

Utah Lake Study Committee Meeting

April 1, 2004 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Minutes

ATTENDEES: Steve White - County Commissioner	Dan Nelson, MAG
Greg Beckstrom - Provo Public Works	Larry Ellertson, Lindon City
Paul Hawker - Assoc. County Engineer	Jarret Wicker - Envision Utah
Lewis Billings - Provo City	Ted Barratt, American Fork City
Jerry Washburn - Orem City	Ray Loveless, MAG
Robert West - Provo City Attorney	Rulon Gammon - Vineyard
E. Fritz Boyer - Springville City	LaNice Groesbeck - Provo City

Review and approval of minutes.

Mayor Billings requested input on the minutes of March 4, 2004. The seconded bullet was amended to state that a combination of outcome oriented and process oriented plans are needed to address lake issues. With that amendment, Mayor Boyer moved to approve the minutes, an action seconded by Mayor Ellertson and approved unanimously.

Followup Discussion

Mayor Billings presented a “draft” of “Guiding Statements Outlining Committee Purpose and Mission” for discussion. He said these are the things he understood committee members were saying in the last meeting.

The **first statement** was revised to read, “We believe that Utah Lake is one of Utah’s underutilized and misunderstood great natural treasures. Points discussed were as follows:

- Is it a treasure? There are many negative comments about it being dirty, shallow, etc.
- What makes it a treasure? Boat harbors? Trails?
- What type of treasure is it? Historic? Environmental? Be more specific.
- A treasure is something cherished, and we do cherish the lake.
- It is a treasure because it is one of the largest bodies of water in a desert.
- It is not a finished product – not what it was.

The **second statement**, “We want to provide an effective clearing house for issues relating to the future of Utah Lake,” was put on hold. The following points were discussed:

- What is a clearing house? What is that role?
- Is this the purpose statement? What is the purpose that defines what we want to accomplish?
- Don’t get so bogged down in the purpose statement that nothing else gets done.
- A united and coordinated effort of state entities, cities and other stakeholders is necessary. Solicit their involvement early in the process. Many are not attending who should have input.
- There are many diverse opinions and polarized thoughts of what really needs to be done with Utah Lake. The committee should have “no agenda,” remain neutral and listen to all points of view.
- Consider work groups to focus on different aspects of the lake.

- Consider the power of the County Commission and its ability to use local authority to address the issues and involve other interests – environmental, natural resources, endangered species.
- What is our mission/objective as a committee? To get information for our stewardships? Facilitate the whole program? Initiate the momentum? Facilitate and manage the stakeholders?
- This group cannot “do the job” unless there is funding, staff, consultants, etc.

The **third statement** was changed slightly to read “Issues that should ~~will~~ be carefully studied and considered include:

Private property rights	Local control
Water conservation	Ecology
Recreation (including trails)	Shoreline development and preservation
Future development	Water <u>quality</u> salinity
<u>Lake elevation</u>	

The **fourth statement** was changed to read “We want to engage ~~and involve~~ all stakeholders in this discussion. The following points were discussed:

- The purpose is not to do everything but to be a stimulus.
- The committee mission is yet to be defined, but the broader view of the overall future of the lake should be discussed.
- How could a facilitator be utilized in this process? One is needed to keep the focus and help to arrive at a “common page” for this group and then engage other entities.
- Utilize a technical committee similar to the State’s Resource Development Coordinating Committee. Diversity of opinions on the future of the lake was discussed again.
- A government tie is needed to do something with the lake, but is it this group? Who is the body to address this? A Utah Lake Authority?

Everyone agreed with the **fifth statement**: “We will seek to become more fully informed through study, field trips, expert presentations and the like.”

Reports: Related document search and other new information

Paul Hawker distributed a document titled “Utah County Public Works Library: Utah Lake Reference Material.” Those present were asked to compare this document with information they have on Utah Lake and then e-mail a summary of new documents and new sources of information to LaNice who will compile a complete list. Information should be submitted to her within a week.

Additional Discussion

- Water quality and cost of water treatment is a concern of SUVMWA
- The standards of water quality should not be more restrictive than established federal guidelines on Utah Lake.
- Utah DEQ is doing an environmental study on Utah Lake.
- April 12 -16 is the date to send water from Strawberry to the check the new tunnels.
- Greg Beckstrom will report on the June Sucker flush at the next meeting.

- Storm water has an impact on Utah Lake and will also impact the quality of treatment.
- Consider inviting DEQ personnel for a presentation to the group: Don Ostler, Dave Wham.

Other Business - Define committee leadership structure and set date for election of officers

- Need working, steering committees
- Need continuity for a number of years
- Come prepared next meeting to organize the committee; have nominations for the technical committees.
- Mayor Billings agreed to continue to head up the committee until otherwise organized.
- Organize technical committees to “wrestle with the issues” and give input to elected officials.

Public Comment

- Mayor Boyer: Consider how to approach the citizens’ group which was the force for forming this committee.
- Mayor Billings: Suggested bringing like groups together for ideas. There may be much that the two groups can agree on if facilitated properly.
- Mr. Wicker commended the efforts of this group.

Set date, time and place for next meeting

Thursday, April 22, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m., County Commission Conference Room.