



Joint Governing Board Meeting

Thursday, December 4, 2014, 9:00 A.M.

Lehi City Administrative Building

153 N 100 East, Lehi, Utah

ATTENDEES:

Utah Lake Commission

Chair/Mayor Bert Wilson, Lehi City
 Vice Chair/Mayor James Hadfield, American Fork
 Mr. Reed Price, Utah Lake Commission
 Commissioner Larry Ellertson, Utah County*
 Mayor John Curtis, Provo City
 Mayor Jeff Acerson, Lindon City
 Mayor Mark Thompson, Highland City
 Councilman Kim Hancock, Payson City
 Councilwoman Rebecca Call, Saratoga Springs*
 Councilman Dean Olsen, Springville
 Mr. Brian Cottam, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire
 & State Lands
 Mr. Walt Baker, Utah Department of
 Environmental Quality
 Mr. Mike Styler, Department of Natural
 Resources
 Ms. Christine Finlinson, Central Utah Water
 Conservancy District

Jordan River Commission

Chair/Mr. Chris McCandless, Jordan River
 Commission
 Vice Chair/Councilwoman Rebecca Call, Saratoga
 Springs*
 Ms. Laura Hanson, Jordan River Commission
 Mr. Richard Bay, Jordan River Water Conservancy
 District
 Ms. Laura Ault, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire &
 State Lands
 Commissioner Larry Ellertson, Utah County*

Ms. Erica Gaddis, Utah Department of
 Environmental Quality, DWQ
 Mr. Michael Steele, Utah State Fair Parks
 Mr. Scott Peters, Jordan River Foundation
 Commissioner Louenda Downs, Davis County
 Mr. Mike Horrocks, Wasatch Rowing Foundation
 Mr. Jon Bronson, Zions Bank
 Councilman Justin Stoker, West Jordan
 Mr. Kris McFarland, Workers Compensation Fund
 Mr. John Bennett, Governor's Office
 Mr. Soren Simonson, Community At-large
 * Indicates member of both boards

Interested Parties

Mr. Jason Allen, State Parks
 Mr. Jeff Oyler, Davis County
 Mr. Garrick Hall, Farm Bureau
 Ms. Hilary Arens, UDEQ, DWQ
 Mr. Ben Anderson, Utah Division of Water Rights
 Mr. Todd Frye, Bonneville Sailing
 Ms. Louise Frye, Bonneville Sailing
 Mr. Henry Maddux, Dept. of Natural Resources
 Mr. Greg Beckstrom, Provo
 Ms. Emily Weinheimer, Citizen
 Mr. Stephen Willden, Saratoga Springs
 Mr. Jeff Ostermiller, UDEQ, DWQ
 Mr. Scott Langford, Saratoga Springs
 Mr. Dan Tuttle, Great Salt Lake Advisory Council

1 **1. Welcome**

2 Mayor Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:00 am. He asked attendees to introduce
 3 him/herself to the group. Mayor Curtis presented Mayor Hadfield with a birthday gift.

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2. Presentation and Discussion

a. Report from Reed Price, Executive Director of the Utah Lake Commission

Mr. Price expressed appreciation to all those in attendance. He displayed a map of Utah Lake and said approximately 550,000 people live in the communities surrounding it. The lake is roughly 100,000 acres and is the third largest fresh water body west of the Mississippi. On average, it is 9’ deep and has a compromise elevation of 4489’. Currently the lake is 4.5’ below compromise. He said the lake level naturally fluctuates depending upon winter precipitation.

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

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

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

Water Quality: Mr. Price said Utah Lake is highly eutrophic; which means it is rich in nutrients, particularly phosphorus. The lake has naturally occurring phosphorus and nitrogen, but it increases with stormwater discharge, agricultural runoff, and with water from wastewater treatment plants. He talked about and displayed images of the blue-green algae bloom, Cyanobacteria, which occurred near the Lindon Marina. Toxins produced by Cyanobacteria can have a negative impact on humans and pets, so a health advisory was issued.

The DWQ recently approved a technology-based standard on municipal wastewater treatment plants at 1.0 mg/L Phosphorus discharge. It would cost \$2-\$3 per household each month to meet this requirement. The DWQ is considering a decrease to as low as .05 mg/L at some point in the future, and would cost an estimated \$15-34 per household per month.

Carp Removal: Carp disrupt water quality and destroy beneficial habitat to other fish, particularly the June sucker. Carp were introduced to Utah Lake in the late 1800s by the U.S. government as a source of protein. Carp make up 90% of the biomass, and have decimated the ecosystem of the lake. The June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program is required by federal law to help with the recovery of the June sucker.

In early 2000, studies proved carp to be the main reason June sucker are unable to recover. Efforts to remove carp began in 2009 when they estimated there were 40 million pounds of carp in Utah Lake. It costs about \$1M to remove 3-5 million pounds of carp each year. They set a goal to remove 75% of the carp over a 7 year span. In the past 5 years, 16.5 million pounds of carp have been removed from the lake. Funding for carp removal comes from grants, JSRIP program partners, and through legislative appropriation. The carp is composted, used by mink farmers, or occasionally put in landfills. It is difficult to find a sustainable market that will take high volumes of carp in a short period of time. Mr. Price played a short video to show the carp removal process in summer and winter conditions.

Phragmites: Phragmites is a non-native invasive plant covering approximately 6,000 acres around Utah Lake. The ULC created a 10 year plan to remove all phragmites growth. In the past 5 years, nearly half has been removed. Funding comes from grants through the Watershed Restoration Initiative and the Invasive Species Mitigation Fund. The cost of removal ranges from \$50 to \$500 per acre, depending on the area. Biomass is removed by burning, ice flows, and smashing. The CUWCD, Utah County, ULC

1 provide the machines and labor for phragmites removal. Mr. Price displayed some before and after
2 images of areas where phragmites removal had taken place as well as the equipment used to help in this
3 process.

4 **Lake Access:** Much of Utah Lake shoreline is privately owned, however, there are 30 legal access
5 points. An online survey was created so the community could help identify access points that need
6 improvements. Other improvements planned for Utah Lake include a beach, a Nature Center, the
7 Adopt-a-Shoreline program, and community boat docks.

8 **Outreach:** Each year the ULC sponsors approximately 1000 students to attend a field trip at the
9 Utah Lake State Park as part of their outreach efforts to reinforce concepts that they learned during the
10 year using Utah Lake as an example. The program will be expanded in 2015 to allow 1300 students to
11 attend.

12 **Other Issues:** Mr. Price said it is difficult to find long-term funding to achieve ULC goals. Local
13 support, wastewater treatment fees, RAP/CARE tax, or property taxes are all options that are being
14 considered. Other Utah Lake issues include boundary settlements and negative perceptions.

15 Mr. Price asked for questions. Mr. Richard Bay said water rights heavily govern the lake level. He
16 asked if the ULC had thought about coordinating with water right users. Mr. Price said the Master Plan
17 identifies the desire for a stable lake level and said that working with water right users is an integral part
18 of obtaining it. Mother Nature has dictated the lake level thus far.

19 Mr. John Bronson said he heard about a bridge proposal at Utah Lake. Mr. Price said a private
20 company planned to build a toll bridge across Utah Lake several years ago. An application was
21 submitted to FFSL, but was withdrawn for failure to provide FFSL with required information. The
22 process is still in place if they, or any others, choose to submit an application. He indicated it would be
23 an uphill battle to prove the need for a bridge. Ms. Call said a bridge would only serve approximately
24 1000 homes and would require a high toll to recoup funding. Commissioner Ellertson said there are
25 other thoughts and ideas regarding possible bridge locations. Ms. Ault informed the group that Mr.
26 Harward, the former applicant, met with FFSL on Monday about building a bridge.

27 Mr. John Bennett asked if animals were being used to help control phragmites. Mr. Price said cows
28 have been effectively used in the past.

29 Mr. Ben Anderson asked how long phragmites has been an issue at Utah Lake. Mr. Price said it was
30 recognized as a problem about 10 years ago.

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32 **b. Report from Laura Hanson, Executive Director of the Jordan River Commission**

33 The Jordan River is a 50-mile river corridor, which runs through 15 cities, and 3 counties. Six canals
34 draw water from the river for irrigation, industrial use, and livestock watering. A 45-mile paved trail
35 parallels the river corridor. In 2008 there were 7,300 acres of undeveloped land along the river; 3,800
36 acres were zoned for development and 3,500 acres were zoned for open space, golf courses, parks,
37 preserves and utility corridors.

38 The Jordan River Commission was organized by after a visioning document called the Blueprint
39 Jordan River was produced by Envision Utah. The JRC was organized to implement the document. The
40 Blueprint currently does not meet FFSL management plan requirements, but will in the near future.

41 **Recreation:** Ms. Hanson said the river is used for canoeing, kayaking. The trails along the river were
42 created for cycling and horseback riding. She mentioned there were three significant boat navigational
43 hazards along the river with re-circulating currents; a map on their website indicates these hazards.

44 Puncturevine, also known as Goatheads, is a quick growing invasive species that causes problems for
45 cyclists. The JRC is experimenting with Puncturevine Weevils as a form of biological weed control.
46 Bicycle tire repair stations have been installed to help cyclists who get flat tires.

47 **Flooding & River Channel Modification:** Ms. Hanson displayed images of the Jordan River meander
48 corridor to show how much the river naturally meanders. In the past, areas of the river have been lined
49 with boulders called rock rip rap to help stabilize the water. It is being replaced with a new option called

1 “streambank soil bioengineering” because it provides visually pleasing habitat along the river, while also
2 effectively reduces erosion and holds the streambank in place.

3 Ms. Hanson mentioned two Member Government Projects the JRC is working on: the Big Bend
4 Habitat Restoration Project and the 900 South Oxbow Restoration.

5 **Wildlife:** She displayed images of fox, turtles, snakes, deer, and a variety of birds that use the Jordan
6 River corridor.

7 **Programs:** Since the JRC volunteer program began in 2012, over 9000 volunteer hours have been
8 logged. She said phragmites growth is treated in small sections along the Jordan River. Russian Olive is
9 being removed with the help of Utah Conservation Corps. Volunteers help to plant native plants in
10 fenced areas. A partnership with a non-profit group named Splore, provides at-risk populations the
11 opportunity to experience the outdoors.

12 The JRC put together a document called Best Practices for Riverfront Communities Training Series.
13 They hold training workshops that compliment the information; a workshop has been planned for spring
14 2015.

15 The JRC has a Technical Advisory Committee with 40 experts who can help provide ideas for issues
16 along the JR. They are drafting a development review assistance checklist. In addition, communities
17 may have their development proposals reviewed by the TAC to ensure high quality development along
18 the river. A recognition program is built into the system as well.

19 **Social Issues & Stigma:** The JR receives a lot of negative stigma when the media over -
20 sensationalizes problems that take place at the river. She also mentioned that garbage and a large
21 number of homeless people living along the river create social issues, biohazards, and a negative public
22 stigma.

23 Inspired by the Utah Lake Festival, the JRC now holds an annual event called the “Get into the River
24 Festival.” In addition to the festival, volunteers can help clean up graffiti and areas along the river. They
25 hope to have 1200 volunteers for their 2015 Festival.

26 **Environmental Education:** A digital guide to the Jordan River Parkway at <http://myjordanriver.org>
27 was recently launched. The website includes sections on water, recreation, ecology, community, and
28 history. Individuals may share their own photos and experiences on the site.

30 **c. Report from Hilary Arens, Utah Division of Water Quality**

31 The Utah Division of Water Quality is governed by the Clean Water Act of 1972. Their goal is to
32 restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters under the
33 Utah Water Quality Act. The Water Quality Board is authorized to designate the beneficial uses of
34 water, establish water quality standards, regulate pollutants, and provide funding for projects. She
35 displayed a slide to show Utah Water Quality standards and pollutant indicator values. The DWQ allows
36 people to access water quality information online at <http://wq.deq.utah.gov>

37 She said “total maximum daily load” is the total amount of point and nonpoint pollutants allowed to
38 enter a water body on any given day and still have the river meet water quality standards. It includes a
39 “margin of safety” as well.

40 **Jordan River Water Quality:** She displayed a slide to show some water quality issues at the Jordan
41 River. A Phased TMDL Schedule was created. Phase I: identifying the problem. Phase 2: Understanding
42 the problem. (2012-2018 They are currently working on this stage.) a. Intense and targeted data
43 collection to support a more accurate assessment of organic matter loading both temporally and
44 spatially b. Implement behavioral and procedural changes for citizens and facilities. Phase 3: Final
45 designs for point and nonpoint source controls. (2018-2023) Phase 4: Construction of capital facilities, if
46 necessary. (2023-2028)

47 **Utah Lake Water Quality:** Utah Lake has high levels of phosphorus: It is a Class 3C warm water
48 fishery, has high TP values, blue-green algal dominance, high biological productivity, and potential for
49 dissolved oxygen problems and presence of cyanotoxins. Utah Lake also has total dissolved solids (salts)

1 that create concerns for irrigation and crop yields and effects taste and clarity of water, and is Class 4
2 irrigation water. Other concerns: Large seasonal algae blooms, high abundance of carp, turbid water,
3 only two native fish remain (June sucker and Utah sucker), fishery habitat issues, growth and
4 development pressures, PCBs, and POTW and storm water impacts.

5 Ms. Arens said more data, research and analysis are needed for Utah Lake. The division supports
6 research on Utah Lake water quality, phytoplankton, and zooplankton interactions, as well as research
7 on phytoplankton quantifications and analysis. They are working with the ULC to protect the lake from
8 impacts of future growth and development. They are working with stakeholders, including Universities,
9 ULC, POTWs and concerned citizens to initiate research to determine causes of impairments and
10 relative impacts. They also want to implement appropriate projects to improve the health of Utah Lake.

11 Ms. Arens said we are embarking on nutrient pollution in Utah, tailored to the unique needs of
12 Utah's waters. They are developing acceptable benchmarks for nitrogen and phosphorus levels and a
13 nutrient reduction program to reduce nutrient loads entering the state's waters. More information can
14 be found at <http://nutrients.utah.gov>.

15 **Future Plans:** Jordan River: A meeting will be held in January with researchers to integrate data into
16 Phase 2 of TMDL. Utah Lake: A lecture series will allow discussion of Utah Lake issues, research, and
17 implementation of TMDL.

18 Ms. Arens asked for questions. Ms. Hanson asked if salt used on our roads has an effect on river
19 impairments. Ms. Arens said we live in a naturally salty basin and that they may do a site specific
20 standard for segments along the Jordan River that have TDS impairments. They have not done
21 quantification to compare salt amounts from summer/winter months.

22 Mr. Richard Bay asked if most of the organic matter comes from storms or from other continuous
23 point sources. Ms. Arens said the January meeting is the best time to gather all the data that has been
24 collected and to compare this information. She said the ultimate management decision would be to
25 manage storm waters and tributaries.

26 Mr. Soren Simonson asked if demonstrable improvements could be identified because of their
27 efforts. Ms. Arens said there might not be enough qualitative evidence yet, but there is qualitative
28 evidence. Mr. Walt Baker said is a lot of evidence of improvement, but a lot more needs to be done.
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30 **3. General Comments**

31 Mr. Chris McCandless said he would like to see the ULC and JRC come together to solve funding,
32 phragmites and other common issues. He feels we would be able to accomplish more if we worked
33 together.

34 Ms. Rebecca Call said she is a member of the ULC and the JRC. Although the funding structures are
35 different, they both need funding. She said FFSL has a restricted fund which is funded by mineral rights
36 from the Great Salt Lake. She hopes the system of requesting money can be changed allowing FFSL to
37 flexibility in managing some of the restricted fund. She said it would be best if this type of request came
38 from someone on the committee, like Representative McKell. She mentioned her willingness to help
39 make this request right away.

40 Mr. Simonson suggested we invite the Salt Lake Advisory Council to attend our next joint meeting. It
41 would help us to get the big picture.

42 Mr. Dan Tuttle, who works for US Magnesium LLC, expressed his fondness as well as a few personal
43 experiences about Utah Lake and the Great Salt Lake. He suggested we be smart in talking to legislators
44 about funding and that we do it quickly.
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46 **4. Adjourn.**

47 Mayor Wilson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:02 am.