

## UTAH LAKE STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 27, 2005

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

County Commission Conference Room, Room 2300

100 East Center Street, Provo, UT

### ATTENDEES:

#### Members

Mayor Randy Farnsworth, Vineyard  
Mayor Lewis Billings, Provo  
Clyde Naylor, Utah County  
Mayor E. Fritz Boyer, Springville  
Mayor Bernell C. Evans, Payson  
Larry A. Ellertson, Utah County  
Quentin Francom, Genola Councilman  
Mayor Kelvin Bailey, Eagle Mountain

#### Other Interested Parties

Karl Kappe, Div. Of Forestry, Fire/State Lands  
Jarret Whicker, Envision Utah  
Bruce Chesnut, Director Public Works, Orem  
Greg Beckstrom, Public Works Engineer, Provo  
Boyd Clayton, Utah State Water Rights  
Robert West, Provo City  
Marin Decker, Deseret Morning News

The Utah Lake Study Committee Minutes of December 9, 2004 were approved with one amendment.

#### New Information Sharing:

- Current snow-pack and expected runoff conditions: Greg Beckstrom from Provo City said there is currently 120% of normal snow pack at Beaver Divide (east of Kamas) and 175% of normal at Timpanogos Divide (near Cascade Springs). At this time in 2004, the snow pack was normal but because of a dry February, there was very little run-off.

With all the variables, January is too early to predict what the run-off will be. We do know Provo soil conditions have a much greater saturation than in previous years and land that has a potential for high water tables, slides, etc. may have problems this year if we get a lot of rain.

Jordanelle and Deer Creek both have below normal water amounts as does Utah Lake. Utah Lake peaked at 4' below compromise last year. The aquifer may take months or years to fill. We need to remember we are still in a drought.

- Jarret Whicker reminded members that Envision Utah is holding regional workshops for long term transportation planning and would like each to be involved in discussions especially those involving suggested Utah Lake causeways.

### **Technical Committee Report:**

- Bruce Chesnut reviewed the list of study issues the Technical Committee is currently working on.

There are members of several communities in the valley involved in the TMDL Study with Utah Lake. These communities include: Orem, Vineyard, Springville, Provo and Lindon. The TMDL Study deals specifically with the water quality on the lake. Water quality impacts many if not all of the activities on the lake.

The Technical Committee is also working to develop position papers for each of the following topics:

- i) water quality
- ii) recreation
- iii) June Sucker
- iv) development

A presentation was made to the Technical Committee by Ty Hunter of the Utah Lake State Park. Mr. Hunter is very enthusiastic about what might happen at this park. They currently have 800,000 visitors to the lake a year (1998). June and July are the busy months with an average of 90,000 people using the lake and State park facilities.

### **Presentation and discussion regarding past efforts to form a Utah Lake Authority and other similar entities including Bear Lake Commission.**

- Clyde Naylor presented information regarding Senate Bill 77 that was entertained in the 1989 State Legislature and later withdrawn by Utah County. The bill provided for the creation of the Utah Lake Authority as a division of the Department of Community and Economic Development. The purposes of the authority (if it had been created) included a charge to establish and coordinate programs for the development of clean water, recreational areas, water conservation, flood control, reclamation, wildlife resources, land development, housing, commercial areas, public facilities, research parks, industrial parks and other development adjacent to the lake and beneath the lake. In its original form, all the board members but one were to be from Utah County. After it was changed to allow state employees and others from outside the county to control the board, the Utah County Commission withdrew their support of the bill.
- Mr. Naylor presented several recommendations that were made by Homer Chandler, Executive Director of Mountainland Association of Governments, in a report prepared on possible methods to manage Utah Lake as part of the 1992 Utah Lake Feasibility Study. The items are listed on the attached Utah Lake Management History pages. Clyde felt these issues are a good starting point for this committee. A copy of the Homer Chandler report will be filed for future use and reference.
- He also presented a Bear Lake Regional Commission report that he felt is important for

this committee to understand and perhaps use as a guide. The Bear Lake Regional Commission has existed for some years and is a two state, two county organization that is functioning very well. On the attached sheet, the purposes and organization are explained. He offered to present more in-depth details of this commission at the next meeting if the committee so desires.

### **Presentation and discussion regarding the Utah Lake System**

- Boyd Clayton, Utah State Engineer spoke to the committee regarding water rights for Utah Lake. He stated that water rights are very complex and have existed for a long time. There are several major inlets into Utah Lake such as American Fork River, Spanish Fork River, and Provo River. The Jordan River is the major outlet.
- A Utah Lake Management Plan - 1992 - was adopted with the goal of providing a framework for accounting of distribution of water in lake system. Another goal was to keep sufficient water in Utah Lake basin and upstream storage.
- The "conversion criteria" is used to convert water to priority storage with a broad flexible framework and at the same time, give some control to not harm water rights as water is taken out of Utah Lake.
- The current exchange project of CUP (Central Utah Project) out of Strawberry to Utah Lake is to convert sufficient water from the Lake to Jordanelle—not to dictate levels. This is just an accounting plan and will not drain upstream lakes to fill Utah Lake.
- If there is not sufficient water in Utah Lake to supply water needs downstream, water is called for from the upper storage. The Jordan River is becoming less used because there is less irrigation and water rights are being sold as part of the larger CUP project.
- Whatever water is developed for new uses is going to be exchanged from current rights as uses change. Surface water and ground water will both be examined.
- It was explained that the largest influence on the lake is the evaporation rate. The lake actually evaporates more water than is used. If there is a way to eliminate evaporation or depletion, that could help everyone by creating "new water".
- There are currently gages in Jordan Narrows that are controlled by Utah Lake/Jordan River Water Users. When the lake reaches compromise, the gages open fully.
- Mayor Bailey of Eagle Mountain is concerned that their community is not part of the same aquifer as the one serving many of the cities east of the lake and testing is being done to confirm this.
- Mr. Clayton stated that ground water conditions in Utah are published annually and there are two studies currently underway: one, researching the North USGS and the second, a Utah Geological survey with one of its purposes to develop a map of the extent of the aquifer for the

Eagle Mountain area.

**Items for Future Discussion**

- Mayor Billings asked technical committee to have dialog with those requesting Regional TMDL standards to be set.
- Presentation of History of CUP
- Further information sharing regarding the Bear Lake Regional Commission (invite representative to attend our meeting).

**Set date, place, and time for next meeting**

- March 24, 2005 at 7:30 a.m. in County Commission conference room.

**Adjourn**