



Governing Board

Thursday, June 19, 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
Commissioner Larry Ellertson, Utah County
Councilwoman Rebecca Call, City Of Saratoga Springs
Councilman Mark Seastrand, Orem City
Mr. Bob Trombly, Provo City
Mr. Brian Cottam, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (FFSL)
Mr. Reed Price, Utah Lake Commission
Mr. Mike Styler, Utah Dept. of Natural Resources
Mr. Dave Russell, Woodland Hills City
Mr. Mike Mills, CUWCD

Ms. Leah Ann Lamb, Dept. of Water Quality
Ms. Janie Christensen, Salem City
Mr. Dean Olsen, Springville City

INTERESTED PARTIES / VISITORS

Mr. Jed Muhlestein, Alpine City
Mr. Garrick Hall, Farm Bureau
Mr. Ken Richley, NPS-RTCA
Mr. Chris Keleher, Division of Natural Resources
Mr. Richard Nielson, Utah County
Mr. Rick Cox, Water Service Dept.
URS Corporation
Mr. LaVere Merritt, Citizen

ABSENT: American Fork City, Elk Ridge City, Santaquin City, Lindon City, Mapleton City, Vineyard, State Legislature.

1 **1. Welcome and Call to Order**

2 Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:35 A.M. and welcomed everyone. He excused Mayor
3 Hadfield and Mayor Curtis. He welcomed Ms. Janie Christensen of Salem, and Mr. Jed Muhlestein of Alpine.
4

5 **2. Approve the Consent Agenda**

6 Ms. Lamb requested wording changes be made to the May 22 Governing Board minutes. (pg. 2 line 45-46)
7 She asked that the word "issued" be changed to "proposed," and "*The proposed standard is currently in rule*
8 *making, and if adopted, will be implemented in the next 5 years.*" Ms. Rebecca Call motioned to approve the
9 consent agenda, including the May financial reports and the May 22 Governing Board minutes with the
10 requested corrections. It was seconded by Mr. Ellertson. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.
11

12 **3. Report from Reed Price, Executive Director.**

13 **Utah Lake Festival:** Mr. Price said the Utah Lake Festival, held on June 7th, was very successful and had
14 over 2000 people in attendance. The event coincided with free fishing day, provided fun activities sponsored
15 by cities, and allowed stakeholders share information about the Lake. Mayor Wilson said he heard a lot of

1 positive comments about the event. Ms. Call said Saratoga Springs would like to have a booth at the event
2 next year.

3 **Recruitment:** Mr. Price said Salem and Elk Ridge both joined the ULC in May. Spanish Fork, Payson, and
4 Highland will join as well. Cedar Hills and Alpine are considering membership. Pleasant Grove and Eagle
5 Mountain will consider membership in the future, but will not join this year.

6 **Phragmites:** Mr. Price said the ULC received two grants totaling over \$200K for phragmites removal.
7 Approximately 500 acres between Eagle Park and Pelican Bay will be treated, and 2500 acres of previously
8 sprayed areas will be retreated as necessary. A smashing project between Lindon and Saratoga Springs is
9 scheduled to begin this week. Commissioner Ellertson asked if previously treated areas would be retreated.
10 Mr. Price said areas experiencing regrowth would be sprayed again.

11 Mr. Price talked about an accidental burn, which occurred on the south side of Utah Lake. The fire burned
12 250 acres of phragmites. Unfortunately, the phragmites is growing back. Mayor Wilson asked if this area is
13 being sprayed. Mr. Price said cattle are keeping regrowth to a minimum.

14 Ms. Call said a lot of water channels in Saratoga Springs have phragmites growing in them. She asked for
15 recommendations for treatment at the lake line to prevent them from washing through the channels. Mr.
16 Price recommended they work through the Utah County Weed Division and Public Works to let them know
17 about the areas of concern.

18 **Carp:** We were unsuccessful in obtaining a grant through the Willard Bay Chevron Settlement. Instead,
19 the Bureau of Reclamation will provide the matched funding required by the legislature. This gives us a total
20 of \$700K available for carp removal. Carp removal is administered by the June Sucker Recovery
21 Implementation Program. The ULC helps to support the JSRIP by finding funding for them.

22 **Beach Development:** The County, Provo City, and Utah Lake State Park are interested in creating a
23 showcase beach area at Utah Lake. Mr. Price is working with Utah County and Provo City to put together an
24 RFP. They are currently seeking responses from engineering and recreation firms.

25 Mr. Price said he recently went on a tour around the lake with Mr. Cottam. They both believe it would be
26 possible to create a beach front area near each of the marinas.

27 **Nutrient Limit:** Mr. Price said municipalities want to make sure the current nutrient limit proposal is
28 necessary. The ULC has joined efforts with the Jordan River Farmington Bay Water Quality Council to conduct
29 research and to understand water quality issues.

30 **2014 Draft Integrated Report:** The 2014 Draft Integrated Report, which identifies impaired water bodies,
31 was recently released. Numerous water bodies have been added to the list. Mr. Price has communicated
32 information to the WWTPs that could be affected.

33 Mr. Price asked Mr. Cottam to summarize their tour around the lake. Mr. Cottam said it was a great day.
34 It was a good to focus on the potential of Utah Lake rather than the problems of Utah Lake. He said he began
35 to think about ways their restricted account could be used at the lake.

36 Commissioner Ellertson asked Mr. Cottam about the settlement. He replied saying the final settlement
37 has been made and is mostly complete. Four or five land owners have to come to terms with the settlement.

38 Ms. Call expressed appreciation for the field trips the ULC offers to 4th grade students. She said she visited
39 some of the students who attended the field trip and found it had changed their opinion about the entire
40 county. She feels it is important for young people to embrace the lake so they can become the stewards of it
41 in the future.

42
43 *Item 4 was presented after items 5-7 to insure that a full quorum was present for voting.*
44

45 **4. Presentation of Final Report of the Utah Lake Nature Center Conceptual Plan**

46 Mr. Price gave a brief history about the proposed Utah Lake Nature Center. He said the Master Plan was
47 created in 2009. It contained a written provision to establish a research facility and nature center. The nature
48 center was identified as a medium priority goal in Objective N-9.2. Last year the ULC received a grant from
49 the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to create a conceptual design
50 for a nature center. A tour of various nature centers in Utah helped to determine the best ideas and practices

1 for the Utah Lake Nature Center. Key Lake stakeholders discussed nature center details including building
2 structure, outdoor facilities, research facilities, and staffing needs.

3 Mr. Price identified the following desired structural items for the nature center. (1) Exhibit area; with
4 areas for permanent and temporary displays and a place to educate the public on the value of Utah Lake (2)
5 Classroom/auditorium; to conduct high school and university classes, disseminate research, host symposiums,
6 conferences and workshops (3) Reception center; to provide a unique environment for weddings, receptions,
7 or community gatherings. Fees raised from these events are an essential component of covering operating
8 costs of the center. (4) Staff offices; ULC would provide oversight of the facility to conduct scheduling of the
9 facility, as well as maintain control, organization and inventory of supplies and equipment. (5) Storage Areas:
10 important to store tables, chairs and other large items.

11 The following items were identified as important outdoor facilities at the nature center. (1) Bird tower; to
12 observe nesting areas, document birding habitats and numbers, and to give instruction about birds. (2) Bird
13 blinds. (3) Amphitheater; for outdoor instruction of Utah Lake and other vital area subjects, possible concerts
14 (more income) ability to raise awareness of projects and for field trip instruction. (4) Trails/Boardwalks;
15 educational displays and the main trailhead of the Utah Lake Trail. (5) Outdoor activities; bird watching,
16 fishing instruction, fishing equipment rental, fishing clubs, education, boat rentals, day and night programs,
17 public outdoor spaces such as camping, scouting activities and fire pits.

18 The following research facility items were mentioned. (1) Wet lab; space for researchers and students to
19 conduct basic tests and experiments on the lake surrounding environs, conduct sample prep and data
20 collection for time sensitive samples. (2) Dry lab; co-located space with wet lab serving similar purpose to
21 provide space for researchers and students to conduct basic tests and experiments. Potential for remote
22 instruction. (3) Meteorology; variety of real-time lake monitoring able to be accessed by the public, schools
23 and research institutions including weather conditions, lake level, water quality biota, and other parameters.

24 The following organizational needs were discussed: (1) Staffing; focus on stewardship, ensure interaction,
25 knowledgeable, public/school interaction, professional. (2) Planning; identify negative impacts to wetlands,
26 roadways, traffic etc., and to keep county transportation and development plans in mind.

27 Mr. Price identified the following potential partnerships: federal agencies, state departments and
28 divisions, state and private universities, school districts, municipal government, local businesses and
29 individuals, environmental groups, National Weather Service, Boy Scouts of America, National Science
30 Foundation, and the American Association of Museums.

31 In order to make the nature center a reality, a planning committee needs to be organized. It should
32 include representation from the Governing Board, interested individuals on the federal, state, and community
33 level, as well as businesses or other partners that are willing to support the nature center.

34 Key factors in identifying potential locations for the nature center include cost of land, proximity to the
35 lake, proximity to urban areas, availability of utilities and support of municipal planning.

36 Funding the construction of this building will be difficult, but finding long term funding may be an even
37 more difficult task according to Mr. Price.

38 The top three sites that may be suitable for the nature center include areas near the Utah Lake State Park,
39 Powell Slough, and Lindon Marina.

40 Mr. Price introduced Mr. Ken Richley of the National Parks Service. Mr. Richley said their long term goal is
41 to connect children and adults to nature, which will create long term stewardship of the lake. Mr. Price said
42 the nature center would allow us to host ULC field trips indoors when the weather is not favorable.

43 Commissioner Ellertson asked if a cost estimate had been determined and if they were looking for
44 someone to operate the facility. Mr. Price said he hoped the ULC could move their office to the nature center
45 to help operate it, but that a partnership would allow for proper staffing. He also said we would rely heavily
46 on volunteer organizations as well. Mr. Richley said this facility would provide a year-round facility for
47 research, field trips, education etc.

48 Mayor Wilson asked if it was possible for initial construction to be funded by the state or through local
49 government. Mr. Price said a committee would first determine construction costs, and that funding would
50 come from a variety of sources.

1 Ms. Lamb asked if any big sponsors in Utah County could help fund this project. Mr. Price said prominent
2 businesses would be approached, but he would rely on elected officials to help identify potential donors.

3 Mr. Lavere Merritt said the nature center would elevate the value and perception of Utah Lake. It would
4 be a community resource, and would be a significant investment.

5 Mayor Wilson thanked Mr. Price for the informative presentation. It is important to have a facility for
6 students that would touch their lives year-round.

7
8 **5. Review and Discuss Final Budget**

9 Mr. Price said an electronic and hard copy of the budget was provided to each GB member. It includes the
10 General Fund, Capitol Projects Fund, and a Recommended Membership Contributions. The FY2015
11 membership contribution is \$245,000, with \$1,300 of expected interest income and \$18,600 from the
12 contribution fund balance, for a total budget of \$264,900.

13 Mr. Price explained the FY 2014-2015 General Fund Expenditure expenses as well as the new structure for
14 membership contributions. He said the Governing Board Executive Committee approved to assign Utah
15 County 15% of the total budget and remove them from the municipality portion. They also approved to
16 remove the “area component” from the old funding structure, and calculate contributions based on shoreline
17 and population. A pie chart was provided to reflect the new funding structure.

18 Mr. Price asked if there were any questions about the proposed funding structure or FY2014-2015 budget.
19 Ms. Call asked about the increase in employee wages. Mr. Price said the changes reflect the change from one
20 full-time position to two part-time positions at 25 hrs/wk.

21
22 **6. Public Hearing on the Utah Lake Commission Final Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014**

23 Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing portion of the meeting and asked if anyone wanted to address
24 the budget proposal. Commissioner Ellertson questioned the increase in mileage budget. Mr. Price said it was
25 to cover the on the job mileage for an additional employee. Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing, as there
26 were no other comments.

27
28 **7. Discuss and Consider Approval of Resolution 2014-1 and Adopting a ULC FY2014 Budget**

29 Ms. Call motioned to approve Resolution FY2014-1 of the ULC to approve and adopt budget for 2014-
30 2015. Mr. Seastrand seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

31
32 **8. Discuss Long Term Funding Approaches for Improvements at Utah Lake**

33 Mr. Price said the Utah Lake Master Plan outlines many of the goals we want to accomplish. We still do
34 not have a dedicated source of long term funding or a clear direction for obtaining it. He said there is a
35 restricted account intended for improvements of sovereign lands, but it should not be our only source of
36 funding. He feels it should only be used for starting projects. Mr. Price asked how we could leverage grants
37 or legislative appropriations.

38 Mayor Wilson feels we should be able to be given appropriations through the legislature on an annual
39 basis. Commissioner Ellertson suggested we do some research to find out if other lakes in the state receive
40 funding from the state or community. Mr. Mike Styler said he is unaware of any lakes that receive funding
41 through the state. He said the Great Salt Lake receives some water quality funding through DEQ. The Great
42 Salt Lake Commission struggles with the same types of issues every year. The idea of charging a service fee to
43 those who use the lake, particularly those who discharge into it, should pay for the privilege. Charging a
44 minimal fee per household would add up very quickly. Commissioner Ellertson agreed with this idea.

45 Ms. Lamb said there was pushback from municipalities because they are already collecting fees for so
46 many other services and do not want to collect fees for this as well. Mayor Wilson said it would not take a lot
47 of money from every household to make this work and that every city would have to require the increase.
48 Commissioner Ellertson said education would help people to understand the need for these mandatory fees.

1 Mayor Wilson said people would complain saying they do not use the lake and do not want to pay for it.
2 In reality, every resident in Utah County receives a benefit from the lake and it affects us all. He thinks it
3 would be easy to attach it to a city bill, but it will still be tough for residents who live on a set income.

4 Commissioner Ellertson believes there are businesses in this community that would contribute to Utah
5 Lake, but it would need to be a fixed long term source of funding.

6 Ms. Lamb asked about obtaining donations through a foundation. Mayor Wilson said foundations are
7 only good as long as the foundation continues to receive donations.

8 Mr. Seastrand said people are more likely to donate if they feel they are getting value out of it. He feels
9 the ULC has a great vision and track record. We can begin to find some voluntary opportunity for individuals
10 or businesses to contribute.

11 Commissioner Ellertson said the next step is to put together a conceptual idea of what our “ask” will be.

12 Mr. Seastrand asked if anyone knew what the donor response was like at the vehicle registration. (The
13 checkboxes for donations) Commissioner Ellertson said he was unsure, but he would check on it.

14 Mr. Price said the proposed changes on nutrient limits for phosphorous are likely to happen and would
15 require treatment plants to meet the new requirements. He suggested the idea of adding a “Utah Lake fee”
16 when the new nutrient limit is required. Mayor Wilson agreed we should consider the idea.

17 Mr. Cottam said legislature approval is required before money in the restricted account can be spent. It
18 would be easier to approach the legislature if we could provide them with information on where and how the
19 money will be spent; a list of actions and commitments made by the local government and private
20 corporations. The ULC needs to determine and provide an annual, prioritized list of goals to the legislators.
21 Mr. Richley said we should look at grant funding sources strategically. He said large donors typically place a
22 lot of restrictions on how their money can be spent.

23
24 **9. Other Business or Public Comments.**

25 There were no comments from the public.
26

27 **10. Consider Canceling the Next Governing Board Meeting.**

28 Mayor Wilson asked for consideration to cancel the July 17, 2014 Governing Board Meeting. Board
29 members agreed. The next Governing Board meeting will be held at the Historic Utah County Courthouse
30 Ballroom on Thursday, August 28, 2014, at 7:30 A.M.

31 Commissioner Ellertson asked if the Executive Committee Meeting would be canceled as well. Mr. Price
32 said he was waiting to hear from Forestry Fire & State Lands about the Dock Amendment proposal that needs
33 to be reviewed by the Executive Committee. He said he would contact the Executive Committee to let them
34 know if their meeting will be held in July.

35
36 **11. Adjourn.**

37 Commissioner Ellertson motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Olsen. Voting was
38 unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 A.M.