

Salt Lake City Council Public Comment: Tuesday April 3, 2007

Philosophical question: If selling water outside city limits is revenue neutral, in other words not profitable, why do it? Why not reduce the water department by 1/3 and reduce you headache by 1/3? Why deal with the hassle of 31,231 outside city limit connections if there is no money in it? What is the motive of this policy? Dollars? Power? Philanthropy?

Your current story that our shareholders traded 16,000+ acre-feet of culinary water for 1,000 acre-feet of Utah Lake water is not plausible, not credible, and not kind.

Please help me understand why farmers exchanged 96 million dollars worth of water generating up to 6.4 million dollars in annual revenues for a puny 10,000 acre-feet Utah Lake water contract which diminishes 90%. The initial trade was unfair to us. The water dept, a monopoly, wants to make that 90% cut by suing us to run that water to waste and forfeiture. You don't need our water. Let's reverse the trade.

Please help me understand why no elected official will meet with me? No elected person would meet with me for over 2 years. Now you'll say we can't talk because of litigation which is not true. The court system encourages parties to resolve their issues outside court.

The city need for Big Cottonwood water has been replaced with Provo River, Deer Creek, and Little Cottonwood Creek water in the Metro and Point of the Mountain Treatment Plants.

The water department not only monopolizes water rights as indicated by the inventory sheet, but also monopolizes access to elected city members. Our scheduled meetings were canceled by the water department.

This is not a legal issue. This is a public policy issue. You sued me as an individual for buying water shares outside your city limits when you've purchased over 56,000 shares yourself not for drinking but for monopoly. Water is a public commodity delivered to the public by a public entity. Why can't we have a public conversation with council members representing the public who control the water department?

Water is also an expiring commodity. Salt Lake County had a 1.4 billion gallon well right cancelled under the 50 year rule.

This is not just a single contract disagreement with Big Ditch. But 12 years of chronic beat down on water in Brown Ditch, Union and East Jordan, East Jordan, Sandy Irrigation, Lower Millcreek, American Fork River, etc..

I've met with Mike Styler, the Director of Natural Resources, Jerry Olds, the State Engineer, Lt. Governor Gary Herbert, Senate President John Valentine, and Salt Lake and Utah County officials. Very narrow county or state action will moderate the monopoly.

Monopoly does not lend itself to rational or fair policies. Unfairness does not become this great city. Nancy, predatory payday practices irritate you on a personal level. Predatory water monopoly practices irritate me on a personal level. Will any council member or person running for office meet we me?

Thank you  
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