

APPROVED – August 27, 2009



UTAH LAKE MASTER PLAN
ADOPTION CEREMONY
Friday, June 26, 2009 – 2:00 P.M.
Utah Lake State Park

Governing Board Attendees:

Reed Price, Executive Director, Utah Lake Commission
Mayor Lewis K. Billings, Chairman
Commissioner Larry A. Ellertson, Vice-Chair
Don Blohm, Highland
Dick Buehler, Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Representative Stephen Clark
Mike Cobia, Mapleton
Mayor Jim Dain, Lindon
Christine Finlinson, Central UT Water Conservancy District
Bob Fisher, Woodland Hills
David Grierson, Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Mayor Heather Jackson, Eagle Mountain
Mayor Howard H. Johnson, Lehi
Leah Ann Lamb, UT Dept. of Environmental Quality
James Linford, Santaquin
Mayor Gene R. Mangum, Springville
Dean F. Olsen, Springville
Mayor Timothy Parker, Saratoga Springs
Nathan Riley, Vineyard
Michael Styler, UT. Dept. of Natural Resources
Mayor Heber Thompson, American Fork
Mayor Jerry Washburn, Orem

Welcome: Mr. Reed S. Price, Executive Director
Utah Lake Commission

Mr. Price welcomed everyone to the adoption ceremony which has been long awaited by the members of the Commission, himself and the State of Utah. He acknowledged the presence of distinguished guests, Senator Robert F. Bennett, members of the Governing Board, Technical Committee, subcommittees and Public Advisory Group. Other guests included representatives from URS Corporation, the consultants for

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the Master Plan, and representatives from the company of Wilkinson-Ferrari that coordinated much of the public outreach for the Master Plan process.

Mr. Price began with a short history of the Utah Lake Commission. The Council of Governments met in 2004 and discussed how to make Utah Lake a better natural resource. A study committee was organized to do research. In 2007 the Commission was formed with a resolution sponsored by Representative Stephen Clark to the Legislature along with municipal support. Governor Huntsman signed the Resolution which allowed the state agencies to work directly with the municipal governments.

The Commission held its first official meeting in April, 2007, and hired staff in July. Preparations then began to hire a consultant to assist the Master Planning process. URS Corporation was selected as the consultant and the Master Planning process began in February, 2008. The final Master Plan document would be adopted at this ceremony.

The purposes of the Master Plan are:

- To assemble all available relevant information and analysis to provide decision-makers with the tools needed to make informed decisions, and evaluate project proposals that could affect the lake and its shore lands,
- to develop implementation strategies to achieve the Commission's objectives, and
- to provide a solid policy framework that will guide future decision-making for Utah Lake and its resources.

The Master Plan covers five different elements including Land Use and Shoreline Protection, Transportation, Natural Resources, Recreation, and Public Facilities. The plan identifies numerous goals and objectives that the Commission will be working with the different municipalities and state agencies to accomplish. Mr. Price stated that the Commission feels that by accomplishing these goals and objectives Utah Lake will become better appreciated and a great resource for the State of Utah.

He shared the Utah Lake Vision Statement:

Utah Lake is a focal point of natural resource systems that contribute to the environmental health, economic prosperity and quality of life of area residents and visitors. Through collaborative restoration, protection and sustainable use efforts, the lake and its multiple-use amenities are fully recognized and enjoyed by current and future generations.

Remarks: Mayor Lewis K. Billings
Utah Lake Commission Chair

Chairman Billings commented that before the organization of the Commission there were disparate voices in the community regarding what should be done for the Lake. The Utah Lake Commission has now provided an effective forum for those voices.

He expressed thanks to all who have worked so hard on the Master Plan. Chairman Billings asked all members of the Governing Board to stand and be recognized and requested that everyone acknowledge them with applause. Mr. Bruce Chesnut, Chairman of the Technical Committee and Mr. Greg Beckstrom, Vice Chair of the Technical Committee and all Technical Committee members were requested to stand and be recognized. He acknowledged all the many people who came forward with their ideas and opinions at the meetings and welcomed their continued attendance at Governing Board meetings. Those representing the State of Utah were recognized and their cooperation has been appreciated. He thanked those who represent the Commission at the State Legislature and said that, in his opinion, the Utah Lake Commission is the best example of excellent inter-governmental cooperation at all levels.

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Remarks: Commissioner Larry A. Ellertson
Utah Lake Commission Vice Chair

Chairman Ellertson commented on what a great day it is with the adoption of the Master Plan. He noted that many people have set aside individual agendas and personal desires and looked for the benefit of the whole. He congratulated all the members of the Board and expressed his appreciation to have been able to work with them. He said he hopes the public will understand the purpose of everyone working together for the common good of Utah Lake. He said in the many years to come the benefits of this work will be realized. He commented that the Technical Committee has especially contributed to this achievement. He said the Commission looks forward to working with the State, County and municipalities.

Remarks: Mr. Dick Buehler, Director
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

Mr. Buehler remarked that he and his division had been looking forward to this day for a long time. Utah Lake is an incredible resource and is just beginning to be realized for its value. Utah Lake belongs to every person in the State of Utah.

As background, Mr. Buehler shared that when Utah became a state it was given state ownership to the beds of navigational lakes and rivers under the equal footing doctrine. In 1987 the United States Supreme Court reaffirmed that the State of Utah owns the bed of Utah Lake. Utah currently has about one and a half million acres of sovereign lands and 2200 miles of shoreline. For twenty-five years Mr. Buehler has been involved in Utah Lake issues. One of the issues that the Supreme Court did not determine was the boundary. About 80% of the boundary of Utah Lake has been determined and it is hopeful that the final boundary settlement with the remaining landowners will be finalized soon.

He emphasized that this has been a collaborative and great effort. The Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands feels that this Master Plan, as their Management Plan, will benefit the lake and the public that use the lake. He reported that tomorrow the Division would also be adopting the Bear Lake Management Plan. He expressed appreciation for the cooperation from all the mayors and the county.

Mr. Buehler offered his condolences to the family of the man who is missing on the Lake.

Remarks: Senator Robert F. Bennett
U.S. Senator

Senator Bennett began by saying there was a time when the beauties of Utah could be taken for granted because the human footprint was relatively light as the number of humans was relatively small. He stated that now people keep moving in and the birthrate and family size in the state is the largest in the Union. Senator Bennett said, "To have this natural resource in Utah County's backyard and not move in a logical fashion to manage it would be irresponsible." He commended those who have had the vision and the foresight to put together the Commission and that have come to all the early morning meetings to fashion out the agreement. He congratulated those people on the signing day where a circumstance would be created that the asset would not be squandered through bad management or neglect. Senator Bennett suggested that the signing of the ceremony proceed.

Mr. Price explained that the signing of the document would take place in two parts. The document will act as the Management Plan for the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands as well as the Master Plan for the Utah Lake Commission.

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Signing of Record of Decision

Mr. Dick Buehler, Director

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

Mr. Dick Buehler explained that whenever the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands takes any action regarding sovereign lands they are required to complete a Record of Decision. This is a summary of the things that have occurred that lead up to the final result. By signing the Record of Decision it allows the State of Utah and the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands to adopt the document as the official management plan for the lake. Mr. Buehler signed and dated the document.

Adoption and Signing of Resolution 2009-4

Governing Board of the Utah Lake Commission

Chairman Billings congratulated Mr. Buehler and all his Division on the signing of the Record of Decision. He acknowledged that staff had notified him that there was a quorum present of the Governing Board. He entertained a motion to adopt Resolution 2009-4. Mayor Howard H. Johnson moved to adopt Resolution 2009-4 and it was seconded by Mayor Timothy Parker. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Billings was asked to sign the resolution first, followed by the Vice Chair, Chairman Ellertson. All members of the Utah Lake Commission present then signed the Resolution.

Final Remarks

Chairman Billings remarked that the significance of the signing of the document may not have been fully realized by everyone yet. He said that in the future what happened today would really be counted. He invited everyone to express their support with a round of applause.

He said the Commission had been very fortunate to select as Executive Director, Mr. Reed Price, with his caliber, quality and young age. He acknowledged Mrs. Reed Price and Mr. Price's mother and complemented them on their support.

Chairman Billings expressed appreciation to Mr. Ron Dean who was in attendance on behalf of Senator Orrin Hatch.

Mr. Price presented gifts of appreciation to Senator Bennett and Mr. Dean for Senator Hatch. The gifts were fishing hats with the Utah Lake Commission logos embroidered on.

Chairman Billings then entertained a motion to dismiss. It was moved by Mayor Howard H. Johnson to adjourn and it was seconded. Motion to adjourn was unanimous.