

Utah Lake Study Committee Meeting
January 26, 2006
Utah County Commission Conference Room
100 East Center, Provo, Utah

ATTENDEES:

Members

Mayor Lewis K. Billings, Provo
Mayor Heber Thompson, American Fork
Mayor Howard H. Johnson, Lehi
Dave Anderson, Saratoga Springs
Mayor Gene Mangum, Springville
Mayor Randy Farnworth, Vineyard
Clyde Naylor, Utah County

Other Interested Parties

Michael A. Vail, Genola Town Council
Lee Hansen, Saratoga Springs
Scott Messell, City Planner, Saratoga Springs
Steve Densley, President Provo/Orem Chamber
Kris Buelow, CUWCD
Chris Keleher, UDNr and JSRIP
Barbara Gardner, State Forester
Barry Tripp, Lands Administration FFSL
David Grierson, Planner, FFSL
Robyn R. Pearson, DNR Deputy Director, SLC
Ty Hunter, Utah Lake State Park
Rick Cox, Urs Consultants
Tim Watkins, Envision Utah
Chris Erb, City Engineer, Payson
Robert West, Provo City Attorney

1. **Welcome and call to order** given by Mayor Billings
2. **Review and approve minutes** of December 1, 2005. The minutes were approved as amended. It was suggested that in the second paragraph of item 3 that the minutes should read "carp reduction" program instead of "carp recovery" program.
3. **Report and discussion from Utah Lake Study Technical Committee.** Robert West gave a brief report indicating that the regular meeting this month was postponed because they were still working on their report. Their final proposal should be completed next month.
4. **Continuing discussion and presentation regarding future carp management and planning strategies.** Chris Keleher introduced himself and told how he became interested in the June Sucker recovery program. He indicated he would still be involved in the program although he is now with the State Department of Natural Resources and that Kris Buelow would be doing much of what he had been doing as the JSRIP Local Director with the CUWCD.

The June Sucker is native only to Utah Lake and gets it's name from the fact that it spawns in

June in the Provo River. At one time the known population of the June Sucker was as low as 300, it has now rebounded and is up over 1,000. They are doing this through a combination of natural reproduction and through catching some of the spawn in the river and hatching them in a protected environment.

Because Utah Lake is such a shallow lake, it has more bottom feeding fish and that is why there are so many carp in the lake. The carp dominate all the fish in the lake and is the biggest hindrance to the June Sucker recovery program. The carp make the water in the lake muddy, changes the nutrient balance, and destroys the plant growth on the bottom of the lake. Aquatic plants are vital to the recovery of the June Sucker in Utah Lake. The carp need to be reduced by at least 75 percent to make a difference in the lake. In the studies they have made they estimate that about 45,000 pounds of carp would need to be removed from the lake for an average of 120 days a year to maintain the correct balance.

In 2006 they will be trying to determine if they can achieve the levels needed to make the program work. Bill Loy, a fourth generation carp fisherman on Utah Lake, will be working with them to see if this is feasible. Even if they can remove the number of carp from the lake to achieve their goals, they do not know what they will do with the carp once out of the lake. BYU is interested in being involved in the program and is working to develop a method for low cost liquefaction. They are also looking at the possibilities of developing other markets for the fish. Using the carp in a composting program is also being explored. They are checking the fish for contaminate levels.

They are hoping to do a pilot program in which they would work for ten days to see just how many carp they can actually remove. To do this they will need the cooperation, manpower and the resources of the county and cities around the lake to make it work. If the pilot program works they are looking at the possibility of starting a removal program in 2007. They would probably start in about March and it would cost approximately \$1 million a year to do the project. If they can successfully reduce the number of carp in the lake the water will be clearer which will lead to more recreation activities, sport fishing, etc. on the lake.

During a brief question and answer period Mr. Keleher was asked where they would get the funding for the project. He indicated that they have a \$1 million budget that could be used in part as well as seeking federal funding. Mayor Billings suggested that we might get our Washington lobbyists involved to see where other monies could come from. They also suggested that Senator Bennett is on the Agriculture committee and he might be a help in finding funding.

During the ten day pilot period they will need dump trucks, etc. to help remove the fish. Mayor Billings asked that the Technical Committee take on the responsibility of arranging for some trucks or other means to get the fish removed. Weather permitting they will work ten consecutive days excluding weekends. Mayor Billings asked if Bill Loy could be invited to join the group to discuss this issue. Mayor Billings asked if there were any members who did not feel good about going after federal funding and no one indicated that they had a problem with it.

Steve Densley asked about dredging the lake. Chris Keleher said at the present time they are not looking at dredging as part of the June Sucker recovery program. Utah Lake is not a good storage lake, that is what they use Deer Creek and Jordanelle Dams for. Dredging is very costly and the soil they bring up is not very usable.

5. Other reports and discussion. Robyn Pearson said they are concerned about the growth around the lake. They want to make sure appropriate planning is done before the growth gets to advanced to make corrections. Ty Hunter said they are in the process of developing an educational program for school age children to help them understand the lake so they will take an interest in its future.

Mayor Billings suggested we make some changes in the organization of the group. He wants to send out invitations to every city and city council and ask them to assign a representative to attend the meetings.

Ideas for possible future agenda items:

- The role of Phragmites
- Dredging of the lake
- Bill Loy presentation

6. Set date, place and time for the next meeting. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m. on February 23. Commissioner Ellertson verified that their conference room was scheduled for their meetings for the remainder of the year.

The regular date for the Technical Committee to meet is the Monday before the general meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Orem City Public Works Conference Room. For February that date is a legal holiday, so an official date will be verified.

Chris Keleher announced that there would be a symposium about Utah Lake again this year.