

APPROVED



Governing Board

Thursday, November 17, 2016, 7:30 A.M.
Historic Utah County Courthouse Ballroom

ATTENDEES:

Vice Chair Robyn Pearson, Department of Natural Resources
 Mayor Bert Wilson, Lehi City
 Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission
 Erica Gaddis, Department of Water Quality
 Laura Ault, Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
 Councilman Chad Argyle, Spanish Fork City
 Gene Shawcroft, Central Utah Water Conservancy District
 Councilwoman Kari Malkovich, Woodland Hills
 Richard Nielson, Utah County
 Councilwoman Shellie Baertsch, Saratoga Springs
 Councilman Mark Seastrand, Orem City
 Mayor Sheldon Wimmer, Alpine City
 Greg Beckstrom, Provo City
 Mayor Randy Farnworth, Vineyard Town

INTERESTED PARTIES / VISITORS

Bill Applegarth, Riverton City
 Rick Cox, AECOM
 Jason Allen, State Parks
 Dr. David Richards, OreoHelix
 Todd & Louise Frye, Bonneville Sailing
 Danielle Quist, Utah Lake Commission
 Sam Braegger, Utah Lake Commission
 Robert and Carolyn Krejci, Saratoga Springs HOA
 Matt Randall, BYU
 Randy Edwards, Utah County Veterans Services
 Rebecca Andrus, Provo City
 Scott Daly, DEQ/DWQ
 Jamon Scott, Tinyvilla.com

ABSENT: American Fork City, Elk Ridge City, Highland City, Lindon City, Mapleton City, State Legislature, Springville City, Salem City, Payson City

- 1
- 2 **1. Welcome and Call to Order**
- 3 Vice-Chair Pearson called the meeting to order at 7:35 A.M. and welcomed everyone.
- 4
- 5 **2. Approve the Consent Agenda**
- 6 Mayor Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2016 Governing Board meeting.
- 7 The motion was seconded and voting was unanimous in favor of approving the minutes.
- 8

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1 Mayor Wilson made a motion to approve the Utah Lake Commission financial reports from July, August,
2 September and October, 2016. Councilwoman Baertsch seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor
3 of approving the financial reports.
4

5 **3. Follow up from previous Meeting-Boyd Clayton, Utah Division of Water Rights**

6 The lake levels are always fluctuating. The compromise elevation is considered full, measures are in place
7 so the lake doesn't get higher than that. The lake is a reservoir but it is not an efficient reservoir from a water
8 holding standpoint, due to evaporation. The lake is fluctuating and we are constantly trying to figure out how
9 to maintain it at compromise. The lake went so low in the 1930's that they came to install pumps at Pelican
10 Point. There is a history of low lake levels.

11 Utah Lake distribution plan. The purpose of the plan was to provide a mechanism for existing rights in
12 Utah Lake. Under this plan, we know that it might be advantageous to store water upstream. Look at the
13 options and try to manage the water the best way. Water rights have been purchased and they exercise
14 options.

15 Each entity makes decisions on what the water year was and how to allocate the water. This was a very
16 tough year locally for water. Utah Lake was kept in balance because of the other options that those entities
17 chose. This resulted in lower water levels for Utah Lake.

18 Mark Seastrand asked a question about policies and if the process is imbalanced or if there are some
19 opportunities to improve the process? The Utah Lake Management Plan was adopted in 1992 and it was based
20 off of the lake's history. This is the first time that the secondary users has been cut off since the plan was
21 adopted. Our goal is to keep the downstream user's rights protected. The plan is working as it has been
22 intended.

23 Vice-Chair Pearson asked for clarification on the users. Who are the users with these water rights? They
24 are Salt Lake Valley Users, Riverton, Salt Lake City, Draper, and South Jordan. Most water goes to irrigation.

25 This looks at every year and those managing try to do it to the best that they can, based on the
26 information that they have and the rights that need to be met. If you want water in Utah Lake, something has
27 to give.

28 Mayor Applegarth requests better information to the mayors so that they can inform their citizens. They
29 want to help but they aren't sure what needs to be done.

30 This is a complex issue and we need to communicate the different aspects to citizens in the county so that
31 they understand and we can have their support. This is not just about releasing water out of one lake; we
32 need to have a clear understanding of water rights and why they exist.
33

34 **4. Report from Technical Committee – Eric Ellis**

35 **A. Carp-** Eric Ellis reported that we had a really fantastic fall. Since October 1, 2016 over 600,000 pounds
36 of carp have been removed. 23.5 million pounds have been removed since the beginning of the project. The
37 amount of carp is definitely decreasing, according to the lake research.

38 **B. Water Situation for coming year- Gene Shawcroft:** Water year begins on October 1st. Towards the end
39 of the water year, they begin to look at the upcoming year. Water is stored in reservoirs, including Strawberry
40 reservoir, which falls on the other side of the mountains but is brought to the Wasatch front, via the
41 Jordanelle reservoir. Think about how water is shifted (by gravity) from one place to another. At about this
42 time of year, they start to take a critical look at the water storage, including Utah Lake to see at what might
43 happen in the upcoming season. Secondary rights were cut off so that water would remain in the lake to not
44 bring in more water through import water. The lake is higher now than it would've been had it not been for
45 the Central Utah Water Project.

46 Long term studies show that Utah Lake will be more stabilized with the Central Utah Water Project than
47 without the Central Utah Water Project. Someday, something might change and something will need to be
48 done with Utah Lake.

49 Many things are considered including, soil moisture, Colorado River runoff, etc. Storms are less frequent
50 but much higher intensity. The only solution to that is storage.

1 **C. Collaborative Water Research Plan: Erica Gaddis & Scott Daly:** Last November, a Utah Lake Water
2 Quality study began to address the water quality issues that need to be addressed. Nearing the end of phase
3 one. Phase one was a synthesis year, bringing together all the players. Time has been spent looking into
4 modeling and a useful model has been found. This will all finish up in December or January. Now onto phase
5 two where we will team up with researchers and put our money to answer some questions regarding water
6 quality at Utah Lake. A \$1 million grant has been obtained for the research from the board. Our question is:
7 what is the relative importance of nutrient loading in Utah Lake? What are appropriate water concentrations
8 for Utah Lake, given management? This study will not go to the point of trying to allocate loads or permit
9 limits. The University of Utah has also secured a \$1.2 million grant from EPA to look at climate and water
10 quality. Many communities are also putting funding into this research as well.

11 Proposed process which has been used twice, and has been successful twice, so hopefully it'll be
12 successful at Utah Lake as well.

13 1. Steering Committee: representation of policy makers, high level interest. They will form the study
14 questions. About 11 people

15 2. Science Panel: Approved by the steering committee. 5-7 people, who are not the scientists doing the
16 work. To be objective oversight committee.

17 No one will be cut out of the process but smaller groups will help it to remain a focused study. Eric and
18 Division of Water Quality will create the charter document. The study will take 3 years (2017-2020).
19 Additionally, two years looking at watershed and tradeoffs. One or two seasons is necessary to accurately
20 Study the lake.

21 **5. Director's Report- Eric Ellis**

- 23 a) Sandy Beach Improvements – Richard Nielson: Moving forward with project at Sandy Beach. County &
24 Forestry crew have been down working, cleaning out underbrush. Making it a more family-friendly
25 environment.
- 26 b) Saratoga Springs Marina Dredging – Council Member Shellie Baertsch: Dredging project is two parts.
27 Removing 9000 cubic feet of material from the marina. This will help with secondary water. This is a
28 good year to take care of the dredging project, because of the low water levels in the lake.
- 29 c) Saratoga Springs Canal – Invasives Removal Project – Richard Neilson / Eric Ellis: Filled with invasive
30 trees, 1000 feet were removed and it's not an open canal.
- 31 d) Utah Lake State Park Dredging – Jason Allen: Permits are all in. Putting it out for bid after Christmas
32 and starting the dredging in the spring.
- 33 e) Phragmites Removal – Eric: 3000 acres were chemically treated this year. Provo Bay and Powell Slough
34 were both treated this year. Phragmites are noxious but they also consume a huge amount of water.
- 35 f) Fall Fourth Grade Field Trips (Oct 12-13th) – Pelican Bay Marina: Great turn out with 730 students
36 participated over two days.
- 37 g) New ULC Employees: Danielle Quist, Executive Assistant and Sam Braegger, Outreach Coordinator
- 38 h) Utah Lake Shoreline Trails Progress: Working with Mountain Lands Association of Governments and
39 cities along the lake to build a continuous lake trail. All cities are excited about it so far and things are
40 moving forward.
- 41 i) Big Ideas being pursued:
- 42 i. Development of two Waterfowl Management Areas, at Provo Bay and Powell Slough.
43 Individuals are coming forward with plans for this. In the next few years, this could
- 44 ii. There is more than one interested party who are interested in dredging the lake and creating
45 islands to make it deeper. Assisting however we can.
- 46 j) Promotions: Eric Ellis
- 47 i. Water Innovation Challenge at UVU – Envision Utah: Will give an update as it continues to
48 progress.

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- 1 i. [http://www.utahlake.gov/uvu-student-innovation-challenge-conserving-water-in-](http://www.utahlake.gov/uvu-student-innovation-challenge-conserving-water-in-utah-county/)
2 [utah-county/](http://www.utahlake.gov/uvu-student-innovation-challenge-conserving-water-in-utah-county/)
3 k) Communication Public Relations Plan – Sam Braegger, ULC Outreach Coordinator: Many people are at
4 the lake and posting on social media. Trying to make it so the public is aware that they can find us on
5 social media.

6
7 **6. Next Governing Board Meeting**

8 Vice Chair Pearson reminded the board that the next Governing Board Meeting will be on March 23, 2017
9 at 7:30 AM in the Utah County Health and Justice Building, Room 2500.

10
11 **7. Adjourn**

12 The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM.