

White City Water Improvement District

999 E. Galena Drive

Sandy, UT.

Office: 801-571-3991 Fax: 801-571-2688

E-mail: info@wcwid.org

Website: www.wcwid.org



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General Manager’s Report

General Manager

Paul H. Ashton , J.D.

Board of Trustees

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Summers never last very long and soon school will start once again and our thoughts will move from maintaining lawns and gardens to football and school supplies. Temperatures, however, will remain high throughout August and if the last few years are any indication, we will continue to require extensive outside watering into September. Fortunately, because of the foresight of those who first began the White City water system, and those of you who voted to purchase that system through the White City Water Improvement District (“WCWID”) in 1995, there is plenty of water to use and the water rights from which the water is obtained is of such a high priority date that we have little to fear of losing the water rights as long as we put the water to “beneficial use.”

Utah is a dry state and when the area was first settled, it was decided that all water would belong to the “public” with the right to use water going to those who could put the water to beneficial use. The principle of “first in time – first in right” was adopted and it was determined that water must be used, or it would revert back to the public for the next one in line. This is called the “prior appropriation system” and was a radically different approach to water management used in the eastern states. As the state’s population has grown there have been modifications to its “water law” and WCWID has participated in the process to ensure its water rights are protected. One example of WCWID’s involvement is modifying the law to acknowledge that public water suppliers, such WCWID, can hold water for the reasonable future needs of the public and need not show that all water is being used each and every year as long as it is reasonably foreseeable that it will be used.

In tension with the “use it or lose it” concept inherent in the prior appropriation doctrine is the need to “conserve” water in times of drought and to not waste water. WCWID is supportive of this need. However, as illustrated on the back of this newsletter, compulsory conservation of water by arbitrary adoption of higher water rates can have negative impacts on the aquifer from which WCWID obtains its water. We are sharing this information with you because local newspapers and many legislators think the “cure all” for meeting the water needs of the state’s growing population is conservation alone and are demanding higher water rates to force everyone to conserve.

WCWID opposes any effort to force it to raise water rates beyond what is needed to meet its costs. Just as WCWID has had to fight to protect its independence in the past, it may be necessary to do so again in the future if third parties want to force it to use less water than it is entitled to. This is especially true if there is no legislative change to Utah’s water law. As is, too much conservation will lead to the loss of valuable water rights. In the meantime, continue to water your lawns and beautify your yards. It’s your water – use it wisely.

Board of Trustee's Report

Salt Lake Valley Recharge Zones Map

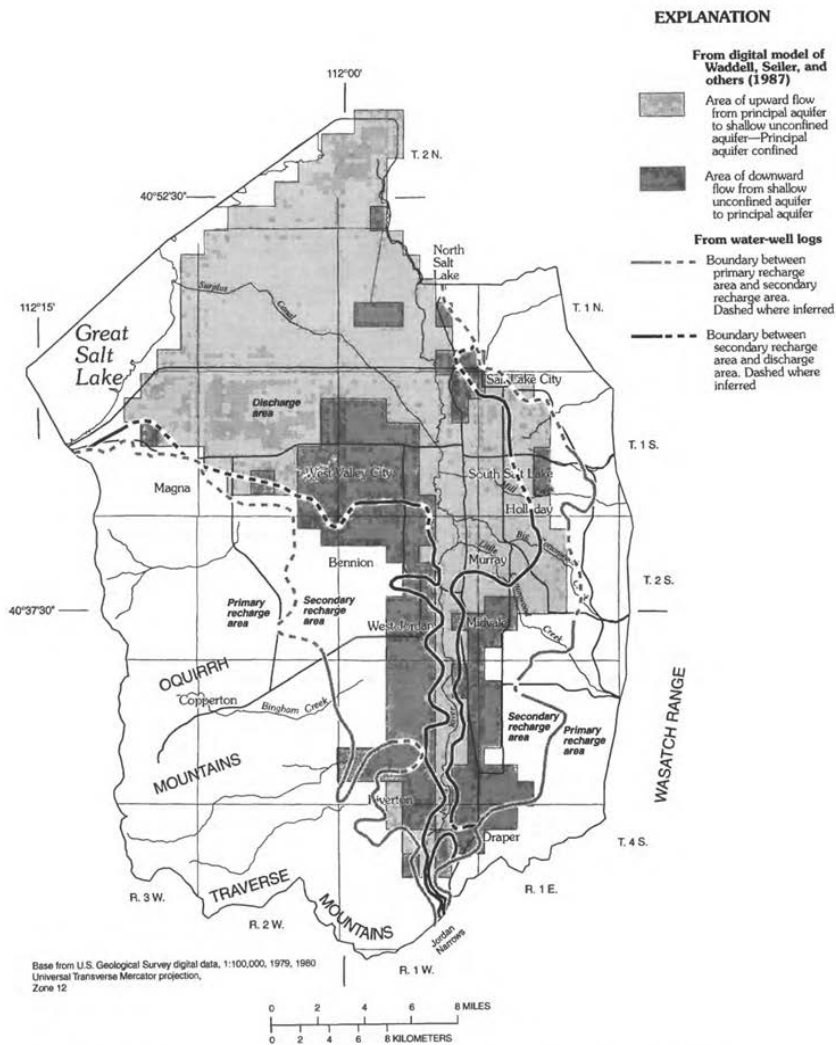


Figure 13. Areas of upward and downward flow between the principal aquifer and the shallow unconfined aquifer of Salt Lake Valley, Utah, determined from a digital model and water-well logs.

Impact of Too Much Conservation on Our Aquifer

Where does our water come from?

Answer: Ground water

How does ground water get replenished?

Answer: From rain & snow in the mountains and in the valley. When watering your lawns, it goes back to the aquifer.

What happens in a drought?

Answer: Aquifer gets water first. Reason is ground in the mountains and in the valley is so dry it wicks the water downward and very little goes to runoff.

Conservation for well water systems should be as follows: Do not water in the heat of the day. Water after 6 PM and before 10 AM.

We actually get our water from the secondary and primary water recharge zones.

We have the water necessary to keep your properties protected from the Urban Heat Island affect. For Information on this issue go to: <https://www.epa.gov/heat-islands/heat-island-cooling-strategies>

[Chapter 2: Trees and Vegetation \(PDF\)](#)

(32 pp, 5 MB)

By dewatering our valley we are pushing up the temperatures. The electrical supply becomes insufficient and more expensive.

Our water supply needs protected. Our water users (1991) went to the Public Service Commission to secure White City Water for our users and the properties it serves. We purchased the water company (1995) via a citizen sponsored petition to create an Improvement District. We initiated cost based rates and no taxes to pay for the system. This means revenues pay for the system. All improvements come from you paying for what you use and you not being taxed. Everyone made the commitment to preserve our precious water for our communities of Sandy and Salt Lake County. We as citizens have done the right thing.

Protecting the source can mean using it wisely. Grow your grass taller. Do not water in the heat of the day. Put in sprinklers that do not mist. You want the ones that spray heavy droplets that actually fall to the ground.

The LDS Conference Center put a roof top garden in to minimize the heat reflected off the building. The large RC Willey warehouse on 5600 west put a white roof on to reflect the heat. These were done in the 90's to reduce the heat in this valley. The more construction the more black top. Please help reverse the damage being done.

White City Water Board Members