

APPROVED



Governing Board

Thursday, February 27, 2014, 7:30 A.M.
Historic Utah County Courthouse, Ballroom, 3rd Floor
51 South University Avenue, Provo, Utah

ATTENDEES:

Chair/Mayor Bert Wilson, Lehi City
Vice Chair/Mayor James Hadfield, American Fork
City
Chris Finlinson, Central Utah Water
Conservancy District (CUWCD)
Mayor John Curtis, Provo City
Mayor Jeff Acerson, Lindon City
Councilwoman Rebecca Call, City Of Saratoga
Springs
Councilman Dean F. Olsen, Springville City
Mayor Randy Farnworth, Vineyard Town
Councilman Mark Seastrand, Orem City
Walter Baker, Utah Dept. of Environmental
Quality (DEQ)
Laura Ault, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and
State Lands (FFSL)
Councilman Ray Walker, Woodland Hills Town
Robyn Pearson, Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)
Commissioner Larry Ellertson, Utah County
Reed Price, Utah Lake Commission

INTERESTED PARTIES / VISITORS

Richard Nielson, Technical Committee Chairman
Chris Keleher, DNR
Mark Holden, Utah Reclamation Mitigation, and
Conservation Commission
W. Russ Findlay, Department of Interior (DOI)
Reed Murray, Department of Interior (DOI)
Dee Chamberlain, Saratoga Springs Owners
Association
Greg Beckstrom, Provo
Bob Trombly, Provo
Gene Shawcroft, CUWCD
Jason Allen, Utah Lake State Park
Mike Mills, JSRIP

ABSENT: Mapleton City, Santaquin City, State Legislature.

1 **1. Welcome and call to order.**

2 Mayor Hadfield called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. He welcomed Mr. Mark Seastrand of Orem
3 City, and excused Rep. Deidre Henderson and Rep. Mike McKell.

4

5 **2. Approve the Consent agenda**

6 Mayor Hadfield motioned to approve the consent agenda including the January 23, 2014 Governing
7 Board Minutes and the January 2014 financial report. It was seconded by Mayor Acerson. Voting was
8 unanimous in favor of the motion.

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1 **3. Report from the Technical Committee.**

2 Technical Committee Chair Richard Nielson gave a report of the Technical Committee. He said the TC
3 did not meet in February, but they will participate in the planning strategy session in March. They will also
4 see a presentation on the Provo River Delta Restoration Project.

5 Mayor Hadfield remarked that the ice fishing field trip (held on January 21st) at Sandy Beach was
6 successful. He expressed appreciation to all those who attended.
7

8 **4. Report from Reed Price, Executive Director.**

9 Mr. Price reported on the activities of the Utah Lake Commission.

10 **Carp Funding:** The ULC was hoping for \$2 million in appropriated funds for the next three consecutive
11 years. However, only \$500,000 was granted this year; \$300K in guaranteed money and \$200K will be
12 granted with matched funds from other sources. The Commission is reaching out to the JSRP and a grant
13 created from the Chevron Gas Leak at Willard Bay as potential sources of funding.

14 Ms. Rebecca Call said the allocation of funds from the Chevron Gas spill is being watched closely by
15 some elected officials to insure it all stays within Willard Bay. Mr. Walt Baker said the Department of
16 Water Quality is currently accepting proposals, and will make decisions based on what is best for Utah.
17 Mayor Curtis asked how much money was awarded for the spill. Mr. Baker said \$3.1 million in one-time
18 money had been awarded. Mayor Curtis asked if it was realistic that all of it could be spent in the Willard
19 Bay area. Mr. Baker said it would depend upon the project proposals that are submitted. Ms. Call asked
20 for clarification on the settlement amount. Mr. Baker said the total settlement was for \$4.8 million;
21 \$350,000 of which went to the general fund and \$1.3 million for projects at Willard Bay.

22 Mr. Price said the ULC will apply for some of the one-time funds. Mayor Curtis asked Mr. Baker if the
23 distribution of funding is a legislative or administrative decision. Mr. Baker responded saying it is not a
24 legislative decision. Mr. Robyn Pearson said Utah State Parks would not be petitioning for money because
25 they had already been awarded funds for improvements around the lake. Mr. Baker said "Friends of
26 Willard Bay" suggested that all available funding be used in the Willard Bay area.

27 Ms. Call expressed disappointment in the amount of legislative funding that was appropriated. She
28 feels the state wants to see more local buy-in. She said Utah Lake is the property of the state, and is being
29 improved according to their plan, but they are not willing to allocate the money required to make
30 necessary improvements. The lake is 150 square miles and is surrounded by a population of 550,000. The
31 City of Saratoga Springs contributes about .62 cents per capita. The state has granted only .17 cents per
32 capita. These numbers demonstrate local buy-in.

33 Mayor Curtis asked if the matched funding had to be for carp removal. Mr. Price said they had to be
34 for carp removal, but it didn't have to be local dollars from municipalities. It is not clear if "in-kind"
35 donations would be accepted.

36 Mr. Mark Seastrand asked if we could stay ahead of the carp reproduction levels with our allotted
37 funding. Mr. Price said the goal is to remove 75% of the carp in seven years, which would make it difficult
38 for the carp to reproduce. Current estimates show that the carp population is going down in a linear
39 fashion. Commissioner Ellertson asked if there are genetic solutions that can help with the carp problem.
40 Mr. Price said genetic solutions have been considered, including daughterless carp which is being
41 researched and developed and Judas fish, which are currently being used.

42 Mr. Price said the ULC recently received a letter from PETA with concerns about the carp removal
43 process at Utah Lake. A respectful letter of response is being written by the JSRP and DNR.

44 **Phragmites:** County crews have been removing phragmites on the south end of Utah Lake. A WRI Grant
45 (\$62,000) has been submitted. In March, a Department of Agriculture Invasive Species Mitigation Grant
46 will be submitted(\$150,000). The Commission will continue to work with FFSL to insure that these efforts
47 continue.

48 Mayor Wilson asked if there were plans to burn phragmites this year. Ms. Laura Ault said obtaining an
49 air quality clearance is difficult, but is the easiest way to remove phragmites.

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1 **Water Quality Efforts:** The state is proposing limits on phosphorous and nitrogen on wastewater and
2 storm water permits. Mr. Price has been meeting with city representatives to coordinate efforts to create
3 a research plan to answer questions about nutrient interactions in Utah Lake. This topic seems to be the
4 issue that is engaging cities to join the ULC.

5 **FY2015:** Regular contributions for municipalities are expected to be about the same as they have been in
6 the past. Final budget numbers will be presented in next month's meeting. State agency contributions
7 may go up slightly. An additional fund, separate from the ULC operating budget, is being proposed. It will
8 be used solely for research needs and will be funded by municipalities and other partners. Budget
9 numbers have been communicated to WWTP and have been based primarily on population.

10 **Funding Structure:** The Executive Committee is looking at a revised funding structure to encourage new
11 ULC memberships. In the past, a portion of the calculation was based on city area. The new structure
12 would not be based on area; rather it would be calculated by population and shoreline. As more members
13 join the ULC, contributions will decrease. Ms. Call said some communities encompass a large area but have
14 smaller populations. The new funding structure would help balance this issue.

15 **Membership Outreach:** Mr. Price recently met with Spanish Fork and Eagle Mountain to encourage ULC
16 membership. Meetings have been scheduled with Payson, Cedar Hills, Salem, Pleasant Grove and Alpine,
17 and he hopes to meet with Highland, Goshen, Genola and Elk Ridge. Later today, a lunch meeting has been
18 scheduled with many city managers to educate them about the ULC and encourage membership.

19 **Utah Lake Field Trips:** Applications are coming in for our 4th grade field trips. Three sessions will be held in
20 April and May at the Utah Lake State Park.

21 **Utah Lake Festival:** Planning for the Utah Lake Festival will soon begin. It will be held on Saturday, June 7,
22 2014.

23 **Intern Position:** A part-time intern will soon be hired to assist the ULC. The position closes February 28,
24 2014.

25 **Strategy Meeting in March:** Mr. Price is proposing to extend the Governing Board Meeting on March 27,
26 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. This extra time will be used to strategize ULC efforts. Members of the
27 Technical Committee and Public Advisory Group have been invited to attend.

28 **By Laws:** Mr. Price said the Executive Committee has reviewed his suggested changes to the bylaws. He
29 has also taken time to review the employee handbook.

30 **Ice:** The ice at Utah Lake is unsafe.

31 **5. Presentation on Provo River restoration project by Mr. Mark Holden, Utah Reclamation Mitigation**
32 **Conservation Commission**

33 Mr. Price introduced Mr. Mark Holden to the group. He presented plans to the Governing Board on the
34 Provo River Delta Restoration Project (PRDRP) a few years ago, and has returned to give an update on the
35 progress that has happened since then.

36 Mr. Holden said the URMCC has been working for the past few years with land owners, business
37 owners, and other groups to address critical issues. He recognized Reed Murray, Russ Findlay, Mike Mills,
38 Gene Shawcroft, Chris Finlinson and others as contributors to the draft EIS, which is scheduled for release
39 on February 28, 2014. It will be available on their website at www.provriverdelta.us

40 Three joint lead agencies are associated with the Central Utah Water project. (1) Utah Reclamation
41 Mitigation and Conservation Commission. (2) Central Utah Project Completion Act Office – U.S.
42 Department of the Interior. (3) Central Utah Water Conservancy District. In 1999, the Joint Lead Agencies
43 made commitments to “participate in the development of a Recovery Implementation Program for the
44 June sucker.” In 2002, the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program was established. There are two
45 main goals: (1) Recovering the June Sucker. (2) Allow continued operation of the existing water facilities
46 and future development of water resources for human use.

47 The June Sucker must be able to recruit naturally, without hatchery supplementation in order to
48 achieve recovery. The June Sucker lives most of its life in Utah Lake. They swim up the Provo River to

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1 spawn. Their eggs incubate and develop. The larvae drift and are susceptible to predators. Many of those
2 that are not eaten will settle at the bottom of still water areas and starve because of their inability to swim.

3 Mayor Wilson asked how long it takes the June Sucker to grow a few inches in length. Mr. Holden said
4 it takes two years for them to grow about 8 inches long.

5 Mr. Walker asked how much land is in the proposed project area. Mr. Holden said it covers about 700
6 acres. There are three Delta Restoration Alternative Areas, and the largest one covers approximately 500
7 acres.

8 The major issues, which need to be addressed, include the existing Provo River channel, keeping trees
9 alive, minimizing land acquisition, agriculture, airport safety, nuisance species control, economic impacts
10 on businesses, recreational opportunities, and public access.

11 Mayor Wilson asked what is meant by airport safety. Mr. Holden said the changes could attract wildlife
12 and birds to the project area, potentially creating increased bird strikes near the airport.

13 "Alternative B" has been identified as the agency and landowner preferred option and encompasses
14 about 310 acres. They have been working with landowners to make revisions to meet their needs. Images
15 were shown to illustrate where waterways would be changed. He briefly displayed images of alternates A
16 and C to show comparisons between the projects.

17 He said preserving the existing river corridor is a key project element. They want to maintain the
18 aesthetics of the area as well as the recreational activities.

19 The lower Provo river level fluctuates with the Utah Lake level and there is no minimum flow
20 guarantee. By 2016, depending upon funding, they are hoping to deliver water to the Provo River at a rate
21 of 10 cfs minimum flow. This will help maintain the aesthetics, water quality and recreational values. The
22 flow would range from 10 to 50 cfs.

23 They will also implement aeration to increase dissolved oxygen levels. Oxygen will be pumped into the
24 water for 4 months each year at the cost of \$6000. He displayed images of efficient aeration tools.

25 They have systems prepared to handle mosquito and vegetative issues. They have conducted surveys
26 for the past two years to characterize the existing bird community. They feel that alternative B would be
27 the safest for birds and result in fewer bird-aircraft strikes. They will continue to monitor bird abundance
28 and flight movement patterns in the study area. Specifics of the program would be developed in concert
29 with Provo City Airport, USDA Wildlife Services, FAA and others. The mitigation measures, if needed,
30 would be appropriated to the species causing the risk.

31 A public meeting about the PRDRP will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 from 6 to 8 PM at the
32 Provo City Recreation center. (320 West 500 North) Comments can be sent to Richard Mingo by May 7,
33 2014 by email at rmingo@usbr.gov or mailed to Richard Mingo, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and
34 Conservation Commission, 230 South 500 East #230, SLC, UT 84102-2045

35 There is a public review of the draft EIS on May 7, 2014. A final environmental impact statement will
36 be ready by late 2014. A record of decision is expected between late 2014 or 2015. If the decision is to
37 proceed with the project, the land acquisition will happen no sooner than 2015. Construction would begin
38 no sooner than 2016 or beyond.

39 The EIS will be distributed primarily by mail and email; however, a limited number of hard copies will be
40 available. He will email each member of the governing board a link to the draft EIS.

41 Mr. Pearson asked if there would be opportunities for recreation such as fishing within the Provo River
42 Delta. Mr. Holden said yes, and it would include hunting, fishing, and hiking opportunities. Mr. Pearson
43 then asked who would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the delta area. Mr. Holden said
44 discussions still need to happen with DNR and Provo city. A list of agreements need to happen in order to
45 implement the project, and they can be found at the end of chapter one of the EIS.

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47 **6. Discuss plans for the Provo River restoration project and consider making a formal statement relating**
48 **to it.**

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1 Mayor Hadfield said it is best to wait until the EIS comes out to make a formal statement. Mr. Price
2 suggested making a statement at the April or May meeting. Mayor Curtis said it is a big challenge to move
3 the Provo River. He complimented Mr. Holden and the organization for all their hard work. Working with
4 land owners has been the biggest challenge, but they endorse the project. There are still concerns with the
5 impact on the airport and mosquitoes. He believes the added recreational opportunities will be positive.

6 Commissioner Ellertson complimented what has taken place so far. Mr. Price said this project is
7 beneficial achieving the vision of the Utah Lake Master Plan, but it is important to discuss both concerns
8 and support for this project.

9 Mayor Curtis said Provo City would support the project and would endorse it with continual evaluation
10 of airport and mosquito impacts. Greg Beckstrom said it is impossible to determine all the impacts that
11 this type of project will create from a technical standpoint. However, there is a commitment to deal with
12 these issues and to leave things as good as, or in a better state than they currently are.

13 Mr. Baker discussed the condition of Utah Lake. Treating the oxygen depletion in the water is only
14 treating a symptom, which does not address the real problem. Carp and sediment issues are masking a
15 significant nutrient problem and true condition of the water. We have to get to the root cause of the
16 problem. Investing a little bit now to solve these problems will protect us from having to make huge
17 investments in the future.

18
19 **7. Other Business or Public Comments.**

20 Mayor Wilson gave each member of the Governing Board an opportunity to ask questions or express
21 concerns. Mr. Robyn Pearson said the main goal of the Central Utah Project is to have clean, usable water
22 for our communities to use. If we believe that the PRDRP is just about saving fish, we have lost the point of
23 what we are doing. The recovery of the fish allows us to use the water. Utah is the second driest state in
24 the nation; we have to remember that this project is really about water and our ability to provide it to an
25 expanding population.

26 Ms. Call said the City of Saratoga Springs is working with Army Corps, FFSL, and the Historical Society to
27 begin the mitigation of the canal issue. They are going through the process of having a cultural and
28 delineation study done on 14 miles of shoreline. She offered thanks to FFSL for their coordination in
29 helping with trail connections on the west side of the lake. They are looking forward to connecting with
30 the Murdock trail.

31 Mr. Holden referred to one of the slides on his presentation. He said the water is not only about the
32 Central Utah Project. In 1994, the Bureau of Reclamation received a jeopardy opinion from the fish and
33 wildlife service. It said the current management of the Provo River was jeopardizing the existence of the
34 June Sucker. This is when all the agencies began working together to fix the problem.

35
36 **8. Discussion on upcoming Governing Board meeting and Strategy and Planning session.**

37 Mr. Price suggested that a Strategy and Planning session be held at the next Governing Board meeting.
38 He suggested it be held until 12:00 Noon on Thursday, March 27. The meeting would begin at the regular
39 time to conduct business. The strategy session would begin shortly thereafter. Mayor Wilson asked if it
40 was possible to have the March meeting end by 11:30 AM, rather than noon, to allow his attendance at
41 another previously scheduled meeting. Mr. Price and the committee agreed with the time adjustment.

42
43 **9. Confirm the next meeting of the Governing Board.**

44 Mayor Hadfield confirmed that the next Governing Board meeting would be held at the Historic Utah
45 County Courthouse Ballroom on Thursday, March 27, 2014, at 7:30 a.m until 11:30 a.m.

46
47 **10. Adjourn.**

48 Mayor Curtis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 a.m. It was seconded by Commissioner
49 Ellertson. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.