

Utah Lake Study Committee Meeting
March 23, 2006
Utah Lake State Park Visitor's Center Conference Room
4400 West Center, Provo, Utah

ATTENDEES:

Members

Mayor Lewis Billings, Provo
Mayor Randy Farnworth, Vineyard
Mayor Howard H. Johnson, Lehi
Mayor Jeff Acerson, Lindon
Larry Ellertson, County Commissioner
Mayor Heber Thompson, American Fork
Clyde Naylor, Utah County

Other Interested Parties

Bruce Chesnut, Orem City and Technical Committee Chair
Paul Hawker, Utah County
Bob Fisher, Woodland Hills
Greg Beckstrom, Provo
Robert West, Provo
Chris Keleher, Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)
Reed Harris, DNR
Robyn Pearson, DNR
Kris Buelow, CUWCD
Barry Tripp, Fire, Forest and State Lands (FFSL)
David Grierson, FFSL
Barbara Gardner, FFSL
Ty Hunter, Utah Lake State Park
Jay Christianson, State Parks
Dan Nelson, Mountainland Association of Governments
Steve Densley, Chamber of Commerce
Steve Kroes, Utah Foundation
Rick Cox, URS Corp.

1. **Welcome and call to order** given by Mayor Billings.
2. **Review and approve minutes of February 23, 2006.** The minutes were approved as written.
3. **Presentation and Utah Lake State Park overview.** Improvements under way at the Utah Lake State Park include the marina, planting trees in the campground, and placing large rocks on the south jetty to protect against wave action. A grant from Enviro Care/Energy Solutions has been received to build a nature area with a trail and an outdoor classroom for school children to learn more about the Lake and its benefit to this area. A tour of the Lake via boat was suggested and supported. The Lake level is currently a little above compromise as a result of the lowering of Deer Creek Reservoir and the moisture from last year arriving at the Lake. The low snow has melted and most has gone into the ground. The mid-level snow has not yet melted and some runoff is expected.
4. **Continuing discussion - review draft language proposing formation of the Utah Lake Commission – Clyde Naylor, Utah County Engineer.** In an attempt to formalize this process, a draft document was prepared to create a Utah Lake Commission. It was presented by Mr. Naylor to provide understanding of the concept and receive additional input.

The State Department of Natural Resources supports a Utah Lake local management organization controlled by entities in Utah County. The current proposal is patterned after the Bear Lake Regional Commission. Mr. Naylor read through the document and the following comments were made.

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UTAH LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Organization

- Purpose is to promote beneficial utilization of the natural resources of the Lake, to promote orderly planning and development, and to implement a comprehensive Utah Lake and shoreline management plan.
- Organization includes those communities that border the Lake, necessary State agencies and special districts to include the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District.
- Federal partners could be included through the CUP or as ex-officio members.
- A 15-member governing board will be appointed as directed in the final document to include elected county and city officials, representatives from State departments, and other specified agencies
- A technical committee should be created.
- Regular meetings should be held
- Members will serve without compensation. Expenses will be paid by the appointing agency.
- Members will serve four-year terms of office. Some will have a two-year term to start.
- Some responsibilities cannot be delegated and must remain with the management agency, i.e., enforcement of laws at the Lake will remain with the Parks personnel at the Lake, FFSL will continue to oversee activities on the Lake boundary, and each community will be responsible to approve its own zoning ordinances, etc.
- The Commission will be able to accomplish things and find long-term solutions to problems that could not be done with each agency working alone.
- This organization is not all encompassing and cannot be all controlling. The Interlocal Agreement does not allow any agency to step beyond the boundaries of what can be done as a group.

Purposes as outlined on the document distributed.

1. Develop and promote agency Master Plans, promote coordinated land use planning, and develop recommendations and promote procedures to improve water quality.
2. Identify corrective actions to restore and maintain integrity of the Lake system.
3. Assess uses.
4. Recommend actions to assure continued access.
5. Gather information for public education.
6. Coordinate with Federal, State and local agencies (Add Sovereign Land Doctrine to this purpose.)
7. Develop funding sources.
8. Perform studies and promote ordinances to be consistent with purposes and priorities of the Commission.
9. Establish procedures.
10. Identify maintenance needs and provide long range plan to implement the projects.

Powers of the Commission: Outlined from document. Patterned after the Bear Lake Commission.

A. Eligibility for Federal and State Programs.

B. Review Privileges. Consider adding “any lands included in the Master Plan need to be reviewed by the Commission.”

C. Planning. Comments included:

- Agencies are the ones who can enforce.
- Master Plan will come through this process and all agencies agree to the Master Plan.
- Development in terms of proximity to the Lake will be determined later (includes wetlands).
- Permits would not be under this board, but could be reviewed if needed.
- Ordinances recommended by the Commission would give guidance to cities on needed reviews.
- A clear map demarcation is needed to identify the included area.
- Planning item (3) would read as follows: A natural resources conservation and management plan (to include water quality).
- The Commission will recommend a Master Plan for adoption by each City.

D. Contracts and Contractual services. Suggestion: Add foundations and private firms in this section.

E. Adoption of Uniform Ordinances and Standards. The power is to recommend but not to establish. Suggestions: change water purity to water quality and strike mobile home parks.

F. Acquisition of personal property for staff and commission. The Interlocal Cooperation Act allows this

G. Selling of services.

Staff. Provides for a full-time Executive Director and other staff as needed.

Duration. The Commission will continue for 50 years unless discontinued as provided.

Funding. The primary source of funding would be from grants. Match for Federal grants should be contributed 50% by the State and 50% by local government agencies. Suggestion: Add ex-officio and other agencies who may want to contribute financially.

OTHER DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

Possible Cost Sharing for Lake Management. This document provided cost options per governmental agency based on population and on shoreline miles. Figures shown are the local contribution only. A third option may be a base amount and then something added based on population, shoreline miles, etc. The legislature appropriates \$50,000 annually to the Bear Lake Regional Commission.

Utah Lake Restoration and Development Act. Page 1 establishes the purpose of the Act and the makeup of the Utah Lake Management Group (ULMG). Page 2 presents the Annual Work Plan for 2007, assuming the organization is created by then. The plan includes organizing the commission, removing carp, conducting studies and addressing the trail system more specifically. Page 3 presents a proposed funding scenario based on the work program presented. Funding includes Federal, State and Local contributions. Suggestion: add “per year” after the \$2.5 million.....for a 10 year period.

Approvals Required. This handout presented the approvals of participating agencies that would be needed to organize the commission and proceed with projects.

Bear Lake Regional Commission By-Laws. A copy was distributed for information.

Additional Comments .

- Involvement of a second tier of cities not located on the Lake could be accomplished through COG. Include the second tier in the Cost Sharing Chart presented.
 - Suggestion: House the Utah Lake Commission office at the Lake if possible, rather than in the County Building.
5. Discuss next steps and action to above item.
- A revised draft of the recommendations will be distributed as soon as possible for additional comment.
6. **Other Business. Technical Committee report.** The committee will review the TMDL study when it is received, which should be within the next six weeks.

Carp Removal Project. Chris Buelow said they are working with commercial fishermen to start a 10-day pilot program for removing the carp. The goal is to removed 45,000 pounds of carp a day. Cities have offered the use of trucks, crews and solid waste containers needed to transport fish to the transfer station where the fish will be used in the compost process. Removal will start when the weather allows and the lake level stabilizes. There is a Request for Proposal targeting uses for carp, marketing, etc.

The next meeting of the Technical Committee will be held at 8:30 a.m., Monday, April 24 at the Orem Public Works Department, 955 North 900 West. Agency representatives are encouraged to attend.

i) **Review and consider formal approval of resolution calling for Federal funding for Utah Lake Carp Management and Planning project.** A document is not ready for approval at this time. However, the concept has been well received by Senator Bennett's and Congressman Cannon's offices. A budget will be prepared and submitted by the end of the month to be considered with the Federal budget.

7. **Public Comment.** Appreciation was expressed for the great things that are going on at the Lake.
8. The next meeting will beheld on Thursday, May 4, 7:30 a.m., at the Utah Lake State Park Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.