

TC Report Feb-11, 2026

Legislative Policy Committee (Utah League of Cities and Towns)

Several Property tax initiatives: SB97, HB236, HB449, HB161

SB97 (Sen. McCay) is the main property tax vehicle, with a current substitute that still contains a 5% cap on annual property tax revenue growth...still in the works.

Some Transportation utility fee and other revenue issues.

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and vegetation removal bills

HB41 (Tom Peterson) would update Utah's WUI code from the 2006 version to the 2024 version; three possible outcomes were outlined: kill the bill, adopt the updated code as is, or adopt plus constrain city WUI maps so they cannot designate areas below the state level-5 structural risk line on the state map. The level-5 floor idea would prevent cities from mapping high-risk areas as lower-risk to avoid WUI standards.

HB215 (vegetation removal near structures) would bar cities from preventing property owners from removing vegetation in WUI areas where the WUI building code allows such removal, effectively preempting stricter local vegetation protections in defensible space zones

Cities raised concern about liability if state law forces them to allow vegetation removal that later contributes to slope failures or flooding; discussion about whether liability protections could be added.

Homelessness and public safety: HB205

HB205 focuses on substance-related homelessness and authorizes courts to issue "off-limits" orders prohibiting individuals charged or convicted of drug offenses from entering defined public spaces (parks, libraries, etc.) for up to a year; violating the order would be a class A misdemeanor.

E-bikes framework: HB381

HB381 revisits the statewide framework for electric bikes, distinguishing true e-bikes (pedal assist, lower-power motors) from high-powered electric motorcycles or mopeds.

Emergency Preparedness

I presented an Emergency Management Training Plan to Town managers. This training plan establishes a systematic approach to develop emergency management competency among Springdale town employees. The program aligns with FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements and builds the incident command (ICS) capabilities necessary for effective response to all-hazard emergencies. Many of our Town managers already

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Council Department Report
February 2026

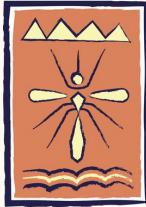
have elements of this training, so for some it will be a refresher. The proposed training includes tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises scheduled for the latter part of 2026. Once this has been fully reviewed and approved by the Mayor and Town managers, implementation will begin.

SOUTHWEST MOSQUITO ABATEMENT & CONTROL DISTRICT

See attached newsletter.

Southern Utah Regional Dark Sky Advocacy Group

The Southern Utah Regional Dark Sky Advocacy Group discussed upcoming events and initiatives. The first sky monitoring window is from February 5 to 18. The Utah dark sky license plate project needs 500 sign-ups, with current sign-ups under 50. Highlighted upcoming astronomical events like the Artemis II mission and a total lunar eclipse. The group also discussed leveraging hardware stores for dark sky awareness and the potential for a proclamation from Governor Cox for Dark Sky Week.



SOUTHWEST MOSQUITO ABATEMENT & CONTROL DISTRICT

JANUARY 2026

BOARD MEMBER NEWSLETTER

As we begin the new year, January is a time to reflect on last season's efforts and focus on planning for the year ahead. This month's work sets the foundation for effective mosquito control and continued protection of public health in our community. Here are some highlights from the office and the field.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

Kirk Jones, our new Public Education Administrator, has hit the ground running—and then some! He's already recorded a catchy radio jingle for this year's public service messages, written and recorded an educational mosquito song, and created a "menu" of fun lessons schools can choose from. To bring these lessons to life, Kirk has designed print materials, 3D-printed items, and engaging presentation visuals. He's also been digging into last year's data to help guide treatment strategies for the upcoming season. We're excited to watch this new Public Outreach Program take off! 🚀

Upcoming planned events:

January 22nd - Arrowhead Elementary School STEM night

March 19th - George Washington Academy STEM night

April 23rd - Coral Canyon Elementary STEM night

If you have suggestions for additional schools or events you'd like us to attend, we'd love to hear from you!



CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST AEDES AEGYPTI

Aedes aegypti is still on our radar—even during the cooler months. While mosquitoes may be laying low, our team isn't. We're using the winter and spring to get a head start by pre-treating permanent water sources, cleaning up yards, and removing problem areas before mosquitoes have a chance to move in. We're also talking with residents now so they'll be ready this summer when we stop by their homes. A little work now goes a long way toward keeping Aedes aegypti numbers low and our community more comfortable all season long! As a reminder, keep your yard free of containers that could hold water. This is the best way to fight these aggressive biters.



IN THE FIELD & OFFICE

The Mosquito Surveillance Tech's have been working hard out in the field with many winter projects. They are getting trails built and cleaned up, they are surveying areas that have a potential to have larvae, they are testing products for efficacy in the colder weather, and they are getting the trucks better organized and ready for the season. They are also still trapping a few areas through the winter months. Yes, there are still mosquitoes flying out there in the cold.

North Dixie, Pine View Estates, Nature Park, Gould Wash, Springs and several other places have been cleaned up so far and are ready for when the mosquito season starts to heat up.

A couple of weeks ago, we hosted the monthly UMAA managers meeting at the District office for all the other mosquito district managers in Utah. They enjoyed seeing our facilities and our many innovations. They enjoyed some sunshine while they were here, too.

Sean, serving as this year's President of the West Central Mosquito and Vector Control Association, has been busy putting together the program and finalizing the details for the conference coming up in just a few weeks. The keynote speaker will be from the Health Department in Las Vegas where they have a huge Aedes aegypti problem but no control district yet. It will be interesting to hear what they are doing about it all.

In the office, Karen has been busy filing away invoices and other paperwork from 2025. She is organizing her office and cleaning out filing cabinets of old paperwork that can be stored upstairs. We have several new Board members coming in this year, so she is putting binders together and creating name plates for them. Karen is also preparing for the full financial audit, putting folders together, and getting ready the documents she knows they will need.

In the shop, Kesler has been working on building maintenance like cleaning out the ice machines so they are in working order for the season. He is performing maintenance on traps and tools, scheduling maintenance to be done on vehicles, detailing trucks, and organizing the pesticide storage. The chemical inventory is done for 2025 and it looks like the staff did well on pesticide usage last season. We still have plenty to get us going when the season starts.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

Here is a list of some of the trainings and workshops the District will be attending this spring:

West Central Mosquito & Vector Control Association Annual Meeting

When: February 4th - 5th, 2026

Where: Grand Junction, CO

American Mosquito Control Association

When: March 23rd - 27th, 2026

Where: Portland, OR

Utah Mosquito Abatement Association Spring Workshop

When: May 8th, 2026

Where: Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District

These conferences are a great way to network with vendors and other managers. We look forward to seeing what other Districts around the country have been working on.

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

Please mark your calendars for our first Board meeting of 2026 on February 12 at 4:00 p.m. at the District office. We'll be welcoming several new Board members, and we have a full agenda planned to kick off the year. This meeting will also include the election of our new Executive Board.

I'll share more details, along with any needed paperwork and the Google Meet link, as the meeting gets closer. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

I hope this year is a great year for everyone. It is our privilege to have you on our Board. Thank you for your dedicated service.

