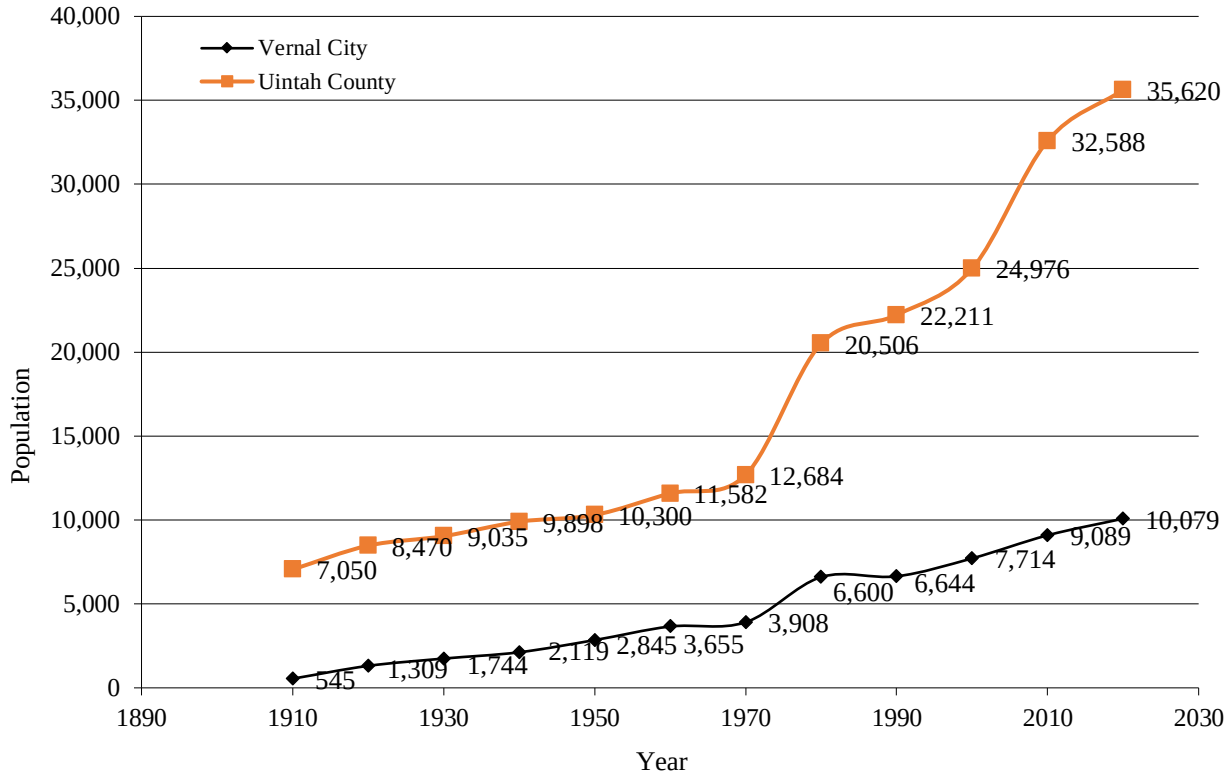


Figure 2: Historic Vernal City and Uintah County Population[1]

Future growth is expected to continue to be volatile due to uncertainty in energy markets, making it difficult to project growth with any confidence. For this reason, two growth rate cases were considered in the District's most recent master plan:

- **Average Growth Projection** – Based on historical average population growth for each retail service area, found in each retail water district's water master plan documents. For the purposes of the District's master plan, the projected growth rates in each retail area master plan were adopted as the projected average growth for the District demands as well.

[1] Based on US Census population data: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census.html. For reference, the county population numbers include the Vernal City population numbers shown.

historical averages (similar to the boom period of growth in the 1970's). For that reason, the District's master plan includes an aggressive growth scenario. In this scenario, growth was assumed to be 50% higher than the average growth rate.

Population and water demand projections are based on equivalent residential connections (ERCs) for each retail water district. Table 3 lists the current number of ERCs and projected average growth rates as identified in each district's respective master plan, as well as projected aggressive growth rates.

Table 3
Existing ERCs and Future Growth Rates

Water District	No. of ERCs (End of Year 2024)	Average Growth Rate	Aggressive Growth Rate
AVWSID	5,828	1.00%	1.50%
Jensen WID	625	1.00%	1.50%
Maeser WID	1,527	3.00%	4.50%
Vernal City	4,271	1.50%	2.30%
Total	**12,251**	**1.40%**	**2.10%**

Table 4 lists recent historic population within the service area and project population based on an average growth rate of 1.4% and an aggressive growth rate of 2.1%.

Table 4
Historic and Projected Water Service Area Population

Year	Residential Population (Average Growth)	Residential Population (Aggressive Growth)
2000	19,642	19,642
2005	21,089	21,089
2010	25,452	25,452
2015	27,284	27,284
2020	29,100	29,100
2025	30,065	30,065
2030	32,229	33,357
2035	34,550	37,010
2040	37,037	41,063
2045	39,703	45,559
2050	42,561	50,548
2055	45,625	56,083
2060	48,909	62,225

CURRENT AND FUTURE WATER SUPPLY

The following section summarizes Uintah Water Conservancy District's current and future water supply as documented in Uintah WCD 2020 Water Master Plan (BC&A).

Culinary Sources

The District utilizes Ashley Creek and Brush Creek flows for its water supply. Excess spring and winter Ashley Creek flows are stored in Steinaker Reservoir for the District's Vernal Unit. Excess spring and winter Brush Creek flows are stored in Red Fleet Reservoir for the District's Jensen Unit. Historically, these supplies have provided adequate water to meet the irrigation, municipal, and industrial water demands of District customers. Since 2012, the District has utilized the Green River to supply irrigation water via its Green River Pumping Plant. This project provides supplemental water to the west side of the District.

Existing Culinary Supply

Based on the estimated production of the sources described above, the total annual supply for the District is summarized in Table 5 for both dry and average water years.

Table 5
Municipal and Industrial Water Supply Based on River Commissioner Reports

Water Supplier	Average Year Water Supply[a] (acre-feet/yr)	Reliable, Dry Year Water Supply[b] (acre-feet/yr)
Ashley Valley Water & SID (AVWSID)		
Ashley Creek Primary Allotment (4.59%[c] of Flow between April 1 - October 31) Average[d]	2,166.7	975.3
Ashley Creek Winter Stock Water	90.8	90.8
Steinaker M&I Water	640.0	640.0
Ashley Reservoir Company Stock	224.0	0.0
Mayberry Agreement	4.0	4.0
Red Fleet Via Tyzack Aqueduct	1,620.0	1,620.0
Subtotal	*4,745.5*	*3,330.1*
Jensen Water Improvement District		
Red Fleet Winter Stock Water	20.0	20.0
Ashley Central Canal Company	33.5	0.0
Ashley Reservoir Company Stock	10.0	0.0
Red Fleet Via Tyzack Aqueduct	661.0	661.0
Subtotal	*724.5*	*681.0*
Maeser Water Improvement District		
Ashley Creek Primary Allotment[d] (0.86%[c] of Flow between April 1 - October 31) Average	482.8	161.3
Ashley Creek Winter Stock Water	36.1	36.1
Steinaker M&I Water	200.0	200.0
Ashley Reservoir Company Stock	74.6	0.0
Ashley Central Use	0.0	0.0
Red Fleet Via Tyzack Aqueduct	560.0	560.0
Maeser Hullinger Well (Artesian flow to Ashley Creek)	335.8	335.8
Subtotal	*1,689.3*	*1,293.2*
Vernal City Municipal Water		
Ashley Creek Primary Allotment[d] (4.39%[c] of Flow between April 1 - October 31) Average	2,099.2	659.2
Ashley Creek Winter Stock Water	5.7	5.7
Ashley Creek Water Claim #1370	140.0	140.0
Steinaker M&I Water	760.0	760.0
Ashley Reservoir Company Stock	786.9	0.0
Red Fleet Via Tyzack Aqueduct	1,840.0	1,840.0
Subtotal	*5,638.0*	*3,404.9*
Total	**12,791.1**	**8,709.2**

[a] Average Year Supply is based on average annual supply from October 2015 to September 2017, or current water allotment for non-variable supplies.
[b] Dry Year Supply is based on October 2017 to September 2018 historic yields.
[c] Diversion caps apply between April 1 and July 1. In 2026 this allotment was reduced from 4.59% to 2.86%.
[d] Consistent with River Commissioner's practice, this line item also includes Ashley Creek winter water rights.

In summary, existing culinary water supply can be summarized by source type as shown in Table 6.

Table 6
Summary of Current Water Supply in the District
(Including member agency supplies)

Source	Average Year Water Supply (acre-feet/yr)	Reliable, Dry Year Water Supply (acre-feet/yr)
Wells	335.8	335.8
Springs	0.0	0.0
Surface	12,455.3	8,373.4
Purchased	0.0	0.0
Exchanged	0.0	0.0
Total	**12,791.1**	**8,709.2**

Groundwater Depletion and Aquifer Recharge

The State of Utah checklist for conservation plans asks for a description of groundwater depletion, aquifer recharge (artificial and natural) and storage and recovery practices. As summarized above, hydrogeology in the District service area is such that groundwater use as a supply for culinary demand is minimal. As a result, there are no known occurrences of groundwater depletion. Additionally, aquifer recharge is not a topic of great importance to the District water supply strategy and has not been examined in detail.

Future Culinary Supply

Unallocated Jensen Unit M&I Water

The Jensen Unit was designed to provide 18,000 acre-feet annually for municipal and industrial purposes from Red Fleet Reservoir. This 18,000 acre-feet design yield was based on projected population growth, but this growth has failed to materialize. Due to the reduction in M&I demand, the Jensen Unit Pumping Plant (JUPP) portion of the project which would have developed 12,000 acre-feet of the total M&I water has not been constructed.

Based on existing M&I and irrigation commitments, the existing Red Fleet system is considered fully committed. However, if the JUPP is constructed, the 12,000 acre-feet of additional M&I water conceived as part of the original Jensen Unit concept will become available. This will be available because the JUPP will bring water from the Green River that can be used by irrigators in the Jensen area in exchange for water from Red Fleet Reservoir.

Uinta and Whiterocks Rivers

The Uinta and Whiterocks Rivers and their tributaries are the two major water sources for the west side of the District's service area. Most of this water, however, has already been appropriated and is being used to meet existing demands. Additional storage would be required to develop any significant amounts of this limited remaining resource.

Ashley Creek

Ashley Creek is the major water source for the Ashley Valley portion of the District's service area. This water, however, has already been appropriated and is being used to meet existing demands. Additional storage would be required to develop any significant amounts of this limited remaining resource. In the past, the District has examined constructing additional storage on Ashley Creek, but it was not deemed feasible at the time.

Green River

Much of the water for future development in the basin is expected to come from the Green River. Presently the District has water rights for 51,800 acre-feet, of which 10,000 acre-feet is committed to the Green River Pumping Plant. The District has also entered into a number of long-term lease agreements with agricultural and industrial users. The remaining 32,702 acre-feet water right will be the water source for much of the future water development within Uintah County.

White River

The District also has two water rights on the White River totaling 4,500 acre-feet. A small portion of this right has been committed to an energy company, but the water has not been utilized.

Future Water Source Summary

Available water sources for future development consist of the following:

Description	Amount (acre-feet)	Source
Jensen Unit Pumping Plant	12,000	Green River
Green River Water Rights	32,702	Green River
White River Water Rights	4,000	White River
Total	**48,702**	

Future Water Costs

If the District needs to develop additional culinary supply, the most cost effective source is the JUPP. Development of this source is expected to cost approximately $20 million, or about $1,700/acre-ft.

HISTORIC WATER PRODUCTION, SALES, AND SYSTEM LOSS

As a water wholesaler, the District does not control retail metering data collection or practices. As a result this plan does not include a detailed discussion of retail metering and billing issues such as:

- percent of metered connections by type, reading frequency, calibration schedule, etc.
- revenue losses and control practices
- tiered pricing structure for retail customers[2]

However, this plan has collected available data from its member agencies as available to provide the other water use information requested by the State of Utah as part of a comprehensive conservation plan.

[2] Although the District has no control over retail water rates, which are set by retail suppliers, the retail rates for member agencies are included in Appendix A for reference.

Per Capita Water Production and Consumption

Historic water use in gallons per resident from 2010 to 2024 is summarized in Table 7. This includes both per capita water sales and per capita water production. Per capita water use was quantified using available water production records and water sales records from the Division of Water Rights and population estimates per the District's recent master plan.

Table 7
Historic Per Capita Culinary Water Production, Sales and System Loss

Year	Population[1]	Historic Water Production (acre-ft)[2]	Per Capita Production (gpcd)	Historic Water Sales (acre-ft)[3]	Per Capita Water Use (gpcd)	System Loss (acre-ft)	System Loss %
2010	25,452	7,788	273.2	5,598	196.4	2,190	28.12%
2011	25,808	10,602	366.7	6,821	235.9	3,781	35.66%
2012	26,170	8,972	306.1	7,419	253.1	1,552	17.30%
2013	26,536	9,378	315.5	7,913	266.2	1,465	15.62%
2014	26,907	9,976	331.0	5,336	177.0	4,640	46.51%
2015	27,284	8,536	279.3	6,143	201.0	2,393	28.03%
2016	27,666	9,739	314.3	5,737	185.1	4,002	41.09%
2017	28,053	8,820	280.7	5,936	188.9	2,884	32.70%
2018	28,446	8,410	263.9	6,831	214.4	1,579	18.78%
2019	28,844	7,551	233.7	5,842	180.8	1,710	22.65%
2020	29,100	8,140	249.7	6,103	187.2	2,037	25.02%
2021	29,355	7,184	218.5	5,485	166.8	1,699	23.65%
2022	29,490	7,080	214.3	5,454	165.1	1,627	22.98%
2023	29,575	7,525	227.1	5,695	171.9	1,829	24.31%
2024	29,650	8,241	248.1	6,041	181.9	2,200	26.69%

1. *Population based on estimates for service area as a sub-set of Kem C. Gardner estimates for Uintah County and based on retail supplier population reported to the Utah Division of Water Rights*
2. *Historic Water Production based on "Total From Sources" values reported to the Utah Division of Water Rights*
3. *Historic Water Sales based on "Total Retail Use" values reported to the Utah Division of Water Rights*

The per capita water production varies from a high of 366 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) in 2011 to a low of 217 gpcd in 2022. Per capita metered water sales vary from a high of 266 gallons per day in 2013 to a low of 167 gallons per day in 2022. On average, system losses in the District since 2010 have been approximately 27% of annual water production as shown in Table 7. Average system losses over the last five years have dropped to 24.5%, illustrating the initial impact of the District's recent efforts to reduce water losses, especially by reducing canal infiltration losses.

Figure 3 shows historic culinary water use to date on a per capita basis. As can be seen in the figure, the District's per capita use has been generally trending downward, but conservation progress is uneven. To track how well the District is doing in achieving its conservation goal in the future, the District will continue to annually estimate per capita water demands based on yearly metered sales data and an updated population estimate as a function of new system connections.

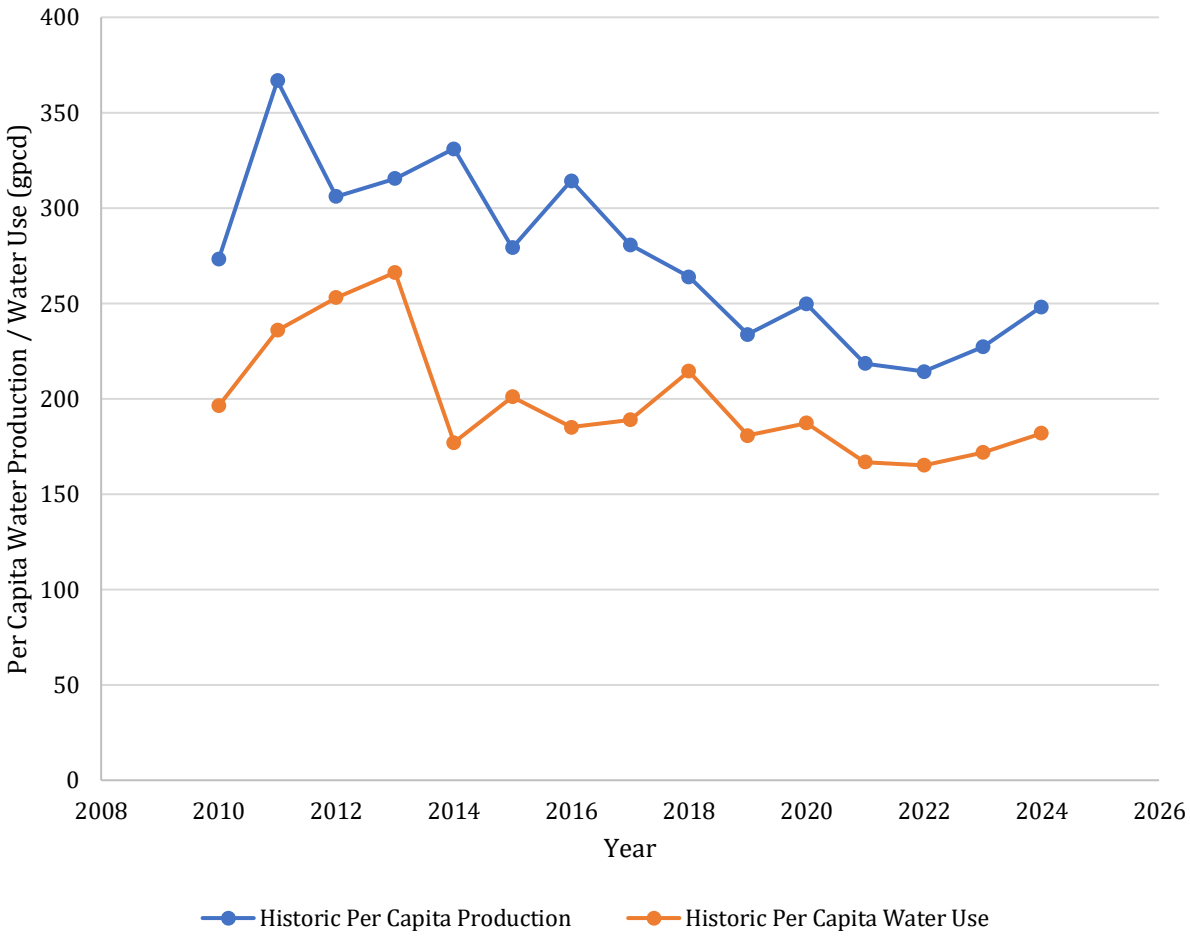


Figure 3: Historic Per Capita Water Use

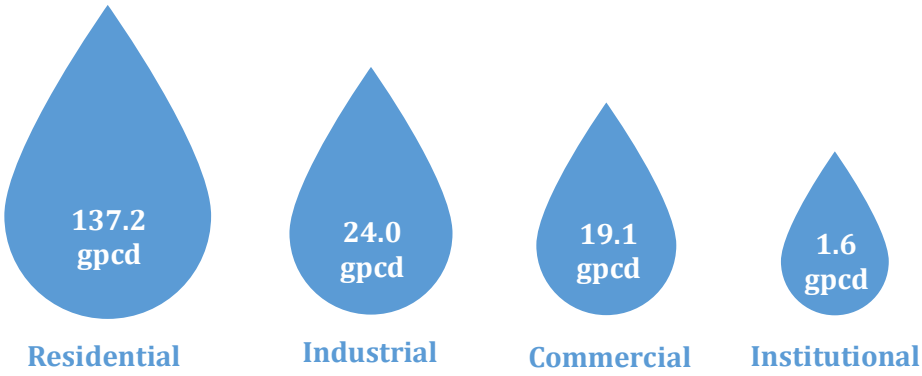
Current Per Capita Water Use

An analysis of UWCD's current municipal and industrial water use was completed. Estimated water use by type for the year 2024 is summarized in Table 8. Per capita water use was estimated using the approximate population of for the year 2024 as shown and annual water use data was provided by the Utah Division of Water Rights.

Indoor monthly water use was estimated using the average monthly water use during the winter months (November through March). These months were referenced because historically no outdoor water use occurs at that time, meaning that all water used during those months is considered indoor water use. Multiple years of data were referenced to determine an average ratio of indoor vs outdoor water usage. The average annual indoor use was determined by multiplying the average monthly indoor water use (which is equivalent to total winter monthly use) by 12. It is estimated that on average, 57% of water is used indoors while 43% is used outdoors. These numbers are shown in Table 8 and refer to the total water used within the District's service area. Because monthly use records existing only for total use (not for use by individual user types), a breakdown between indoor and outdoor use is shown for total use only.

Table 8
2024 Per Capita Culinary Water Use By Type

User Type	Indoor Use (gpcd)	Outdoor Use (gpcd)	Total Use (gpcd)
Residential	137.2		137.2
Commercial	19.1		19.1
Institutional	1.6		1.6
Industrial	24.0		24.0
Total	**103.6**	**78.2**	**181.8**



CONSERVATION GOALS WITH MILESTONES

Water conservation will be a strategy utilized by the District to stretch limited water resources in the basin. Goals for water conservation within Uintah County consist of a reduction in per capita water use over time as shown in Table 9 and Figure 4. These conservation goals align with the current State of Utah Regional Water Conservation Goals, first published in 2019 and updated in 2025.

Table 9
Conservation Goal With Milestones Through 2040

Year	Target % Reduction from Average Per Capita Water Usage from 2015 through 2019
2030	18%
2040	21%

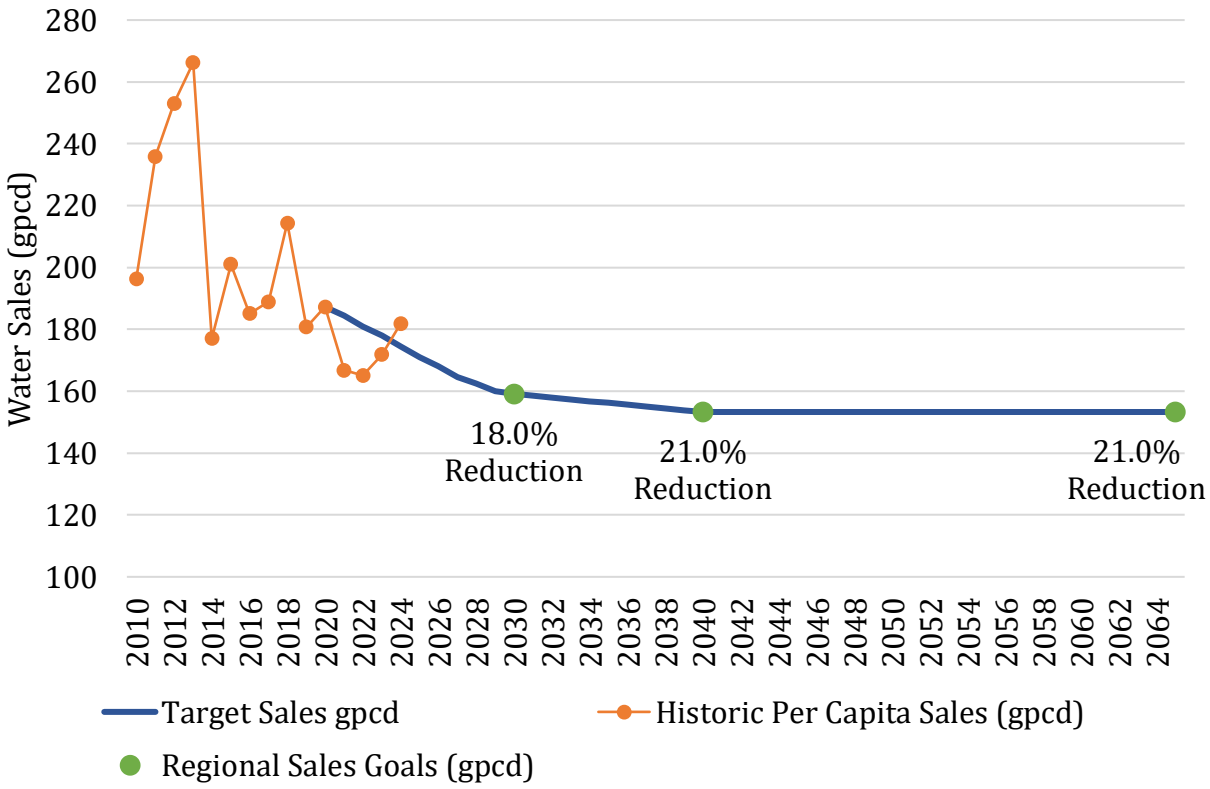


Figure 4: Historic and Target Conservation

As can be seen in the figure, District customers have made some positive progress toward the District's goal over the last several years. However, rebounding water use in 2024 is evidence that continued efforts will be needed to reach the State's regional conservation goals.

Evaluation Process to Measure Progress

An important part of setting goals is to understand how progress will be measured and evaluated. The District's plan for measuring progress will include the following actions:

- **Collect Water Use and Production Data from Retail Providers** – Because the District does not meter all water use in the service area, it will need to rely on reporting from its member agencies. It is expected that this data can be collected based on the water use reports submitted to the State of Utah Division of Water Rights.
- **Calculate Per Capita Water Consumption** – Per capita water use will be calculated for both water sales and water production based on reported water use and estimated service area population.
- **Measure Progress Compared to Baseline Per Capita Water Use Values** – Consistent with the State's Regional Conservation Goals, progress will be measured against average per capita values for the five-year period of 2015 through 2019. As shown in Table 7, the values for the baseline period are 194.0 gpcd for sales and 274.4 gpcd for production. Because District operations will be mostly dependent on required production, the per capita water production value will be used as the primary metric for assessing conservation progress.

PROJECTED WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND

To adequately represent the implications of the District's water conservation goals, a comparison of projected demands (based on total system production requirements) and available supplies must be made. Table 10 shows the projected water production requirement (demand) for the District with conservation and the projected production requirement if no additional conservation occurs under the average growth scenario. The annual demand without conservation volume was calculated by multiplying each year's population by estimated per capita production in 2020. The annual demand with conservation was then calculated by multiplying each year's population by a reduced value of per capita production based on the conservation goals in Table 9.

Table 10
Projected Culinary Water Production Requirements (Dry Year)

Year	Projected Production Requirements Without Conservation (acre-ft)	Projected Production Requirements With Conservation (acre-ft)	Estimated Annual Savings Through Conservation (acre-ft)
2015	8,536	8,536	0
2020	8,140	8,140	0
2025	8,315	7,817	498
2030	8,956	7,611	1,345
2035	9,601	8,010	1,591
2040	10,292	8,426	1,866
2045	11,033	9,033	2,000
2050	11,827	9,683	2,144
2055	12,678	10,380	2,298
2060	13,591	11,127	2,464

Projected demand (both with and without additional conservation) is compared against the District's existing available water supply in Figure 5. As shown in the figure, the District's existing water supply is adequate to meet projected demands through the year 2060 if the District meets its current conservation goals. Without additional conservation, average year water supply is projected to exceed supply around 2054. In dry years, the District is projected to need additional supply in the very near future (both with and without additional conservation). However, achieving the targeted level of conservation will minimize the volume of new water needed by the District, even in dry years.

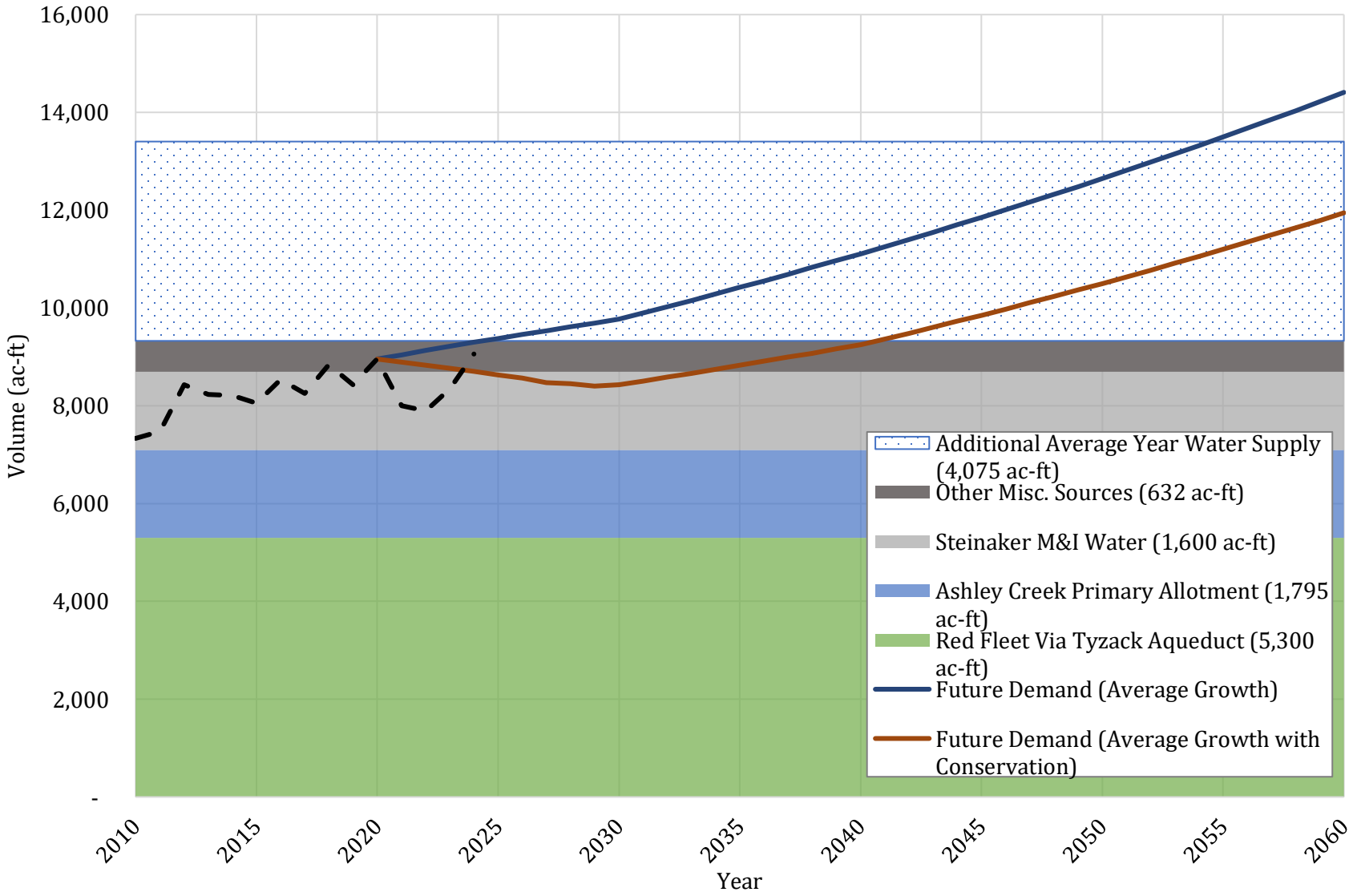


Figure 5
Total M&I Annual Demands and Reliable Dry Year Water Supply

ONGOING CONSERVATION PRACTICES

As part of its overall water supply plan, the District has implemented several conservation measures to reduce water usage and waste. This includes being proactive in implementing and maintaining many programs to ensure that the system operates at an optimal level. Each of these programs is discussed in detail below:

Steady Emphasis on Canal Enclosure Program to Minimize Losses to Evaporation and Seepage – The District has made extensive efforts to facilitate enclosure of existing canals throughout the District. Enclosure of the irrigation canals saves significant amounts of water in the District's system in two ways. First, enclosure eliminates conveyance losses associated with seepage and evaporation. Second, enclosure often allows canals to be pressurized. Where this occurs, irrigation can move from flood irrigation to more efficient sprinkled irrigation. The District has facilitated canal enclosure in two ways. It has funded enclosures of its own canals (e.g. enclosure of 6.0 miles of the District's Steinaker Service Canal) and it has provided funding or technical support to enclose the canals of other entities (e.g. assistance with enclosing the Ashley Upper and Highline Canal).

Improved Water Measurement and Accounting – Good water management and accounting is an important part of the District's water conservation plan. Over the past several decades, the District has spent significant resources in implementing SCADA system improvements to meter and automate District facilities. The goal of these improvements has been to optimize water use and eliminate waste. This has included upgrading communication infrastructure to provide continuous monitoring, remote control functions, and provide room for additional facilities to be monitored as they come on line in the future.

Water conservation is achieved through these efforts in two ways. First, the District is able to more quickly respond to needs in the system which avoids water being lost when it is sent where it is not needed. Second, the additional metering allows the District to better track where water is being used in the system and identify efficiency in the District conveyance system. This allows the District to identify problems areas and focus efforts on improving efficiency in those areas with highest water loss.

Aggressive Leak Detection and Facility Maintenance Program – The District has an aggressive system inspection, maintenance and operations program. The goal of this program is to keep facilities in good operating condition to minimize water loss through leakages associated with aging and deteriorating facilities.

Water Conservation Plan – The District updates its Water Conservation Plan at least every five years and adopts it by Resolution.

Complete Enclosure of the Steinaker Service Canal – The District maintains its long-term plans to pipe all remaining open section of the Steinaker Service Canal. Future Reach III and Reach IV projects will enclose the remaining 6.5 miles of canal and is expected to be completed between 2030 and 2034. It is anticipated that enclosing these canal sections will reduce water loss to evaporation and infiltration and will make conveyance through these facilities more efficient.

Continued Support for Conveyance System Efficiency Improvement Projects – The District has an important role in serving as a "water consultant" for other governmental agencies, irrigation companies, and other water user entities in the county. It will

continue to assist these other entities in identifying and funding projects that improve water use efficiency. Activities will include: providing technical assistance; working with local, state, and federal governments on water management and development initiatives; and sponsoring projects where appropriate.

Continue Ongoing SCADA Improvements to Optimize System Operation – While significant progress has been made in improving the District's SCADA system, SCADA system upgrades will be an ongoing capital and maintenance expense. One specific area of focus for this planning window will be improved automation of water deliveries. The District has submitted an application with the US Bureau of Reclamation for funding to actuate the valves that control water deliveries along Reach 1 of the Steinaker Service Canal.

Water Banking – As the lead entity for water issues in the county, the District is interested in exploring opportunities to facilitate water banking to promote the efficient use of water, especially during periods of drought. The District will work with the Division of Water Rights and others throughout the state interested in this topic to identify future opportunities in this area. This was a goal in the last conservation plan, but no significant progress was made due to a lack of resources within the District to investigate these opportunities over the past 5 years. The District plans to make these conservations and investigations a priority within the next 5 years.

Waterwise Landscaping Example at District Office – If the District is to meet its long-term conservation goals, there will need to be at least some modifications in the way District customers landscape their outdoor spaces. While the District does not have any direct control over landscaping through land use or development ordinances, it can set an example and provide resources for its customers and the local public. One way to accomplish would be through installing waterwise landscaping at the District's administration building.

The majority of the existing landscaping at the District administration building is turf. As part of this conservation plan, the District proposes to replace a portion of this area closest to the building with waterwise landscaping. This will both set an example for the public as well as provide a demonstration garden for those wishing to learn more about waterwise landscaping options. This was a goal in the last conservation plan but was delayed because of interruptions to District activities as a result of COVID and subsequent inflation issues. It is the District's updated goal that the first phase of this landscape modification will be completed in the next 5 years with additional phases implemented thereafter.

COMPLETED CONSERVATION PRACTICES

As the District and its retail suppliers have been working towards their previous conservation goals, several water conserving programs and projects have been completed over the last five years. Many of these measures are completed portions of the programs listed in the "Current conservation Practices" section above. A summary of these completed projects is described below:

Water Measurement Improvements - Many communication infrastructure improvements were completed as a part of a WaterSmart grant from the US Bureau of Reclamation in 2010. Improvements made through this project included: replacing outdated computer technology; adding remote sensing sites associated with new facilities including the West Side Combined Canals and the Green River Pumping Plant; and bringing all available District data to a central operating site. Since then, the District has continued to add remote operation and metering capability.

Reach II and Reach IIIA Steinaker Service Canal Enclosure - Reach II and Reach IIIA of the Steinaker Service Canal Enclosure Project was completed in 2025 and enclosed approximately 2.8 miles of the canal. Additionally, in association with the Reach II and Reach IIIA improvements, the District also helped facilitate enclosure of the Ashley Central Canal, which reduced flow rates through Reach II and Reach IIIA of the Steinaker Canal and allowed the District to complete the Reach II and Reach IIIA project with a smaller diameter pipeline.

Ashley Upper and Highline Canal Rehabilitation Project - The Ashley Upper and Highline Canal Rehabilitation Project was completed in 2021. The District assisted the irrigation companies using the canals to secure funding through the Community Impact Board (CIB) to enclose the canals and transfer existing canal easements to Uintah County for flood control purposes.

Agricultural Efficiency Research – The District teamed with Utah State University to develop a new farm research station. The purpose of this research farm was to identify best practices for farmers during drought conditions. This included establishing best management practices for irrigation during drought conditions, and identification and testing of forage species that might replace other crops during drought situations. Research was completed in 2025 and results will be used to help with conservation by agricultural irrigators that will improve the overall water situation for all water users in the area.

NEW CONSERVATION PRACTICES PLANNED FOR IMPLEMENTATION

In addition to the ongoing conservation practices the District is pursuing, UWCD has recently begun participating in one new conservation program, which is described in detail below. Table 11 summarizes the implementation schedule, estimated costs and potential partners of all ongoing and new conservation practices.

Colorado River Voluntary Conservation – The Colorado River Authority of Utah offers an ongoing voluntary program that financially incentivizes water users to temporarily reduce water use without losing water rights or livelihoods. The program aims to work with individual water users to identify real ways that conservation can be achieved through agricultural or operational changes. The District plans to investigate opportunities for water use reduction through this program within the District, and will provide information to its customers about the program to allow them the opportunity to participate.

Table 11
Implementation Schedule, Estimated Costs & Partnerships

New Conservation Practices	Implementation Timeline	Estimated Cost	Potential Partnerships
Complete Enclosure of the Steinaker Service Canal	Reaches III & IV – 2030-2034	Reaches III & IV - $60 million	• USBR • State of Utah
Conveyance System Efficiency Projects	Varies based on individual projects	Varies	• Irrigation companies
Continue Ongoing SCADA Improvements	Ongoing	TBD	• Colorado River Authority of Utah • State of Utah • Irrigation Companies
Water Banking	More research needed	TBD	• First Water Bank of Utah • Irrigation companies • M&I Water Providers • State of Utah Division of Water Rights
Waterwise Landscaping at District Office	Phase 1 – Complete within next 5 years Future Phases – As necessitated by interest and available funding	Phase 1 (5,000 SF) - $30,000	• Central Utah WCD • Localscapes.com
Colorado River Voluntary Conservation	Ongoing	No Cost	• Colorado River Authority of Utah • Upper Colorado River Commission • State of Utah • Irrigation Companies

WATER CONSERVATION COORDINATOR AND COMMITTEES

The District has appointed a Water Conservation Coordinator (William Merkley). The coordinator is responsible for all District conservation efforts including acting as the liaison for water conservation matters between the citizens and City officials.

WATER CONSERVATION PLAN AUTHOR(S)

This plan was prepared by Bowen Collins & Associates at the Draper office:

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UINTAH WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT CONTACT

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APPENDIX A
RETAIL WATER RATE SCHEDULES

Ashley Valley Water & Sewer ID (AVWSID) Water Rates

Rate Structure under Normal Water Conditions

Residential Water

- $30.00 for 6,000 gallons
- Overage
  - Up to 8,000 gallons--$1.95 per 1,000 gl
  - Up to 16,000 gallons--$2.00 per 1,000 gl
  - Over 16,000 gallons--$2.25 per 1,000 gl

Commercial Water

- $28.00 for 6,000 gallons
- Overage
  - Up to 8,000 gallons--$1.95 per 1,000 gl
  - Up to 16,000 gallons--$2.00 per 1,000 gl
  - Over 16,000 gallons--$2.25 per 1,000 gl

Jensen Water Improvement District
New Rates as of April 30th, 2020
Monthly Rates extended to June 30th, 2020
Water Connection Pricing updated and ADU rate (added) August 21st, 2025

Residential Rate

Meter Size	Minimum Gallons	Minimum Rate	Overage Rate $3.50 Per 1,000 Gallons
¾ inch	10,000	$52.00	
1 inch	10,000	$52.00	
1 ½ inch	10,000	$52.00	
2 inch	10,000	$52.00	

Industrial Rate

Flat Rate Of **$110.00** With A Charge Of **$3.50** Per Thousand Gallons Used

Meter Size	Flat Rate	$3.50 Per 1,000 Gallons Used
¾ inch	$110.00	
1 inch	$110.00	
1 ½ inch	$110.00	
2 inch	$110.00	

Commercial Rate

Meter Size	Minimum Gallons	Minimum Rate	Overage Rate $3.50 Per 1,000 Gallons
¾ inch	10,000	$100.00	
1 inch	10,000	$100.00	
1 ½ inch	10,000	$100.00	
2 inch	10,000	$100.00	

Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) Rate

Meter Size	Minimum Gallons	Minimum Rate	Overage Rate $3.50 Per 1,000 Gallons
¾ inch	10,000	$77.00	

Dinosaur National Monument Rate

2 Inch Meter

Minimum Gallons	Minimum Rate	Overage Rate $3.50 Per 1,000 Gallons
10,000	$100.00	

Stock Water Rate

Billed from October 1st though April 30th, **or** November 1st though March 31st,

Stock Water Meter Only Rate –
$3.50 per 1,000 used

House & Stock Water Meter Rate –
$3.50 per 1,000 used over 10,000 gallons

Summer Stock Water Meter Only Rate
If no water is uses, you will not get a bill
If water is used, it is the same rate as residential rate

Billing Months May Vary Year to Year
Price May Vary Year to Year

Jensen Fire Department

Flat Rate Of **$110.00** Per Month
2 Inch Meter

Maeser Water Improvement District

(https://www.maeserwater.gov/)

Services

Water

MONTHLY RESIDENTIAL WATER RATES

$32.50 + Usage Rates

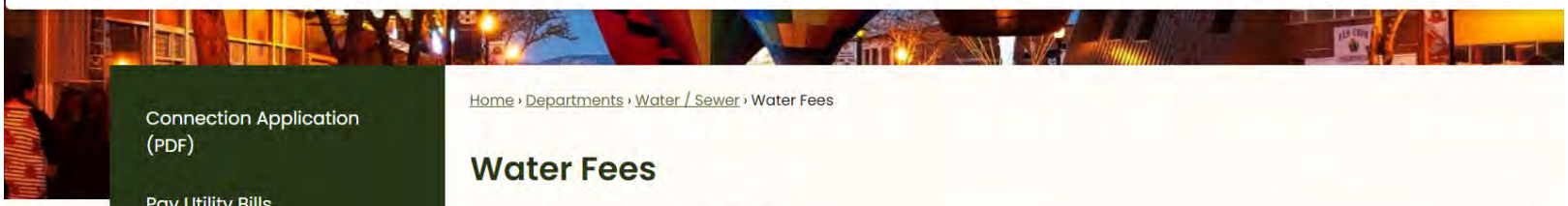
USAGE RATES

$32.50 Base Fee up to 6,000 gallons of water

$2.26 per 1,000 from 7,000 to 50,000 gallons of water

$3.16 per 1,000 from 51,000 to 100,000 gallons of water

$4.16 per 1,000 for 101,000 gallons of water and greater



Connection Application (PDF)

Pay Utility Bills

Utilities

Water Fees

Sewer Fees

Water Fees

Fees: Water User Fee for Vernal City:

In-City Residential, Duplex & Commercial	Monthly fee
1st 8000 gallons	$43.80 minimum
Over 8000 gallons	$ 2.83 / 1000 gallons
Out-of-City Residential, Duplex & Commercial	
1st 8000 gallons	$44.80 minimum
Over 8000 gallons	$ 2.93 / 1000 gallons

Water Deposit	
Renters	$150
Owners	-0-
Water turn on charge after delinquency disconnect	$40
Tapping Machine	$250 / tap

Line Size	Full Connection:	Meter Set Only:
5/8" x 3/4"	$3500	$375
1"	$4000	$450
1 1/2"	$5000	$1550
2"	$6600	$1750
3"	Actual cost	Actual cost
4"	Actual cost	Actual cost

APPENDIX B
RESOLUTION OF PLAN ADOPTION

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2026-03-10

UINTAH WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

RESOLUTION OF THE UINTAH WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPTING THE 2025 WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 73-10-32, Utah Code Ann. (1953) ("Act"), Uintah Water Conservancy District ("District") prepared a Water Conservation Plan ("Plan") and will update the Plan every five years; and

WHEREAS, the District has prepared the Plan and established goals to encourage its users to conserve and efficiently use water to meet District goals; and

WHEREAS, the District has made significant efforts in past conservation construction projects to improve efficiency; and

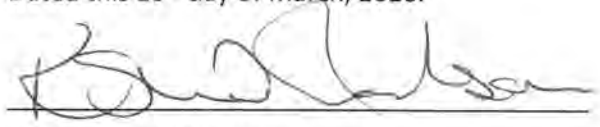
WHEREAS, the District Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the 2025 Water Conservation Plan during their regular meeting held March 10, 2026; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is needed to formally adopt the Plan and will be filed with the Utah Division of Water Resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Uintah Water Conservancy District hereby affirms that:

1. The District has met the requirements of the Act in its preparation of the Plan.
2. The General Manager is authorized and directed to cause a copy of the Plan to be submitted to the Utah Division of Water Resources along with all other persons or entities deemed appropriate.
3. The Plan is not a commitment of resources without annual budget review and approval by the Board of Trustees.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon execution by an authorized member of the Board of Trustees.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2026.



Shad Jackson, Chairman

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BOWEN COLLINS & ASSOCIATES

WWW.BOWENCOLLINS.COM

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2026

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Shad Jackson called the March 10, 2026, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office and welcomed everyone.

Present:

Trustees: Shad Jackson, Tyson Murray, Dean Baker, Keith Despain, Todd Thacker, Shawn Labrum and Ryan Clausse.

Others: William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Marie Cook, UWCD Clerk; Randan Vincent, Brush Creek Distribution, Bill Cook, Randy Murray, Tom Hadden, Ashley Upper Canal; Shane Frost, OPIC; Wayne Simper, Ashley Central Irrigation Company; Dwayne Holmes, Highline Canal; Bart Jensen, Eric Major, Jones & DeMille, Lucky Wall, Union Canal; Kaiden Lewis, CT Electric; Willis LeFevre, Uintah County Commissioner; Jordan Oyler, Bowen Collins & Associates; Duane Houston, UDAF; Brian Deter, Chris Thomson, JUB; Bryan Schmutz, Bureau of Reclamation via Microsoft Teams.

Approval of Minutes: Todd Thacker's MOTION, SECONDED by Shawn Labrum, to approve the February 10, 2026, Board Meeting minutes was unanimously approved.

GRPP Transformer Upgrade: The Green River pumping facility experienced an electrical failure during last year's irrigation season due to an undersized transformer operating near capacity. Testing showed the system was only a few amps below its limit, contributing to repeated fuse failures and equipment damage. A 3000 kVA transformer was recommended to improve reliability. The District plans to use reserve funds for the purchase and will test capacitor banks to improve efficiency and reduce potential utility penalties. A MOTION to approve the upgrade was made by Tyson Murray, SECONDED by Dean Baker, and passed unanimously.

2025 Water Conservation Plan: Jordan reported that the questions and concerns from the last board meeting had been addressed. Keith Despain made a MOTION, SECONDED by Todd Thacker, to approve Resolution 2026-03-10, formally adopting the 2025 Water Conservation plan. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Green River Water Development: Dwayne Holmes, Randan Vincent and Lucky Wall discussed expanding pumping capacity as a multi-year pilot amid uncertain water supply and costs, and potential shifts to usage-based lease agreements. Reduced return flows on Ashley Creek have limited downstream availability and complicated water rights, while creek losses, pipeline constraints, and costly infrastructure upgrades hinder efficient water use. They had no numbers to present at this time. The Board asked them to present next month with more specific water needs and costs.

Operations Updates: Steinaker Reservoir is at elevation 5484.43 with 22 CFS coming in and 0 CFS going out. Red Fleet Reservoir is currently at elevation 5566.46 with 11 CFS coming in and 1 CFS going out. Cottonwood is at elevation 5261.29 with 23 CFS coming in. Brough is at elevation 5109.65 with 2 CFS coming in. Pelican is down 24 inches.

Allotments for Vernal and Jensen Units 2026: Dean Baker made a MOTION, SECONDED by Tyson Murray, to allocate 34% per share to the Vernal Unit and 8% per share to the Jensen Unit. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Uinta River Bifurcation Structure: Eric, William, Dusty Carpenter, and the team met with the Army Corps, including Beth Carlson and Jason Gipson, to review the project, and the discussion was positive overall. Jason indicated there is no reason the project cannot be permitted and that, once the application is considered complete, it should follow a typical 60-day time line. As of last Friday, the final requested information was submitted, and the application is now deemed complete, though no exact permit date has been provided. While Beth's supervisor has encouraged moving forward, internal dynamics may still affect timing, so the team remains cautiously optimistic after several rounds of review.

2024 Water Control and Measurement Projects: Tyson Murray's MOTION, SECONDED by Shawn Labrum, to approve the Summit Golf & Landscape LLC bid for the J Bar J Lateral Metering Project in the amount of $437,516.00 was unanimously approved.

Service Canal Radial Gate Rehabilitation: Jordan reported the Service Canal Radial Gate Rehabilitation Project is nearing completion, with the contractor returning this week to finish the seal plates. The J-bulb seals are expected to arrive soon. The goal is to wrap up early next week, with a final inspection scheduled for Monday, depending on progress over the next few days.

Jensen Unit Pumping Plant: The Board received two strong consulting proposals for the Jensen Unit Pumping Plant project after extending the submission period to accommodate updated scope and federal coordination requirements. With no need to shortlist, both teams will move directly to interviews planned for March 26, pending scheduling and legal guidance on quorum and public notice requirements. Board members will complete preliminary scoring in advance and may revise scores after interviews, with a final selection expected at the April 14 meeting.

Financial Statements: Todd Thacker made a MOTION, SECONDED by Keith Despain, and passed unanimously to approve the February 2026 Financial Statements.

Legal, Engineering and Construction: Tyson Murray's MOTION, SECONDED by Todd Thacker to approve to pay Bowen Collins & Associates $3,994.75, Jones & DeMille Engineering $27,850.22, Maverick Contractors $422,455.00, Spencer Fane $517.50 and VanCon $26,979.36, for a total of $481,796.36. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Adjourn: Chairman Shad Jackson adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm.

Utah Public Notice

Uintah Water Conservancy District

View this notice and download a calendar invite

Notice Date & Time: 3/10/26 10:00 AM -3/10/26 12:00 PM

Description/Agenda:

- Introduction of Guests
- Approval of February 10, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
- Public Comment/ Input
-

Request for Board Action
- Resolution 2026-03-10- Formal Adoption of 2025 Water Conservation Plan
- Authorization to Upgrade Transformer- Green River Pumping Plant
- Green River Water Development
  - Brush Creek Distribution System
  - Lower Highline and Ashley Upper- Holmes Proposal
- Authorization to Procure Engineering Services:
  - Tyzack Aqueduct Bypass- Flow Restrictions
  - Tyzack Aqueduct Reach I- Cathodic Protection System

Review of Projects and Related Business
- Operation Update- Red Fleet, Steinaker, West Side
  - Set Vernal Unit and Jensen Uni Project Water Allotments for 2026
- Uinta River Bifurcation Structure
- 2024 Water Control and Measurement Projects
- Service Canal Projects-Radial Gate Rehabilitation
- Jensen Unit Pumping Plant- Request for statement of Qualifications
- Tyzack Aqueduct Failure

Financial Business
- Approval of February Financial Statements
- Approval of Legal, Engineering, and Construction Invoices

Other Business.
- Hydrology Update
- Manager Report
- Upcoming Conferences
  - Utah Water Users Workshop, March 16-18, 2026 (St. George)
- Closed Session for the Purposes of Discussing Real Estate Transactions, Pending Litigation or Personnel Issues
- Adjourn until April 14, 2026, Board Meeting

Notice of Special Accommodations:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during this meeting should notify Marie Cook 435-789-1651.

Notice of Electronic or telephone participation:

Electronic or telephone participation is NOT available.

Other information:

Location:

78 West 3300 North, Vernal, 84078

Contact information:

Marie Cook , mcook@uwcd.org, 435-789-1651

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Vernal Express

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Florida, County of Broward, ss:

I, Anjana Bhadoriya, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath depose and say that I am an agent of Column Software, PBC, duly appointed and authorized agent of the Publisher of Vernal Express, of Uintah County, State of Utah, state that this newspaper is a qualified newspaper, published and of general circulation in said county, was published in regular edition of said paper, and that the notice of which the annexed is a copy was published on the following date(s).

Publication Dates:

- Mar 4, 2026

Anjana Bhadoriya

Agent

VERIFICATION

State of Florida
County of Broward

SHERI SMITH
Notary Public - State of Florida
Commission # HH269383
Expires on May 31, 2026

Signed or attested before me on this: 03/04/2026

S Smith

Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the Uintah Water Conservancy District will hold its monthly Board Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at the District Office, 78 West 3300 North, Vernal, Utah.

Published in the Vernal Express March 4, 2026

4329650

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the Uintah Water Conservancy District will hold its monthly Board Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at the District Office, 78 West 3300 North, Vernal, Utah.

Published in the Vernal Express March 4, 2026

4329650