2022 Water Legislative Policy Breakdown

SLCo Sustainability Director: Michael Shea
Water Conservation in Salt Lake County

HB-282 (Wilcox) Water-Wise Landscaping Amendments

- Prohibits certain public and private entities from prohibiting water-wise landscaping and authorizes certain landscaping requirements
- Cities, counties, and HOAs may not require turf in the parking strip
Water Conservation in Salt Lake County

HB-121 (Spendlove) Water Conservation Modifications

- Imposes water conservation requirements on state owned facilities
  - Turf restrictions on new state facilities (no more than 20%)
  - Sets outdoor water use conservation targets for state facilities - 5% by 2023, 25% by 2026
- Requires Leg. Water Development Committee to study water conservation
- Requires the adoption of additional conservation measures
  - Shutoff, moisture sensors, etc.
- Establishes a turf buyback program
Water Conservation in Salt Lake County

SB -110 (McKell) Water as part of the General Plan

• Mandates for municipal general plans requiring local governments to address land use and water use together.

• Compliance deadline 12/31/25

SLCo Impact - West General Plan

• The WGP currently includes Water Conservation as part of the plan exceeding current general plan requirements.

• SLCo has set the framework to meet the elements required in SB 110 by 2025
Indirect Bills

HB242 (Peterson) Secondary Water Metering Amendments

- Prohibition on new unmetered secondary connections extended to rural counties
- All secondary suppliers required to install meters before Jan. 1, 2030
- Provides $250 million in ARPA funds to help cover provider costs
- Bill does provide exceptions for certain providers
- Bill does not affect SLCo operations. However, we anticipate future legislation that might. We are supportive of the concept of secondary metering for commercial use
Indirect Bills

HB-33 (Ferry) Instream Water Flow Flow Amendments

• Potential to hold water right without using it for a long period of time and allow the water to flow to the Great Salt Lake and still protect the water right

• Any “person entitled to the use of water” may file a change application for instream flow or use of water on sovereign lands

• Change application must be approved by one of the following state divisions: parks; wildlife; forestry, fire and state lands
Great Salt Lake Bills

HB-410 (Wilson) Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement

• Creates the framework for a water trust
• Allocates $40M to that trust via non-profits and water agencies
• Outlines policies for grants and programs to promote, enhance, develop the Great Salt Lake and to maintain the lake for wildlife, mining, and public access

HB-429 (Miles) Great Salt Lake Amendments

• Directs Division of Water Resources to conduct an Integrated Water Resource Plan
• Appropriates $5M for that purpose
Bills That Did Not Pass

SB-73 (Iwamoto) Flow Rates or Quantity for Plumbing Fixtures
• Would establish new maximum standards for fixtures (showerheads, faucets, and toilets)

HB-95 (Ward) Landscaping Requirements
• Municipality or HOA may not require a property owner to plant or maintain turf
• Must provide alternatives to turf
Takeaways for SLCo

• One of the strongest sessions for water conservation by the Legislature
• SLCo will continue to monitor the drought and audit our own internal water footprint and policies
• No silver bullets everyone agrees on
• While other agencies have a bigger role in water policy, SLCo can still do its part
• HB 121 is a good model for SLCo facilities to follow
Questions?