

Utah Lake Study Committee Meeting
May 4, 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 Heber Thompson, American Fork
Mayor Gene Mangum, Springville
Mayor Jeff Acerson, Lindon
Larry Ellertson, County Commissioner
Clyde Naylor, Utah County

Other Interested Parties

Bruce Chesnut, Orem City and Technical Committee Chair
Greg Beckstrom, Provo
Robert West, Provo
Chris Keleher, Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)
Reed Harris, (DNR)
Kris Buelow, CUWCD
Dan Nelson, MAG
Barry Tripp, Forestry, Fire and State Lands
George Faust, Utah Lake State Park
Steve Kroes, Utah Foundation
Keith B. Morgan, Utah Water Ski Club
Steve Densley, Chamber of Commerce

1. **Welcome and call to order** given by Mayor Billings.
2. **Review and approve minutes of March 23, 2006.** A motion to approve the minutes as written was seconded and passed unanimously.
3. **Report and Discussion from Utah Lake Study Technical Committee:** The agenda for the last Technical Committee Meeting included the TMDL Study, carp removal and a transportation study for the area surrounding the Lake. The State is still working on the TMDL study and the committee hopes to have the study for review in the next few months. The preliminary report gives no specific standards or regulations, but is information to evaluate and review.

The carp removal pilot program at Goshen Bay will begin May 29 and end the second week in June. Disposal has been coordinated with different cities and the transfer station. The project will last for 10 days to see how much effort is required to remove a certain tonnage of carp with a single fishing crew. Two marketing proposals were received and a proposal from a BYU professor was selected.

Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) presented information on the impact on Utah Lake of transportation and roadways around the Lake.

The next Technical Committee Meeting will be Monday, May 22, at 8:30 a.m. at 955 North 900 West in Orem. Attendance by city representatives is encouraged.

Utah State Park Update. Campground trees have been planted and the sprinkler system installation will begin soon. A grant was received to create a nature trail and outdoor classroom to be used by schools in the area. Dike reconstruction will start again next fall.

4. Carp Management and Planning – Contaminant Testing - Chris Keleher, Utah Department of Natural Resources.

The results of a feasibility study of nonnative fish in Utah Lake conducted in 2001-02 confirmed that carp are the primary problem in the June Sucker Recovery Program. Carp are the dominant fish and their behavior disturbs the habitat. An environmental consulting firm was hired to prepare a carp removal plan. An executive summary of the final report is now available and will be sent to each member in the next mailing. The sampling showed more than seven million carp age 2+ and about nine million age 0 to age 1. Including all ages, there are 109 million carp in Utah Lake. The average weight of harvestable-sized carp (2+ years) is 5.8 pounds. Reducing the carp population by 75% would require the removal of 4.7 million fish; a 90% reduction would require removal of 5.5 million carp. It will take 5-6 years to reach this goal if 46,000 pounds of fish are removed every day for 120 days a year. Removing 75% or 90% of the carp would also result in the removal of 61 to 73 tons of phosphorous from the lake, just in the flesh of the fish. Carp play a role in internal nutrient cycling in shallow lakes and can significantly increase nutrient loading that is detrimental to water quality.

BYU was awarded the contract to address potential uses and market for carp, which could include anything from animal and human consumption to a biofuel. A report with recommendations should be available by the fall of this year and the full-scale removal effort would begin in the 2007 fishing season.

The data obtained from an analysis of carp for heavy metals and other contaminants was provided to the health department for interpretation. The heavy metals component “came back clean,” but there are concerns on PCB (poly chlorinate biphenyl) in the tissue of the carp. PCBs are a lubricant used in the electrical industry, were required for fire codes and were banned in the 1970s. They are bound up in the lake sediments which are disturbed and distributed by carp feeding habits. A final report will be available in a few weeks and a health advisory regarding PCB may be included. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has committed to an environmental analysis to determine the source of the PCBs. The Division of Wildlife Services plans to review other game fish for similar contamination. Information suggests that, because carp feed in the lake bottom sediments, they will have higher level of PCBs than other fish. This information is provided for awareness of a potential issue and not to cause “undue alarm.”

5. Continuing discussion relating to formation of Utah Lake Commission.

The State appears to be comfortable with the latest version of the proposal and supports the creation of a Utah Lake Commission. The next step will be to develop and enter into an interlocal agreement identifying the entities to be represented on the Commission and establishing the structure. It is legal to enter into such an agreement, but additional legislation may be needed for specific authorities to be identified. The Commission would have the authority to impose law and criteria, would be a cooperative effort to do the “right thing” and would not take jurisdictional authority away from municipal legislative bodies.

Mr. Naylor made a motion to move forward with an interlocal agreement, an action seconded by Mayor Farnworth and approved unanimously by the members of the committee present. The agreement will be approved by the committee prior to going to any city council for approval. Financial commitments of each entity will be addressed in the process. This is just the beginning of the process which will involve conversation with other entities that have an interest in Utah Lake. The proposal would include a recommendation for full-time employees and a staff person

to focus on the everyday operations at the Lake. The staff would be hired and directed by the Commission. The proposal will clarify and provide the detail to the concept of a commission.

Clyde Naylor and Utah County will take the lead in drafting the interlocal agreement and will solicit help as needed from other city attorneys including Robert West, Provo City, and Kevin Bennet, American Fork City, and from Robyn Pearson, Utah State Department of Natural Resources. A first preliminary draft will be ready for distribution prior to the next meeting and will be an item for discussion on the agenda. The public needs to be made aware of the work and cooperative effort that have already gone into this concept.

6. Other Business:

i) Resolution supporting Federal funding for Utah Lake Carp Management and Planning Project. This item was continued to the next Utah Lake Committee Meeting.

ii) Utah Festival (June 3, 2006). This event hosted by the Utah Lake State Park will showcase Utah Lake and will invite the community to visit the lake and see the amenities there. Events will include public boat tours of the lake, a fishing simulator provided by the Division of Wildlife, fishing instruction, bird watching tours, concessions, live music, a parkway trail bike ride, and a booth to sign up for a citizen-based interest group. Free admission to the park is under negotiation. Mr. Keith Morgan presented ideas for a water ski show and is looking for assistance from cities. The ski show would be held at Skipper Bay which is close enough for people to watch from the shore and the jetty. June 3 is also National Trails Day. The Festival will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. A schedule of events will be provided as soon as possible and publicity will be forthcoming. A declaration was given to Governor Huntsman to declare June 3 as Utah Lake Appreciation Day. Other cities and the county were invited to consider resolutions or proclamations doing the same.

iii) Boat Tour. The June Sucker Recovery Program has offered to provide a boat for a tour of Utah Lake for the committee. One boat will be provided by Jim Cross, who is providing the boat for the June festival. Those with different perspectives and responsibilities for the lake would be invited to make presentations during the tour. The barge is large enough for about 20 people and other boats may be needed to accommodate all who would participate in the tour. Depending on the availability of the barge, the best date for the tour is June 5, 7:30 a.m., with an alternate date of May 31. The tour will last four hours.

7. Public Comment. Mr. Beckstrom said the weather has been ideal in moderating the spring runoff for most communities, but the peak runoff is still a few weeks away. Mr. Faust offered the State Park's boats for the June 3 festival. Mr. Morgan has a 27-foot deck boat that could also be used for the tour. Mr. Naylor noted the Utah Lake water level has dropped since April 1 because the Jordan River gates were opened. He said seven more days of this weather would almost eliminate the flooding potential. Mr. Densley complimented Mayor Billings on the program on iProvo with Mr. Naylor and Robyn Pearson, Department of Natural Resources.

8. Set date, place and time for next meeting. The next meeting would be June 5 or May 31 and will be a boat tour beginning at 7:30 a.m. There will also be a meeting on June 22, 7:30 a.m. at Utah Lake State Park to review and discuss the draft of the interlocal agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 9 a.m.

