

**Utah Lake Study Committee Meeting  
December 1, 2005  
Utah County Commission Conference Room  
100 East Center, Provo, Utah**

ATTENDEES:

Members

Mayor Lewis Billings, Provo  
Mayor Randy Farnworth, Vineyard  
Mayor Fritz Boyer, Springville  
Mayor Bernell Evans, Payson  
Larry Ellertson, Utah County Commissioner  
Dave Anderson, Saratoga Springs  
Mayor Jeff Acerson, Lindon City  
Mayor-elect Heber Thompson, American Fork  
Clyde Naylor, Utah County

Other Interested Parties

Bruce Chesnut, Orem and Technical Committee  
Dan Nelson, Mountainland Assoc. of Gov.  
Mike Styler, Utah Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Reed Harris, DNR and JSRIP  
Chris Keleher, DNR and JSRIP  
Barry Tripp, Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL)  
Barbara Gardner, FFSL  
Robert West, Provo City  
Greg Beckstrom, Provo City  
Darin Bird, DNR  
George Faust, Utah Lake State Park  
Steve Densley, Provo/Orem Chamber of Commerce

1. **Welcome and call to order** given by Mayor Billings.
2. **Review and approve minutes** of October 27, 2005 meeting. The committee is strongly supported by "other interested parties." Members were encouraged to attend. The minutes were approved as written.
3. **Report and discussion from Utah Lake Study Technical Committee.** Bruce Chesnut, Technical Committee Chair, said the committee met recently with Dave Wham who made a presentation on the TMDL study on Utah Lake. The draft of the study is expected around December 20. The study seems to indicate no concrete link between phosphorous and the treatment plants in the area; therefore, the assumption is there will be no limits placed on phosphorous from those plants. However, the phosphorous study will continue. The South Utah County Sewage Disposal Facility is quickly approaching a point where it would be difficult to change the design; a definitive answer on this would be appreciated as soon as possible.

A major position of the committee is support for the carp reduction program. Carp are a critical factor and need to be addressed before anything else can successfully be accomplished at the Lake. The committee believes even the phosphorous levels will improve with reduction of the carp population. A group at BYU is doing a study to determine the market for the tons of carp that could be removed from the Lake.

The State has said they would fund 50% of a water shed management position focused on Utah Lake and water management, and requested feedback from the committee on the proposal. A 50% match would be required. The duration of the position would depend on the scope of work.

4. **Continuing discussions related to the possible formation of a commission, authority, or other entity to provide planning, development and management oversight for Utah Lake and surrounding shore lands:**

a) Envision Utah Presentation.

Envision Utah Presentation. Tim Watkins distributed a booklet titled "Thinking and Acting Regionally\*Implications for Local Economic Development Practice." The concept promotes economic development by region and is tied to land use planning. "A company cannot expect people to locate to a place that is undesirable. Desirability includes a good elementary and secondary school system for employees' children ...Recreational activities, natural amenities, safety, and affordable housing are also attractive draws for sought-after employees."

The recent Wasatch Choices 2040 Transportation and Land Use visioning process involved 300 people in Utah County participating in four workshops. Input from each workshop table (representing about 7 individuals each) was digitized and placed on a map showing response to expressways, light rail, bus rapid transit, commuter rail, public transportation and, housing density scenarios, trails and open space.

Although this process focused on transportation and future land development, workshop results showed strong public preference for open space preserved around Utah Lake with trail access. A follow up survey showed support for a variety of methods to preserve sensitive lands, including Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) which could allow land owners of sensitive areas to sell their property rights to developers for future town centers, and other more compact such as mixed-use developments. TDR could satisfy the growing market demand for smaller lots and mixed use development while preserving valuable open space for visual, environmental, and recreational qualities. The concept doesn't have to replace the demand for suburbs or rural larger lots, but can add compact village or town centers and preserved open space to the region.

Survey results showed the perception of Utah Lake is that of a polluted body of water that is underutilized. The sensitive land areas accessing Utah Lake shown from public workshops of the Wasatch Choices 2040 process shows a regional demand for recreation and access to this natural area despite perception of a dirty lake. Bird watching is strong and statistics show there are more bird watchers than hunters in Utah.

Envision Utah would like to assist with a visioning service for the local jurisdictions around Utah Lake, a process that could help elected officials and lake management agencies better understand public and stakeholder desires for a balance between development and preservation around the lake. Visioning could help the public understand that Utah Lake could be more clean and desirable in the next 5 to 10 years through carp harvesting, and that strategic management of today's rapid growth and development could assure more enjoyment, recreation and visual quality - or desirability of Utah Lake tomorrow.

b) Other presentations and discussion.

Mike Styler distributed a packet of information regarding management options for Utah Lake . He encouraged consideration of all Federal laws for endangered species and said there are seven divisions in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that are interested in Utah Lake. However, since Utah Lake is in Utah County and anything done there will impact the surrounding county and cities, he said the county and local governments should lead out in the decision making on Utah Lake, keeping in mind Federal and Utah State concerns and interests.

The first option is "no action" and "business as usual."

The second option is a private association consisting of those impacted by the Lake and adjacent landowners. Funding for this option is voluntary and requires fundraising activities. There is no professional staff.

The third option is a committee formed through a “local cooperative agreement,” “memorandum of understanding” or “memorandum of agreement.”

The fourth option is a commission similar to the Bear Lake Regional Commission. The commission consists of elected representatives from various entities around the lake and has limited staff who plan and coordinate public involvement and education issues. Information is included in the packet provided.

The next option is an Authority, which has the feel of a governmental agency, can regulate, issue licenses, deal with zoning, etc. This option would probably need to be codified and funded by the State, a property assessment or the issuance of bonds. Information is included in the packet.

The last option is a Planning Agency similar to the Lake Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Information on this option is also included in the packet.

Mr. Styler said the State would lend support for the option selected and would help as possible. Mr. Watkins said Envision Utah would also lend support in the process. He said Cache County is looking at a regional council that would be similar to a planning commission that makes recommendations to local counties and cities.

Packet information will be copied and sent to those members not in attendance.

Utah County is participating in the process, is interested in staying involved and wants to work with the cities and landowners to do the right thing. Citizen involvement and feedback are important in that process. The importance of a full-time staff to manage Lake issues and provide continuity was emphasized. Issues, involvement and efforts of the June Sucker Recover Program (JSRIP) have been beneficial to the committee, particularly relating to the carp problem, but the JSRIP would like to continue with their program goals and leave the zoning and planning issue to another organization. Lake issues have been discussed for many years and it could take years to accomplish the ultimate goal for the Lake. However, because pressure to develop is great, there is a need to create a strategic plan and move forward as quickly as possible.

Copies of the CD of the UVSC Utah Lake Symposium were distributed.

## **5. Other reports and discussion:**

a) Utah County trails system update-Clyde Naylor. Mr. Naylor recently met with the Division of State Lands and the Corps of Engineers to obtain property to build the trail from the Jordan River east to the trail in Saratoga Springs and Lehi. Another group of private funders want to spend substantial money to build the Utah Lake Trail. Additional property boundaries have been settled around the Lake, particularly in the Powell Slough area, which is a positive sign in moving forward with trails. The County is working with the Corps for trail locations around the entire north and east sides of the Lake and believes in the next five years that section will be completed and will connect to the Jordan River and Provo River trail systems. The funding is in place to build a trail on the Murdock Canal once it is covered. This will provide a trail corridor from Orem to the point of the mountain in Draper and connect through Thanksgiving Point to the Jordan River. There is also a group interested in interconnecting the Jordan River and Provo trails. There are about a million visitors per year on the Provo Canyon trail. The Hobble Creek trail has been greatly improved as well. Promoting these recreational assets in city publications was encouraged.

The question of approaching the legislature in the upcoming session for funding of Utah Lake issues was raised. While there are some funds available through various sources, the question remains as to whether or not it is enough to even get started on what needs to be done at the Lake, particularly regarding the process to remove the carp. It would take \$4-5 million over 7-8 years to reduce the carp population and, before committing that amount of money, the JSRIP want to make sure they can sustain the removal, that there is a market for the carp and that the carp are free of contaminants and can be consumed. A discussion will be held at a future meeting to address a timeline and strategy for requesting funding support.

6. **Public comment.** Mayor Billings received an e-mail from Jacob Findlay who suggested Utah Lake be renamed Timpanogos Lake, as that was how the lake was known among trappers in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. He felt such a name change could significantly raise the profile of this “oft-forgotten lake.”

7. **Set date, place and time for the next meeting.** The next meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m. on January 26 in the County Commission Conference Room.

8. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.