

APPROVED



Governing Board

Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 8:00 A.M.
Utah Lake State Park Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Chair/ Mayor James Hadfield, American Fork City
Robyn Pearson, Department of Natural Resources
Mayor Bert Wilson, Lehi City
Greg Beckstrom, Provo City
Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission
Brian Cottom, Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
Councilman Chad Argyle, Spanish Fork City
Christine Finlinson, Central Utah Water
Conservancy District
Walt Baker, Division of Water Quality
Mayor Sheldon Wimmer, Alpine City
Councilman Jason Miller, Springville City
Representative Mike McKell, State Legislature
Councilman Mark Seastrand, Orem City
Mayor Mark Thompson, Highland

INTERESTED PARTIES / VISITORS

Jodi Gardberg, Division of Water Quality
Rod Oldroyd, Springville City
Theron Miller, JR/FB WQC
Mark Ogren, Provo City
Rich Mickelsen, Provo City
Laura Ault, Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
Pat Scouten, BFT
Brent Wilson, BFT
David Richards, Oreo Helix Consulting
Bill Applegarth, Riverton City
Melissa Ure, UDAF
Jay Olsen, UDAF
Todd and Louise Fry, Bonneville School of Sailing
Gene Shawcroft, CUWCD
Garrick Hall, Farm Bureau
Jodi Gardberg, DWQ
Reed Price, Orem City
Randy Zollinger, CH2M
Joel Racker, Utah Valley CVB
Ben Anderson, UT Division of Water Rights,
Todd Tanner, Bio Security Solutions
Matt Clark, Utah Waterfowl Association
Keith Morgan, Utah Water Ski Club

ABSENT: Woodland Hills, Lindon City, Alpine City, Mapleton City, Saratoga Springs, Utah County, Salem City.

1
2
3
4
5

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Mayor Hadfield called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone.

1 **2. Approve the Consent Agenda**

2 Mayor Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2016 governing board meeting.
3 Mark Seastrand seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of approving the minutes.
4

5 **3. Directors Introduction**

6 Eric Ellis gave a brief introduction and discussed the algae bloom. The bloom appears to be subsiding and
7 hopefully the lake will be open again soon. This event had an impact on water users down river, which is
8 something that will be discussed today. There will also be discussion about potential short and long term
9 solutions.
10

11 **4. Presentations**

12 **Existing Algae Bloom, Walt Baker and Jodi Gardberg:** Jodi Gardberg started off the presentation by the
13 Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). She started off by giving a timeline of events:

- 14 • July 13: First phone calls report algal bloom near state park. First samples collected.
- 15 • July 14: Deployed more crews. Cell counts were greater than 10 million.
- 16 • July 15: Collected more samples. Health departments issued a closer of Utah Lake. An advisory
17 was issued for the Jordan River and connecting canal system.
- 18 • July 16: By this day, poison control had reported illnesses that were suspected to be related to
19 the algae bloom.
- 20 • July 17: Jordan River samples results came in. Cell counts were at 700,000.
21

22 Satellite photos of the lake were show. The bloom was very clear in the images. They were taken from a
23 satellite that passes over the area once every 9 days.
24

25 Jodi went on to discuss protocol for certain levels of cell counts (cells per milliliter). Less than 20,000 =
26 very low risk. No action taken. 20,000 to 100,000 = low to moderate risks, post caution signs, follow up
27 with weekly monitoring. 100,000 to 10 million = moderate to high risk, post warning signs. Over 10 million
28 or reports of human illness = post signs, potentially close lake. There were locations on the lake during this
29 bloom with over 10 million cells/ml. They like to see 2 clean samples (both cell counts and toxicology)
30 before the lake is reopened.
31

32 Walt Baker gave the rest of the DEQ's presentation. While we've experience Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs)
33 before, this is an abnormal situation this year because the bloom was so big and happened so early in the
34 year. HABs aren't unique to Utah Lake. Based on the studies that the DEQ has done, the largest
35 contributor of nutrients in Utah Lake are the Wastewater Treatment facilities. The amount of wastewater
36 in Utah County will increase as the population increases. Just like we can't afford to ignore maintenance
37 on bridges without disasters, we can't ignore this issue at Utah Lake.
38

39 The DEQ has embarked on a Utah Lake Study that started in 2015. This study will gather data and develop
40 a Utah Lake specific model to understand the cycle of phosphorus in the lake. This is everyone's problem,
41 and it will take everyone's attention to solve it. The DEQ will be petitioning for 1 million dollars from the
42 water quality board and assist with the funding for the Utah Lake study.
43
44

45 **Impacts of the Algae Bloom on Agriculture/Livestock, Department of Agriculture:** Melissa Ure gave this
46 presentation. There are many agricultural providers who draw water from Utah Lake and the Jordan River.
47 It's hard to know the exact number of users, so it's hard to determine the exact effect that this bloom has.
48 Many different animals are sensitive to algae, so an advisory was issued against using Utah Lake/Jordan
49 River water during the bloom. There is some evidence that the algae can affect plants, which is

APPROVED

1 concerning. However, there is very little evidence that the toxins would be in the fruit and crops once it is
2 harvested.

3
4 **Short and Long Term Potential Solutions, Jeff Ostermiller:** Because of the immediate recreation and
5 agricultural effects of the bloom, the DEQ wanted to explore short term solutions to get rid of this bloom.
6 Many companies reached out to Jeff with ideas and products for quickly eliminating the algae. Jeff
7 explained that the ratio of nutrients is just as important as the quantity of nutrients when it comes to the
8 growth of algae blooms.

9
10 When we consider short term treatment options, we have to think about what's most likely to be
11 effective, but also what are the unforeseen consequences? For example, we don't to hurt the endangered
12 June sucker. Also, treating an entire lake might not be feasible. We need to focus on options that are
13 realistic. Some examples of physical controls are aeration, solar powered devices, dyes, pesticides,
14 microbial treatments etc. Jeff has done a lot of research in the literature for these options. There are pros
15 and cons to each. Jeff said that he doesn't expect there to be a short term solution, or "Silver Bullet" for a
16 problem that took 100 years to create.

17
18 **Communication Plan: Nathan Schwebach:** We need to ensure that perception matches reality. How can
19 we communicate events like the bloom in a way that doesn't cause unnecessary panic? How can people
20 understand the true nature of the challenge we are facing? What people perceive is what they believe,
21 which is what they hear, see, and think. It's not what you say, but what people hear that matters. We
22 need to formulate messaging that resonates with the public and will also be very forthright and truthful.
23 "Poop-driven algae" is not accurate, but it is a term that is being used.

24
25 People need to know about the improvements that have happened over time (Carp removal, Phragmites
26 removal, etc.)

27
28 What can we do in the short term and long term to help educate the public? It's a balancing act.
29 Messaging is very important. More education is needed regarding wastewater treatment facilities.

30
31 We need to begin taking steps from a PR standpoint to begin changing the perception of the lake, or
32 bringing it back up to where it was before this particular bloom.

33
34
35 **5. Governing Board Meeting Proposed Schedule for remainder of FY2016***

36 A. August 25th, 2016

37 B. November 17th, 2016***

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

40 ***Early due to holiday
41

42 **6. General Comments from Board Members or the Public**

43 The meeting was running late, so Mayor Hadfield asked those who gave presentations to stay after and
44 answer questions from any members of the public who had any.

45
46 **7. Next Governing Board Meeting**

47 Mayor Hadfield reminded the board that the next Governing Board Meeting will be on August 25, 2016 at
48 7:30 AM.

APPROVED

1

2 **8. Adjourn**

3 The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 AM.