

APPROVED



Governing Board

Thursday, August 25, 2016, 7:30 A.M.
Utah County Health and Justice Building Suite 2500

ATTENDEES:

Chair/Mayor James Hadfield, American Fork City
Robyn Pearson, Department of Natural Resources
Mayor John Curtis, Provo City
Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission
Brian Cottom, Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
Councilman Chad Argyle, Spanish Fork City
Gene Shawcraft, Central Utah Water Conservancy District
Walt Baker, Division of Water Quality
Councilwoman Kari Malkovich, Woodland Hills
Richard Nielson, Utah County
Councilwoman Shellie Baertsch, Saratoga Springs

INTERESTED PARTIES / VISITORS

Laura Ault, Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
Bill Applegarth, Riverton City
Garrick Hall, Farm Bureau
Luke Allen, Utah Lake Commission
Sam Braegger, Utah Lake Commission
Bob and Cari Krejci, Saratoga Springs HOA
Paul Waymen, Riverton City
Emma McGowan, CH2M
Elliott R. Mott, Utah Outdoors
Greg Beckstrom, Provo City
Rebecca Andrus, Provo City
Michael Mills, JSRIP

ABSENT: Alpine City, Highland City, State Legislature, Orem City, Springville City, Lehi City, Vineyard Town, Salem City, Mapleton City, Santaquin City, Payson City.

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1. Welcome and Call to Order

Mayor Hadfield called the meeting to order at 7:30 A.M. and welcomed everyone.

2. Approve the Consent Agenda

Mayor Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2016 governing board meeting. Shellie Baertsch seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of approving the minutes.

3. Report from the Technical Committee

- A. Mike Mills gave a brief update on the Technical Committee Meeting. There was no meeting held in August, but he reported on the emergency meeting held in July in regards to the algae bloom.
- B. Update on carp removal. Things are going well, over 22 million pounds removed since project started in 2009. Project is within 100,000 pounds of where we were last year. More Utah Lake research, carp census project, in which USU and the DWR attempt to estimate of density of carp. Estimated to receive results in October or November along with USU's reassessment of the carp population.
- C. Several other research projects going on at the lake, all are progressing well.

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1 a. Water situation for 2017: the reservoirs upstream are in much better condition compared to last
2 year, which is encouraging to believe that additional water might be available to Utah Lake in 2017.
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4 It was suggested that Mike Steiner come and talk about water management to better understand the filling of
5 the reservoirs and their restrictions. Best person to speak with would be the state engineer to explain that
6 topic. Detailed process for reservoirs and water distribution for water rights. The plan works and it has been
7 followed, however the dry weather affects that as well.
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9 Mayor Curtis asked if summary of what had been shared could be drafted and given to the public so that they
10 could understand. The state engineer's office could provide that information. Question was asked about water
11 rights and critical times of year to divert water to enhance habitat in the Jordan River. Open to ideas to give
12 that information to the public. Eric Ellis offered to summarize, send to state engineer, and resend out to this
13 body in order to share out on social media, etc. to the public. Also offered to include a link to the state
14 engineer's water distribution plan online for the public.
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16 **4. Report from Executive Director – Eric Ellis**

17 **A. Lake Level-** Eric Ellis reported that the lake level is currently at 6.6 feet below compromise. Great for
18 non-motorized vehicles right now, but motorized are not using the lake because the marinas are struggling to
19 launch.

20 **B. Algae Bloom-** We are now in actual algae bloom season. Reports are changing on the lake, health
21 department pinpoints concentration of problems. There are a variety of advisories around lake. Two beaches
22 have warning advisory, which is boat access only, non-swimming. Lindon Marina and Utah Lake State Park are
23 at a caution advisory, which means any form of recreation is ok as long as you avoid scummy areas. Seeing
24 algae spikes yet again, since drop off at end of the large bloom in July. Monitoring cell counts of cyanobacteria,
25 which can be toxic, and toxins themselves to continue to updates the advisories.

26 **C. Sandy Beach Improvements-** Working with the Department of Forestry, Fire and State lands in process
27 of compiling cooperative agreement, looking to start improvements this fall, crew time becoming available,
28 guardrail, fair amount of improvements done by next spring. Crews have begun clearing up trees, underbrush,
29 etc. looking better. Eric Ellis is excited about improvements which will draw a larger group of users that will
30 recreate at the beach because of improvements.

31 **D. Utah Lake State Park Dredging-** Moving slowly but surely, will take place throughout the winter
32 months. Low water year will help that project along, will place a dam, drain water, and use heavy machinery
33 on mostly dry land. JV Engineering is the firm on the project, they have submitted their permits to Army Corps
34 of Engineers, waiting for them to be processed.

35 **E. Saratoga Springs-** ULC joined funding with the City of Saratoga Springs to clear out the historic canal
36 along the front of the majority of Saratoga Springs to eliminate invasive weed species. Machine ran into
37 difficulties, will progress again soon.

38 **F. Phragmites Removal-** The Utah Lake Commission is getting ready to start but first need approval from
39 land owners in the two areas: Provo Bay and Powell Slough. Biggest project so far on shoreline restoration.
40 Expecting to start mid-September.

41 **G. Fall Fourth Grade Field Trips-**

42 a. Held on west side of the lake, mainly for Alpine school district. Two days in October (12 & 13) at
43 Pelican Bay Marina. Currently obtaining permits and accepting school applications. Lots of participation
44 last year. Difficult for west side to afford coming to east side of lake, even with our funding.

45 b. *Mayor Hadfield asked Eric to prepare a personal letter of invitation to mayor and city council to
46 attend 4th grade field trips in October, in hopes that they can see what is going on and join our
47 organization.

48 **H. Updated Utah Lake Commission Website-** Working in connection with BYU students, the new website
49 has increased level of user friendliness and design of the website, is much more interactive, easier to use, very

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1 straightforward, talks about current issues, integrates blog posts better, upcoming events, YouTube channel
2 included.

3 **I. New employees-** Danielle Quist, not in attendance today, replaced Noelia Deaton as our Executive
4 Assistant. Sam Braegger has replaced Luke Allen as our Outreach Coordinator.

5 **J. Utah Lake Shoreline Trail-** This is a top priority between Springville/Sandy Beach all the way up to
6 Saratoga Springs, but keeping a vision of whole lake.

7 a. We now have a map showing preliminary trail around lake. Will be submitted to Wasatch Front
8 Regional Council and MAG, Jim Price will meet with each city adjacent to the lake, ensure trail is set
9 correctly and include in official proposal. Trail meant to be the end of development, isn't exactly on the
10 shoreline always, but no development beyond it. Mayor Curtis asked if there is communication to keep
11 the trail the same in the different segments, seems wise to make compromises with landowners. Eric Ellis
12 explains that there is no timeline for completion but will be pushing really hard the next few years, meet
13 with UDOT to help with larger trail grant, a lot of it will be development based in the communities. Eric
14 Ellis responds saying there isn't a budget, because it is broken up in so many ways, the developments,
15 cities will all pay separately, the grant the ULC received last year, part went to Spanish Fork City to
16 complete the study of the trail between their city to Sandy Beach, which will connect them to the lake.

17 **K. Small Thank You-** Thank you for your support from the commission, think of cool projects on the lake, small
18 sailboat, plaque thanking for your participation on the commission.

19 **L. Promotions:**

- 20 • Channel 4 is working to highlight state parks. They want to highlight Utah Lake State Park, next spring
21 after the State Park has been dredged. They will do videos, the day of, and do TV interviews with their
22 host.
- 23 • Envision Utah Water Innovation Challenge- UVU is hosting a challenge on September 6, hosted on
24 UVU campus. Gene Shawcroft, Eric Ellis, and Orem City will present some problems that they are
25 facing in regards to water issues. The challenge is for students will come up with a business plan to
26 resolve the issues.
- 27 • North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA), coming to Utah this year. They
28 will do a tour, come to lake, and see some highlights of the Phragmites removal project.
- 29 • Paddleboard Race- Held just after all clear on lake. Decent turnout with 25 racers, competing in an 8
30 mile race. Those who attended enjoyed it. Next year's annual race to have triple or more attendance.

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32 **5. Communications and Public Relations Plan**

33 39:45, Luke Allen iterated that one of primary responsibilities of Outreach Coordinator is to improve the
34 public's perception of Utah Lake. Algae bloom caused a hit to that view, organized group of PIOs from
35 members of the commission, put together a monthly meeting and share ideas of how to improve perception
36 of the lake. We want to host more events around the lake, year round. Budgeted event sponsorship money,
37 utilizing all the marinas, coordinate social media campaigns, unified in message, clear reality of lake, the
38 struggles but also the positive things. Sam will continue to work on this. Eric Ellis asked that the commission
39 consider future events that could be held at the lake.

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41 **6. Governing Board Meeting Proposed Schedule for remainder of FY2016 and FY2017***

- 42 A. November 17th, 2016***
- 43 B. March 23, 2017
- 44 C. June 22, 2017
- 45 D. September 28, 2017
- 46 E. November 16, 2017

47 *If additional meetings are needed, they can be called as needed. If field trips are planned for the
48 Governing Board, they will take place outside the regularly scheduled board meetings.

49 ***Early due to holiday

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7. General Comments from Board Members or the Public

- A. Walt Baker reported that the meters for the monitoring of the water conditions have been purchased and will be deployed at three locations in the lake next week. There will likely be some media information about that. There will be other, less-sophisticated, meters deployed to help in gathering the data. They will get three additional meters soon that will also be deployed to the lake.
 - a. Water Quality board authorized \$1 million dollars to studying the water quality of Utah Lake. He provided various details of that study and its various facets.
- B. He also shared an update about the dredging of Tibble Fork Reservoir. Dredging to raise the elevation 14 feet for increased storage, and to refurbish the dam, and its spillway, to today’s standards.
 - a. In the process of drawing water from the reservoir, sediment was flushed downstream into the American Fork Creek for the lower 2 miles. All the fish were killed and the 6 miles downstream have also been affected. Concern about content of metals in the sediment. The trout can be restocked.
 - b. Notified Tuesday morning, mobilized to do sampling, build a profile of what is going on. Mitigation is taking form with the building of a channel around the north side. The north fork of the river will be diverted to that channel, which will decrease the sediment flow into the creek.
 - c. They are working 24 hours a day, and project to complete it 4 days. Eric Ellis asked how long it would take to rinse the stream bed below. Walt Baker responded that they don’t know yet, the focus has been on stopping the sediment from continuing to flow.
 - d. NRCS, the Department of Agriculture owns this, their website will have more information for all the interested parties.
- C. Gene Shawcraft highlighted the June Sucker Recovery Program and the Springville City started project to restore Hobble Creek River and stream through the community park. Two weeks ago the project began to restore the river and restore June Sucker spawning habitat.
- D. Brian Cottom acknowledged the various commission members who care for the lands involved.
- E. Shellie Baertsch mentioned the Saratoga Springs engineering project to draw on Utah Lake for irrigation.
- F. Eric Ellis recommended using a MBA grant available through the state to dual purpose renovating the Saratoga Springs marina and the canal.
- G. Elliott Mott expressed a desire for the members of the commission to provide a public access point on the Jordan River as far north as possible in Utah County. Currently there are only private property access points in that area.
- H. Mayor Hadfield remarked that the discussion in regards to phosphorus and other chemicals in Utah being connected to the algae bloom doesn’t correlate in his mind with the bloom in Scofield Lake. Walt Baker responded that toxins could come from a variety of sources, he cited several examples of algae blooms that were different than the situation at Utah Lake. Algae blooms occur regularly in the form of green algae but it is the blue-green algae blooms that are dangerous.

8. Next Governing Board Meeting

Mayor Hadfield reminded the board that the next Governing Board Meeting will be on November 17, 2016 at 7:30 AM in the ballroom at the Utah County Historic Courthouse.

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2 **9. Adjourn**

3 The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 AM.