



**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, June 17, 2015, 9:30 A.M.

Utah Lake State Park

4400 W. Center Street, Provo, Utah 84601

**ATTENDEES:**

Mike Mills, Vice-Chairman, Central Utah Water Conservancy District  
Greg Beckstrom, Provo City  
Jordan Cullimore, Lindon City  
Nathan Riley, Vineyard Town  
Jason Allen, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation  
Chris Keleher, Department of Natural Resources  
Kimber Gabryszak, Saratoga Springs City  
Matt Howard, Division of Wildlife Resources

Ann Merrill, State Division of Water Resources  
Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission

**VISITORS:**

Dee Chamberlain, Saratoga Springs Owners Association  
Mike Rau, Central Utah Water Conservancy District  
Todd Stonely, Utah Division of Water Resources  
Nicholas von Stackelberg, Division of Water Quality  
LaVere Merrit, Private Consultant

**ABSENT:** Santaquin City, Department of Environmental Quality, American Fork City, Utah Lake Water Users, Lehi City, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Orem City, Springville City, Mapleton City, Woodland Hills Town

1 **1. Welcome.**

2 Vice-Chairman Mike Mills called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. He welcomed the Technical Committee members  
3 and all visitors. He thanked Jason Allen for letting the Technical Committee Meeting meet at the State Park. Everyone in  
4 the room introduced themselves.  
5

6 **2. Updates on Utah Lake Issues and Projects**

- 7 a) **Lake Level:** Eric Ellis updated about lake level. The lake level will start dropping a lot now that summer is here.  
8 Mike Mills said that the June Sucker water won't be making a huge difference in the water level at Utah Lake.  
9 b) **Phragmites:** Luke Allen gave an update on Phragmites based on a discussion that he had with Aaron Eager.  
10 Funding was received from both an ISM grand and a WRI grant. This year, spraying will be done in the Mosida  
11 area. Permission from the LDS Church needs to be given in order to treat the phragmites in that area.  
12 c) **Carp Removal:** Mike Mills gave an update on carp removal. Things are progressing. 18.5 million pounds have  
13 been removed. They are a little behind what they had hoped for 2015 because of poor ice conditions in January.  
14 This is a tough time of year to catch fish. Things usually start picking up again as far as big catches in August or  
15 September. The target number is 30 million pounds, or 75% of the population. Based on monitoring of  
16 population reduction, about three or four more years of carp removal will be necessary.

- 1 d) **Dock Amendment:** FFSL are finalizing protocol on it. A couple cities have expressed interest in pursuing it. Mike  
2 Mills mentioned that interest probably died down due to low water levels.
- 3 e) **Access improvements:** Access signs will be posted around the lake soon. Stickers will be put on the signs to  
4 show what is allowed at each point. Open fires are currently prohibited at Sandy Beach. Jason Allen heard  
5 rumors that the county might be closing Sandy Beach. Eric Ellis said that they the county is trying to discourage  
6 having beach fires in the area. There is a bit of a problem with some of the land owners there, but it isn't a  
7 reason to stop access.
- 8 f) **Priorities:** Orem City is pursuing a trail that will go from the TRAX station to the lake. Project Engineering  
9 Consultants (PEC) is helping them consider a few alternate routes.  
10 A few people will be going to Arizona to see nature centers and other recreation areas around the Salt River.  
11 Hopefully the trip will create good ideas about a nature center at Utah Lake. A foundation will be established to  
12 help generate funding for the nature center.  
13 Luke Allen gave an update on the Adopt-The-Shoreline program. The cleanup event on April 18 was a  
14 success. There will be another cleanup on July 11. The exact locations for that day haven't been identified yet.
- 15 g) **Lake Festival:** The festival was a great success. Approximately 3500 people attended, which was the goal. Mike  
16 Mills was pleased with how it turned out. A lot of people were excited to see the sand sculpture and new sand at  
17 the park. Utah County helped moved 135 tons of sand to the park.
- 18 h) **Utah Lake Beach:** There have been a few meetings with PEC about the beach park at Utah Lake State Park.  
19 There are creating a phased model. The plans look fantastic. There will be a cable park at the State Park in spring  
20 of 2016.

21  
22 Matt Howard mentioned a few other Utah Lake improvements from funding from the Habitat Council. DWR can  
23 provide fiberglass panels as a backer for the signs. There will be dredging and hardening at Lebaron Point. The parking  
24 lot at Swede Lane will be improved.

25  
26 **3. Review and approve minutes from the December 15, 2014 meeting.**

27 There was no quorum at the start of the meeting. A quorum was present after the lake updates, so the minutes  
28 were approved at this time. Chris Keleher made the motion to approve the minutes. Jason Allen seconded the motion.  
29 They were unanimously approved.

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32 **4. Presentation by Nick von Stackelberg: Water Quality Data Model**

33 The Division of Water Quality is considering a few different nutrient models for Utah Lake.

- 34  
35 1. **Model Objectives:** To have a water quality management tool to address the eutrophication issues at Utah Lake.
- 36 2. **Key Lake Processes:** It is important for the model do demonstrate how the phosphorus cycle affects Utah Lake.  
37 If the phosphorus load to the lake is reduced, how will the lake respond? Will it go back to a clearer state or will  
38 it remain turbid? The model also needs to demonstrate the nitrogen cycle, dissolved oxygen, pH,  
39 photosynthesis, algal blooms, and the transition from a turbid state to a clear state.
- 40 3. **Model Options:** The right model complexity will represent the environmental system and represent the  
41 pollutants of concern and address the management questions at hand. If an overly-simple model is chose, key  
42 processes could be missed and the management questions may not be answered. There could be defensibility  
43 concerns. If an overly complex model is chosen, it could die of its own weight. The model selection criteria are  
44 complexity, processes, data availability, transparency, and compatibility.
- 45 4. **Work Plan and Schedule:** The work plan for 2015-2016 involves creating an expanded and comprehensive Utah  
46 Lake Technical Advisory Committee, update water budget, full data set compilation for model input,  
47 collaborative model selection, assessment of ecosystem turnover, and assessment of current HAB potential and  
48 future potential.
- 49

1 LaVere Merrit commented that Utah Lake is notoriously cranky when it comes to modeling. It's exciting to see  
2 that the modeling will be happening, but it will be a huge project. Generally modeling takes more time and  
3 resources than initially anticipated. Nick von Stackelberg said that one possible outcome is that the model is  
4 calibrated, but there ends up being a big data gap. He hopes that the model can be customized to the unique  
5 characteristics of Utah Lake.

6 Mike Mills purposed that a subcommittee be created to work with Water Quality to work on the modeling. Eric  
7 Ellis said that it would meet in conjunction with the Utah Lake Commission Technical Committee Meetings.  
8

9 **5. Presentation by Todd Stonely: Quagga mussels**

10 If Quagga mussels infect Deer Creek, they will travel down the Provo River and infect Utah Lake. They are starting to  
11 appear all over the place at Lake Powell. They can affect entire lake bottoms. They tolerate colder water and can live at  
12 greater depths. They can live on soft surfaces including soil and plants. They came from Russia.

13 Infestation can lead to reductions in fish and bird populations, as well as plant growth problems. They can kill clams,  
14 crayfish, and turtles.

15 They can cause the following problems at Water Treatment Plants: Increased biological load, constricts pipes,  
16 screens, and filter beds, increases corrosion, and increases costs throughout treatment plant.

17 They can travel downstream or on boats that have been in infested waters. To prevent this, it is important to  
18 inspect, clean, drain, and dry. About 5% of boats coming to Utah Lake are arriving from an infested water body.

19 Dee Chamberlain mentioned that no Quagga mussel signs had been posted at the Saratoga Springs HOA marina.  
20 Jason Allen said he would see if he could arrange for signs to be posted there.  
21

22 **6. General Comments from the committee members and the public:**

23 Dee Chamberlain commented that some trees had been removed from the Saratoga Springs area. He was curious if  
24 anyone knew who had been doing that work. Jason Allen said it may have been UCC crew.

25 Greg Beckstrom made a comment regarding the water quality modeling. The product needs to be credible and  
26 defensible. We may get to a point when the conclusion is made that we need more data. He advises that we look at  
27 that situation as soon as possible, so that if we need more data we can start to gather it.  
28

29 **Confirm that the next meeting will be held at Utah Lake State Park on Wednesday, July 15 2015 at 9:30 AM.**

30 Mike Mills mentioned that the next meeting will be held at Utah Lake State Park on Wednesday, July 15 2015 at 9:30  
31 AM.  
32

33 **Adjourn.**

34 The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.