



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

Amanda Smith
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Walter L. Baker, P.E.
Director

Dear Fellow Water Monitors,

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Division of Water Quality (DWQ) is pleased to announce plans for the formation of a Statewide Water Quality Monitoring Council. The Division of Water Quality recently received a one year stimulus grant to expand cooperative monitoring programs and outreach to include a statewide council to coordinate with agencies, volunteers and communities with active or planned monitoring programs. It is our hope that a Monitoring Council will promote a forum for water quality monitoring coordination and collaboration among the many monitors working to protect our state's precious resource.

Over the past few years the DWQ has worked with monitoring programs within Federal, State, and local government programs, as well as with Universities, to share and evaluate water quality data. While the state strives to monitor all of the waters of Utah, we just do not have the resources to continue to do so continuously and effectively. Many of the other groups we share data with echo the same sentiments. With the formation of a Statewide Monitoring Council and a designated coordinator at DWQ, we can expand our monitoring efforts and data exchange capabilities, benefiting the network of water quality monitors as a whole.

In addition to promoting communication and collaboration among formal monitoring agencies, we will help coordinate citizen monitoring efforts and provide support and training for volunteers and organizations involved in surface water monitoring. In the process we hope to build capacity for the participating agencies and groups to understand water quality data, the assessment of Utah's waters, and any water quality issues that may arise.

Our first meeting will be held on February 25th at 9:00 a.m. in conjunction with DWQ's yearly Cooperators meeting in Richfield Utah. The meeting will be at the Sevier School District, 180 E. 600 N., in their training room in the basement. For the agenda please visit our web site at <http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/Monitoring/Council/> . We encourage everyone with an interest in the future of Utah's waters to attend.

Please feel free to contact Robert Bird or Jim Harris with any comments and questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Bird, Coordinator
Monitoring Council
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