

**Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative**  
**Southeastern Regional Team Charter**  
**October, 2024**

**Background:** Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative (UWRI) is a wide-view watershed restoration initiative formed in 2006 to leverage diverse interests including: government entities, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), industry, citizens, and other like-minded organizations to mitigate and improve watershed health in Utah.

**Mission:** The purpose of the regional team(s) is to serve as a clearinghouse for coordinating and sharing participants' conservation concerns and priorities, discussing potential solutions and for cooperatively implementing conservation activities.

**Vision:** UWRI is a partnership-driven effort to restore and manage land health in priority areas across the state.

**The following values are implemented by UWRI:**

- Protect and enhance wildlife, biological diversity, and ecological function.
- Improve water quality, yield, and hydrologic function.
- Promote the opportunity for sustainable use of natural resources.
- Maintain quality of life through economic and social values of healthy watersheds.

**Goal:** To provide cooperative mitigation of threats to land health through effective management and restoration actions on public and private lands in Utah.

**Parameters:** The regional teams are composed of restoration focused staff as well as other local conservation minded organizations and stakeholders that reflect the ecologic, economic, and social demographics of that region. Each team is locally led and works cooperatively to plan and implement projects.

Projects are prioritized by ranking criteria established by statewide guidance with the regional team providing local guidance.

**Processes:** WRI meetings are open to all, and voting at meetings is conducted via a two-tiered system:

- 1) General administration (including officer elections), proposal review, and charter changes; and,
- 2) Project ranking by a ranking committee.

**Tier 1 Voting:**

- Open to all who attend the annual regional kickoff meeting and who wish to participate, either virtually or in person.
- Will nominate and vote for officers. This will be a simple majority vote. Officer nominees are not required to attend the kickoff meeting.

- If needed, will also vote to finalize charter changes and proposal review.

### **Tier 2 Voting:**

- Selected at the annual kickoff meeting to represent a diverse group of stakeholders, agencies, members of the public, and conservation interests. These entities may include a representative (or 2-3, where indicated) from:
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Utah State University Extension Service
  - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
  - Utah Associations of Conservation Districts
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - U.S. Farm Services Agency
  - Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
  - U.S. Forest Service
  - Utah Department of Environmental Quality
  - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
  - National Parks Service
  - Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
  - Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
  - Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
  - Utah Division of State Parks
  - Utah Division of Recreation
  - One representative from each interested Tribal Nation.
  - Up to three conservation minded individuals that reflect the ecologic, economic, and social demographics of that region
  - Up to two at-large individuals
  - Up to one county designated voting representative from each of the six counties in the Southeastern Region (San Juan, Grand, Emery, Carbon, Wayne and Garfield)
  - The private sector includes: Utah State University Extension Services, Utah Association of Conservation Districts, U.S. Farm Services agency, Counties, NGOs, and selected conservation minded individuals.

### **Requirements for Tier 2 Voters:**

- Voting Representatives must possess comprehensive knowledge of group issues and express the consensus or majority support of that group on those issues.
- Voting participation requires regular attendance of team meetings and familiarity with projects and/or issues.
- A voting representative can only represent a single group during voting.
- Tier 2 voters (ranking committee members) are required to attend the proposal presentation meeting and the ranking meeting.
- For meeting and voting purposes, a quorum shall consist of at least five individuals present from the voting representatives, with at least one of the five from the private sector (Utah State University Extension Services, Utah Association of Conservation Districts, U.S. Farm Services agency, Counties, NGOs, and selected conservation minded individuals).

- Grounds for removal are limited to especially egregious issues/behavior.
- Removing Tier 2 voting members can be done by nomination, followed by a second, then a 2/3 majority vote in favor of removal.

## **Administration:**

The SER WRI is governed by a **Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary**. Such positions may be held by voting and non-voting representatives who are active in the local SER chapter.

**If the Chair position is vacated or absent, the Vice-chair shall assume the role of Chair.** All other vacancies will be filled by nomination and representative vote at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**A new Vice-chair and Secretary will be elected at the fall meeting of each year.** The Secretary's appointment shall be one year. The term of the Vice-chair shall be one year as Vice-chair and one year as Chair, with the current Vice-chair rotating into the Chair position.

**The Chair is responsible for distributing information to all regional team members, scheduling meetings, and acting as the liaison with the UWRI.**

**The Vice-chair** serves to support the Chair in developing agendas and facilitating regional team meetings, attending other group meetings where regional team representation is required, and assisting with other duties critical to meeting regional team objectives. The Vice-chair organizes the summer field tour. The vice chair coordinates meals with a State of Utah employee for payment.

**The Secretary** is responsible for taking minutes at all regional team meetings and providing additional support to the Chair and Vice-chair as requested, including advertising or notifying interested parties about team meetings. The Secretary maintains the member list. The Secretary secures meeting room locations.

**Meetings will be called by the Chair and other meetings as designated by the Chair or Vice-chair**

## **Annual Deadlines and Meeting Dates:**

**First Monday in January that is not a holiday:** Project proposal deadline. Projects must be entered and submitted into the database to be considered for the following FY.

**January/February Project Proposal and Ranking Meeting** (if time warrants, ranking committee meeting will occur immediately after proposal presentations). The winter meeting includes presentation/discussion related to proposed projects for the upcoming year. Should include a Tier I vote moving the project forward to ranking or sending it back for reconsideration. WRI will provide lunch.

**Late January/ Early February - Ranking Committee Meeting-** Ranking committee members will use score sheet provided from WRI Administration. Scores will be input on the form provided by WRI Administration prior to the meeting. Ranking will be determined from an average score following project presentations and will be held with Tier II voting members.

**March 1:** Ranking results due to Utah PCD.

**April/May (every odd year):** Statewide WRI meeting; project coordination across borders; restoration-oriented presentations; workshops; or field trip to develop potential projects.

**June/July/August Field Tour:** Summer field trip to view implemented projects. Summer is the season with the best access to view existing projects, and at least one field tour must be held each year. WRI will provide lunch.

Other meetings are to be scheduled on an as needed basis.

**September:** Optional meeting to discuss changes to ranking criteria, or other major changes on a needed basis.

**October/November Fall Kick-Off Meeting:**

This meeting includes:

- Charter updates.
- Updates/ranking changes from WRI administration.
- Housekeeping from prior meetings (e.g. presentation of sub-committee reports).
- Elevation of Vice Chair to Chair position.
- Regional officer elections (in-person or via email or virtual meeting)
- Identification of ranking committee members.
- Presentations on previously funded projects.
- Guest speakers on topics relevant to the WRI region (optional)
- Coordination/collaboration on upcoming WRI projects that will be submitted.
- WRI will provide lunch (if speakers are included on the agenda).
- Pre-proposal ideas for upcoming FY.