



Governing Board

Thursday, October 23, 2014, 6:00 P.M.
Talons Cove Golf Course
2220 South Talons Cove Drive, Lehi, Utah

ATTENDEES:

Chair/Mayor Bert Wilson, Lehi City
Mayor James Hadfield, American Fork City
Mr. Reed Price, Utah Lake Commission
Commissioner Larry Ellertson, Utah County
Commissioner Doug Witney, Utah County
Mayor John Curtis, Provo City
Mayor Jeff Acerson, Lindon City
Mayor Mark Thompson, Highland City
Mayor Randy Farnworth, Vineyard City
Mayor Hal Shelley, Elk Ridge
Mayor Rick Moore, Payson
Mayor Christopher Pengra, Eagle Mountain
Mayor Lewis Marchant, Kamas
Mayor Kirk Hunsaker, Santaquin
Mayor Howard Anderson, Cedar Fort
Representative LaVar Christensen, Utah State
Legislature
Representative Jacob Anderegg, Utah State
Legislature
Representative Dana Layton, Utah State
Legislature
Representative David Lifferth, Utah State
Legislature
Representative Brian Green, Utah State
Legislature
Representative Kay Christofferson, Utah State
Legislature

Representative Mike McKell, Utah State
Legislature
Senator Deidre Henderson, Utah State Senate
Senator Curtis Bramble, Utah State Senate
Senator Ralph Okerlund, Utah State Senate
Councilman Kim Hancock, Payson City
Councilman Jonathan Reid, Mapleton City
Councilman David Hathaway, Santaquin City
Councilwoman Rebecca Call, Saratoga Springs
Councilman Kendall Crittenden, Wasatch County
Mr. Gene Shawcroft, Central Utah Water
Conservancy District
Mr. Tyler Murdock, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire
& State Lands
Mr. Brian Cottam, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire
& State Lands
Mr. Walt Baker, Utah Department of
Environmental Quality
Mr. Chris Keleher, Dept. of Natural Resources
Mr. Henry Maddux, Dept. of Natural Resources
Mr. Robyn Pearson, Dept. of Natural Resources
Mr. Shawn Seager, MAG
Mr. Nan Kuhn, MAG
Mr. Steve Johnson, MAG
Mr. Andrew Jackson, MAG
Mr. Mike Mills, June Sucker Recover
Implementation Program
Mr. Joel Racker, PAG
Mr. Greg Beckstrom, Provo

1 **1. Welcome**

2 Mr. Reed Price welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:05 pm.

3
4 **2. Report from Reed Price, Executive Director**

5 Mr. Price introduced himself as the Executive Director of the Utah Lake Commission. He thanked
6 Talon's Cove, Ms. Rebecca Call, and the ULC staff for helping with the event. He thanked those in
7 attendance including senators and representatives from Utah, South Salt Lake, and Wasatch and Summit
8 Counties, as well as members of the Natural Resource Appropriations Committee. Following the dinner
9 and presentation, the MAG Executive Council will hold their meeting.

10 Mr. Price presented a short video clip and some facts about Utah Lake. The population of Utah
11 County is just over 500,000. The lake covers over 100,000 acres when full. The average depth of Utah
12 Lake is 9' deep and has an elevation of 4489'.

13 **History:** In 2004, Utah County mayors began discussing Utah Lake wanting to help it reach its full
14 potential. They studied other organizations that manage similar resources and decided to form the Utah
15 Lake Commission. In 2007, Concurrent Resolution #1 was passed by the legislature and signed by
16 Governor Huntsman on March 9, 2007. The first official meeting of the Utah lake Commission was held
17 on April 19, 2007.

18 The ULC membership is made up of 18 local municipal governments, the Central Utah Water
19 Conservancy District, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality,
20 FFSL, and the State Legislature.

21 **Utah Lake Master Plan:** In 2008, they began writing the Utah Lake Master Plan. It focuses on (1)
22 land use/shoreline protection, (2) transportation (3) natural resources (4) recreation (5) physical
23 facilities. It was adopted on June 26, 2009. It serves as a resource guide to the municipalities and
24 doubles as the comprehensive management plan for FFSL. It includes 18 high priority goals and 13
25 medium priority goals.

26 **Frequently Asked Questions:** Mr. Price explained how Utah and the U.S. Government disputed
27 ownership of Utah Lake between the 70's and early 80's. When Utah became a state, they believed the
28 lake belonged to them under the Equal Footing Doctrine. The federal government believed they
29 controlled sovereign bodies of water including Utah Lake. This dispute went to the Supreme Court. The
30 court ruled the lake belonged to the Utah because of the Equal Footing Doctrine, but they didn't identify
31 boundaries. Nearly all boundary disputes have been settled since then.

32 Mr. Price explained compromise elevation and displayed an image of a compromise elevation
33 monument.

34 **Lake Level:** Lake level fluctuation is part of its natural cycle. The lake is currently about 4.5' below
35 compromise elevation, so is on average 4.5' deep. It is normally 9' deep. Boat harbors are currently 2'
36 deep or less, but are normally 6.5' deep. He then displayed a graph to show elevation levels from 1884
37 to 2006. Heavy snowfall and dredging can help with lake levels. The Master Plan allows for dredging of
38 boat harbors and encourages site-specific enhancements to achieve the goals of the Master Plan.

39 Mr. Lifferth said he heard harbors are deeper than the lake, causing boaters to get stuck. Mr. Price
40 assumed it was the Saratoga Springs Harbor. Ms. Call said when harbors are dredged with a U.S. Army
41 Corp permit, these problems do not happen. The Saratoga Springs Public Marina has a 2' drop off at the
42 edge of the ramp due to boaters turning on their props at full blast, which disturbs the silt below.

43 Senator Bramble asked two questions about dredging the lake. 1. Where does the money come
44 from? 2. With such a low lake level, how will dredging the harbors help boaters? Mr. Price said sailors
45 are able to enjoy the lake if they can get out of the harbors and into deeper water. It was stated that
46 there is a restricted account with FFSL that has funds received from use of sovereign lands that is
47 intended for improvements to sovereign lands for projects such as dredging. Mr. Price said it is the

1 responsibility of the state to manage the lake bed and to dredge on behalf of the citizens. Ms. Call said
2 all of the marinas are on sovereign land.

3 Mr. Price said dredging the lake would deepen it, probably make it clearer, and reduce evaporation.
4 The greatest issues with dredging the lake include cost, impact on recreation, difficulty with current
5 laws, and ownership. Representative Christensen asked if studies had been done by experts to
6 determine the cost of widespread dredging, including the recreational and natural benefits. He
7 explained how California successfully dredged one of their natural resources. Mr. Price said the ULC has
8 not devoted any resources to determine the cost, but recognizes the need in limited areas. Ms. Call said
9 Utah Lake is the third largest fresh water body in the western United States, and extensive dredging
10 would be cost prohibitive.

11 **Bridge:** Several years ago, a private company planned to build a toll bridge across Utah Lake. An
12 application was submitted to FFSL, but was withdrawn for failure to provide FFSL with required
13 information. Ms. Call said the legislature created a process for this type of construction because of the
14 initial application; this process is in place for future interests. Mr. Price said the ULC and MAG do not
15 include a bridge crossing on their vision plan.

16 **Water Quality:** Mr. Price explained that Utah Lake is highly eutrophic; which means it is rich in
17 nutrients, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen. Utah Lake has naturally occurring phosphorus and
18 nitrogen, but it is increased by incoming wastewater treatment plants, stormwater discharge, and
19 agricultural runoff. He displayed an image the blue-green algae, Cyanobacteria, which has been
20 mentioned in recent news reports. This toxin can have a negative impact on humans and pets, and has
21 bloomed at Utah Lake in the past. It was asked if the toxins disperse over time. Mr. Price said the toxins
22 break down after being stirred up. It was also asked if it is toxic to the fish in the area. Mr. Price said
23 fish typically do not swim in algae bloom areas because of low oxygen levels.

24 **DWQ Action:** The DWQ recently approved a technology-based standard on municipal wastewater
25 treatment plants at 1.0 mg/L Phosphorus discharge. They are considering a decrease to as low as .05
26 mg/L at some point in the future. More research is needed.

27 **Carp Removal:** Carp were introduced to Utah Lake in the late 1800s by the government as a source
28 of protein. Carp make up 90% of the biomass, and have decimated the ecosystem of the lake. The June
29 Sucker Recovery Implementation Program is required by federal law to help with the recovery of the
30 June Sucker. In early 2000, studies proved carp are the main reason the June sucker is unable to
31 recover. Carp removal would also help with regrowth of underwater vegetation and water clarification.
32 He played a short video clip to show how carp are removed from Utah Lake.

33 **Phragmites:** Mr. Price said the ULC has a 10 year plan to treat and remove approximately 6000
34 acres of phragmites growing around Utah Lake. Funding comes primarily through grants from the
35 Watershed Restoration Initiative, and the Invasive Species Mitigation Fund. Machines and labor for the
36 removal are provided by Utah County, ULC, and the CUWCD. He explained the four step process to
37 remove phragmites and showed some before/after photos and a video of their efforts.

38 **Lake Access:** Mr. Price explained that much of the Utah Lake shoreline is private, but there are 30
39 legal access points which are being prioritized for improvements and maintenance. Other
40 improvements include the development of a beach, a nature center, and an Adopt-a-Shoreline program.
41 FFSL is responding to a request for private boat docks at Utah Lake. An amendment to allow community
42 boat docks is being considered. Mr. Joel Racker asked if the lake is deep enough at the shore line to
43 accommodate a boat dock. Mr. Price said there are places that are deep enough.

44 Mr. Price asked those in attendance to embrace the lake and help the ULC take care of it. He also
45 asked them to let the community know what a valuable resource it is. He asked if there were any
46 questions.

47 Someone asked about the history of phragmites. Mr. Price said phragmites growth is a problem all
48 over the United States, and explained that there are many theories about of how it was established.

1 Someone asked if water from Utah Lake is used primarily for drinking water in SL County. Mr. Price
2 asked Mr. Gene Shawcroft to respond. Mr. Shawcroft said Jordan Valley used it for drinking water a few
3 years ago, but complaints caused them to discontinue its use. The water is only used for irrigation
4 purposes now.

5 Ms. Call said it was her understanding that CUWCD owned 27% of the water in Utah Lake. Mr.
6 Shawcroft was uncertain of the percent, but he said they use the water to balance the demands of Salt
7 Lake County.

8 Someone asked if improvements have been seen at Utah Lake since carp removal began. Mr. Price
9 said anecdotal evidence shows that the lake is improving. Work is being done to better quantify the
10 improvement.

11 A request for introductions was made. Mr. Price briefly introduced senators, representatives, city
12 council members, mayors, county commissioners, MAG members, and state agencies.

13 Ms. Call thanked everyone for coming and for funding the ULC. She said ULC money comes from
14 agencies such as FFSL, and direct appropriation from the legislature. She explained that local Governing
15 Board representatives pay membership fees based on population and shoreline to cover ULC
16 operational expenses.

17
18 **MAG Introduction**

19 Mr. Andrew Jackson, planning director for the Mountainland Association of Governments, explained
20 the role of MAG and explained a few of their current needs to the legislators.

21
22 **4. Adjourn.**

23 The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.