

## Utah Watersheds Council

*Progress Report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committee*

The Utah Watershed Councils Act (Act) was passed during the 2020 legislative general session. The Act directs the Division of Water Resources (Division) to organize and convene the statewide Utah Watersheds Council and 12 watershed councils, serving as "diverse and balanced stakeholder forums for discussion of water policy and resource issues at watershed and state levels..." These councils "are not vested with regulatory, infrastructure financing, or enforcement powers or responsibilities."

In January of 2021, the Division hired the Langdon Group (Contractor) through a competitive bid process to help implement the Act. The Contractor has gathered a team with vast experience facilitating complex projects and extensive knowledge of local water issues. This year, the team has worked with the Division to gather feedback from stakeholders and organize the statewide Utah Watersheds Council and several local watershed councils. The Contractor conducted interviews with over 200 individuals and 60 organizations as part of the outreach and now knows.

The Utah Watersheds Council will convene its first meeting on December 3. Up to three local watershed councils will also convene their first meeting sometime in early 2022. The remaining councils will be formed over the coming three years as outlined in the project timeline below.

### Project Timeline

