

**Utah Lake Study Committee Meeting**  
**October 27, 2005**  
**Utah County Commission Conference Room**

ATTENDEES:

Members

Mayor Randy Farnworth, Vineyard  
Mayor Jerry Washburn, Orem  
Mayor Tim Parker, Saratoga Springs  
Larry Ellertson, Utah County Commissioner

Other Interested Parties

Ty Hunter, Utah Lake State Park  
Reed Price, Orem (Technical Committee)  
Clyde Naylor, Utah County  
Chris Keleher, JSRIP  
Greg Beckstrom, Provo  
Robert West, Provo  
Steve Densley, Chamber of Commerce  
Barry Tripp, Forestry, Fire and State Lands  
David Grierson, Forestry, Fire & State Lands  
Kris Beulow, Central Utah Water District  
Mike Styler, DNR

**Welcome.** Mayor Washburn conducted the meeting and noted that Mayor Billings was excused as his father was involved in a serious accident the night before.

**Minutes.** The minutes of the August 25, 2005, meeting were approved as written.

**New Information Sharing.** Mayor Washburn commented on the documentary of Utah Lake and the June Sucker Recovery Program presented on Channel 4 recently. Comments were positive. Chris Kelleher said he would provide copies at the next meeting. The documentary has created interest in others who would like to be involved with Utah Lake issues. Showing the documentary at community summer festivals would help educate the public on Lake issues and needs. The documentary will be broadcast on KUED, KBYU, UVSC and possibly Provo Cable and UTOPIA. As there is no copyright on the program, it can be copied for distribution as desired.

A Utah State grant has been received to improve the Saratoga Springs Boat Harbor. Improvements will include a fish cleaning station, added picnic facilities and a 13-acre expansion, part of which will be landscaped by an adjacent developer. Entrance fees will be charged starting next spring.

Lake access was discussed. There are currently about 27 access points to Utah Lake. Interest has been expressed by the Jordan River Parkway committee for access to the Provo Parkway trail system. Land use, planning and development along the lakeshore remain issues. Vineyard is working on an ordinance for their lakeshore. Mr. Naylor will provide a report at the next meeting on trails and planning. The deadline for sale of the Geneva property is in November.

The Utah Lake Symposium held last month at UVSC generated interest and discussion. Doing something similar annually is under consideration.

The Geneva property sale and clean up was discussed. Since more contamination has been found than anticipated, the property will likely not develop soon, especially if the development is not industrial. With the many issues involved, it may be 5-10 years before development is possible. Tests on the property have been conducted by professional teams/engineers/EPA at the request of potential buyers. There is a large amount of steel on the property which needs to be removed and/or marketed. The Chinese will be done with their processes by January and are only taking the equipment, not the scrap steel.

Mr. Naylor reported progress on connecting the trail at Saratoga to the Jordan River trail.

The North County Landfill and Transfer Station were discussed. The property is being maintained. Negotiations are underway for waste removal to the Tooele facility by truck rather than train. Progress on the power plant was reported.

**Technical Committee Report.** Reed Price said the committee will be meeting soon with Dave Wham on the TMDL study. BYU students are looking at different uses of carp and an RFP is planned in the coming year. The goal is to have 75% of the carp removed. Since use for human consumption is one option, contaminant testing of the fish would be necessary. Other considerations are using liquified fish protein as a livestock supplement. The \$500,000 grant received for the June Sucker was targeted for purchase of recovery lands in Hobbie Creek for habitat restoration.

The TMDL study recommends leaving Utah Lake on the impaired water list, but does not recommend proceeding with load reductions. This means there is a potential for phosphorous limitations in the future, but no action will be taken now. The hope is that carp removal will improve the lake conditions, including phosphorous levels. After removal is complete, the committee will determine what is appropriate with phosphorous and TDS. Reduction of carp to 0% is not feasible. A long-term control program is more reasonable than "poisoning" the lake.

**Utah Lake Management Plan Update.** Barry Trip said the Land Use Board began writing a Comprehensive Management Plan for Utah Lake in the mid-80s. It was stopped because of boundary issues. In 1994, the same land board was instructed to complete the plan around the Lake. It is currently "in the final throws." Powell Slough is about completed and boundary issues resolved. Thirty five of the 210 landowners are still involved in the law suit. These cases will hopefully be through the local courts in 2006. Inquiries have been received from Questar regarding a pipeline across the Lake. The property along the shore is currently used mostly for farming. Nothing was claimed above the meander line. A map demonstrated the areas which have and have not yet been settled.

Mr. Grierson distributed a Planning Process flow chart that demonstrated the steps involved in the Preplanning Process, the Public Scoping Process, and the Current Resource Analysis. The the draft CMP is prepared, additional public comment is solicited after which the final CMP will be

written. This process applies only to those lands where the boundaries have been settled. Property will become part of the plan as additional settlements are reached.

Two public meetings were held in June to solicit public input. A website was also established to receive input and all comments received were compiled into a "Utah Lake Scoping Comments Summary" document, which was distributed. Comments included public access, hunting and fishing (increase or improve), wetlands, lake authority or group control, support of JSRIP, dredging, improving lake health and pollution control (trails, greenspace, lake buffers), lake crossings (dikes, bridges, causeway), preservation of grazing, and lake fencing. There were no comments received for local governments; such input was encouraged.

With the completion of the public process, analyzing the current resources is the next step. UVSC compiled a resource document called "Utah Lake Comprehensive Management Plan Resource."

**Collaborating on Utah Lake Issues and Management, Director Mike Styler.** Given the interest of many groups, the Utah Lake planning process should include Utah County governments, legislators, commissioners and those who live and work in the area with an interest in the Lake. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would like to be involved in the process, but feels there should be local control. DNR did not know of the existence of the Utah Lake Study Committee and is happy to listen and learn from what has already been discussed at these meetings.

DNR supports the concept of establishing a Lake Management Authority with paid staff to facilitate the planning process. The Authority should be set up the way the County wants it and given the authority as needed. It could be established under COG or through other means. Such an organization would support common planning around the lake and would provide a focal point for coordination of efforts. The Bear Lake Regional Planning Authority and the Lake Tahoe Regional Planning Authority have been visited to help determine the best option for Utah Lake. The State has resources through DNR and Economic Development to lend to a group to promote proper and balanced development around the Lake.

The history of the previous attempt to establish a Lake Authority were discussed. All stakeholders need to partner to make any Authority successful. Using an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement was suggested.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 1, at 7:30 a.m. The State was asked to present scenarios for establishing an authority.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.