

Approved



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 9:30 AM

Utah Lake State Park

4400 W. Center Street, Provo, Utah 84601

ATTENDEES:

Mike Mills, Chairman, June Sucker Recovery
Reed Price, Vice-chairman, Orem City Public Works
Scott Daly, Division of Water Quality
Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission
Chris Keleher, Department of Natural Resources
Sarah Sutherland, CUWCD
J.D. Shepherd, Mapleton City
Greg Beckstrom, Provo City
Sarah Carroll, Saratoga Springs City
Walt Baker, DWQ
Mike Pectol, Army Corps of Engineer

VISITORS:

Dee Chamberlain, Saratoga Springs HOA
Rich Mickelsen, Provo City
Sam Braegger, Utah Lake Commission
Art Martinez, Utah Lake State Park
Theron Miller, WFWQC
Mark Ogren, Provo City
David Richards, Oreohelix Consultant
Bryce Jackson, Spanish Fork city
Carl Adams, DWQ
Jeff Denbleyker, CH2M
Neal Winterton, Orem City
Jon Adams, TSSD

ABSENT: Alpine, American Fork, Highland, Lehi, Lindon, Payson, Salem, Spanish Fork, Springville, Vineyard, Woodland Hills, FFSL, Utah County, DWR, Utah Water Users

1. Welcome and introductions

Mike Mills called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Review and approve minutes from the January 18, 2017 meeting

Mike Mills asked for a motion to approve the January 18, 2017 minutes. A few edits were suggested (grammatical corrections, clarifying list of attendees vs. visitors, etc.), and they were noted by Commission staff for revision. Greg Beckstrom made a motion to approve the minutes. Reed Price seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of approving the minutes.

1 **3. Brief updates on Utah Lake issues, projects, and priorities**

2 A. Eric Ellis:

- 3 i. Lake Levels & 2017 Outlook: Lake levels have risen slowly but steadily, we are at 5.18 ft. below
4 compromise. We are on course to break records, however there are too many scenarios to accurately
5 predict lake levels. There was a question about if Utah Lake could flood. With how low the lake started,
6 and typical level fluctuations, it is not likely to have flooding at Utah Lake.
- 7 ii. Lake Dredging:
- 8 i. Saratoga- project is underway, dredging the marina and installing replacement water feature for
9 a water source. Should be done end of April-start of May.
- 10 ii. Utah Lake State Park- closed March-August, hopeful for the project to be completed in time.
11 They will remove obstructions hidden under the water, extend ramps fully, etc.

12 B. Mike Mills, JSRIP:

- 13 i. Carp Fishing Status: not a good fishing season this winter. Lake ice has melted, and fishing has begun
14 and should improve. JSRIP working with legislature to allocate additional funding for this year. The
15 request was approved by sub-committee, now to be approve by Executive Appropriations Committee.
16 Discussion about lake levels and how they may impact fishing for carp. He committed to share the final
17 report from USU once it is completed. Conversation about June Sucker and other fish and possible
18 improvements as carp levels decrease.

19
20 **4. Water Quality Study; draft structure – Scott Daly, DWQ**

21 A. Discuss comments and feedback:

- 22 a. Comments have been received. DWQ seeking to present draft plan to the larger stakeholder group.
23 Discussion as to when the draft plan should be presented to Governing Board. DWQ will present on this
24 draft plan to Governing Board on March 23 meeting, and then prepare the plan for the Governing Board
25 to vote on the in the June meeting, if not sooner.
- 26 b. The role of the Utah Lake Commission was discussed. Governing Board and Technical Committee
27 meeting would interact with the process through their Executive Director, Eric Ellis, who would co-chair
28 the Steering Committee. Governing Board and Technical Committee will both review the Steering
29 Committee’s recommendations, and approve and forward those, or create their own recommendations
30 to then submit to DWQ and directly to the Water Quality Board.
- 31 c. Discussion of various edits and updates to the draft plan about the different entities responsibilities,
32 who will be allowed to consult on the research, peer review, etc.
- 33 d. Discussion resulting from comments from Theron Miller in concern of the Technical Committee’s
34 purpose in this process, who is actually a member of the Committee, etc.
- 35 e. Several persons who were present wanted to understand who will be choosing the representatives for
36 the Steering Committee. The Utah Lake Commission Governing Board will decide which of the cities gets
37 representation on that committee. There have been updates to include agriculture better locally instead
38 of UDAP. Walt Baker recommended that an email be sent out to everyone with changes in the draft plan
39 so that everyone has access to the revisions. It was requested that DWQ sent out all the responses they
40 have received, and DWQ will fulfill that request after the next round of revisions.
- 41 f. DWQ agrees with, and has incorporated the idea behind this plan the research is that a nutrient criteria
42 be attainable and feasible.

43
44 **5. Nutrient Solution- Meetings Review-Eric Ellis**

- 45 A. After the algal bloom last summer, Eric was asked to look through all the ideas suggested by individuals and
46 businesses with potential solutions for the algal bloom. A company called Waste to Energy has been meeting
47 with Eric and the POTW’s of each of the cities that feed into Utah Lake. They have the ability to take the
48 nutrients they pull out of the water into a commodity, and approach the problem as a business venture, and

1 hence fund it through their own sources instead of the cities funding the project. More information about this
2 will be forthcoming.
3

4 **6. Communications Update- Sam Braegger (ULC)**

- 5 A. Sam covered some statistics on the Commission's social media accounts. i.e. 1000% increase in followers on
6 Instagram, impressions on Twitter and Instagram, new website page views, etc.
7 B. Described the Roll Out of Communications Plan for 2017. A meeting on 02/16 with various PIO's around the
8 valley, to discuss media communications about Utah Lake.
9 C. Sam also asked the Committee for any suggestions on stakeholders who aren't a municipality, i.e. businesses on
10 the lake, citizen groups, clubs, etc. Several attendees of the meeting made suggestions to that list.
11

12 **7. Round Table updates from committee members**

- 13 A. Eric Ellis- inquired as to the possibility to add additional sensors to the data sons (wind meter, air temperature).
14 Commission staff and DWQ will work to get those sensors added. Discussion about location, cost, the data
15 provided for the sons. Provo expressed interest in gaining similar data from the Provo Bay area.
16 B. DWQ has begun hiring process to hire a local watershed coordinator who would specifically the area of non-
17 point source issues in conjunction with the area.
18 C. Walt Baker brought up the Tibble Fork Reservoir spill. Walt spoke of addressing concerns that that spill was
19 comparable to the Gold King mine release in Colorado. More details on the cleanup from that spill. DWQ doesn't
20 feel there is a public health problem in this issue.
21

22 **8. General comments from the committee members and the public**

- 23 A. Question to clarify whether universities and other private researches would be excluded from being involved in
24 the Science Panel and contacting for the work if they already do work on Utah Lake.
25 B. Question as to how the Science Panel will be selected. The Steering Committee will designate those, the list
26 included in the draft plan now are suggestions/recommendations from DWQ. Comments made expressing
27 concern that local scientists not be excluded from the Science Panel due to their current involvement in work at
28 Utah Lake.
29 C. Comment as to making the potential nutrient criteria attainable and feasible. DWQ explained that the scientific
30 research, coupled with the policy related decisions both will be involved in determining the outcome.
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32 **9. Confirm next meeting time**

33 The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2017.
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35 **10. Adjourn.**

36 The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.
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