

APPROVED



Governing Board

Thursday, February 15, 2018, 7:35 A.M.

Utah County Historic Courthouse

ATTENDEES:

Chair Shellie Baertsch, Saratoga Springs
Vice-Chair Mark Seastrand, Orem City
Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission
Lon Lott, Alpine
Brad Frost, American Fork
Chris Finlinson, CUWCD
Robyn Pearson, DNR
Erica Gaddis, DWQ
Laura Ault, FFSL
Rod Mann, Highland
Paul Hancock, Lehi
Michelle Kaufusi, Provo
Keir Scoubes, Spanish Fork
Craig Jensen, Springville
Tyce Flake, Vineyard
Nathan Ivie, Utah County
Kari Malkovich, Woodland Hills

INTERESTED PARTIES / VISITORS:

Sam Braegger, Utah Lake Commission
Alan Weaver, Focus Engineers
Keith Crosley
Dwane Christensen
Randy Findlay, Utah Lake Restoration Inc.
James O'Neal

David Richards, OreoHelix
Richard Lee
Ben Parker, Utah Lake Restoration Inc.
Kellie Parker
Holly Scott, Utah Lake Restoration Inc.
Robert Scott, Utah Lake Restoration Inc.
Ben Anderson, UT Div. of Water Rights
Roger Brooks, Roger Brooks Intl.
Todd Parker, Utah Lake Restoration Inc.
Randy Zollinger, CH2M
Jason Asplind, Utah Lake Restoration Inc.
Ryan Benson, Stag
Scott Daly, DWQ
David Roberts
Mike Mills, JSRIP
Theron Miller, WFWQC
Ryan Woodbury
Dick Buhler
Ben Beckes
Reed Price, Orem
Greg Carling, BYU
Brett Sterrett
Jordan Erickson
Susie Petheram, CRSA
Rebecca Andrus, Provo

ABSENT: Lindon City, Mapleton City, Payson City, Salem City, Utah House of Representatives, Utah Senate,

1

2

1. Welcome and Call to Order

3

A. Executive Director Eric Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:35 A.M. and welcomed everyone.

4

2. Action Items

APPROVED

- 1 A. Eric reported that the Commission has printed the Utah Lake Photo Contest winning photos,
2 requested by various Governing Board members to put up in their public offices. Representatives
3 should check with Sam Braegger at the end of the meeting to pick theirs up.
- 4 B. There are a couple of awards for the Commission's two past chairs, Former Mayor's Bert Wilson (Lehi)
5 and James Hadfield (American Fork) but they are unable to attend, so we will give them out later.
- 6 C. Eric supervised the nomination and election process. Two names were nominated through the
7 Executive Committee, Mark Seastrand from Orem, and Commission Nathan Ivie from Utah County.
8 Councilwoman Shellie Baertsch submitted her name for nomination. The Board chose to vote by raise
9 of hand. The election results were Shellie Baertsch as Chair and Mark Seastrand as Vice-Chair.

10
11 **3. Action Items (after Chair was elected)**

- 12 A. Chair Baertsch asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2017 Governing
13 Board meeting. Mark Seastrand made a motion to approve, and Mayor Frost seconded the motion.
14 Voting was unanimous in favor of approving the minutes.
- 15 B. Chair Baertsch asked for a motion to approve the financial reports from November 2017 - January
16 2018. Paul Hancock made a motion to approve, and Mayor Frost seconded the motion. Voting was
17 unanimous in favor of approving the financial reports.

18
19 **4. Executive Director's Project Report- Eric Ellis**

- 20 A. Utah Lake State Park Dredging: Dredging in process, about 15% complete. Estimated time of
21 completion is end of May (pending additional internal funding to dredge an additional 2 feet down).
22 They are placing material in one of their campground loops. They plan to dredge the inner marina and
23 channel to the lake, remove boating obstacles, and extend the cement boat ramps further out. The
24 Board posed a few questions on project details, and Eric provided responses.
- 25 B. Phragmites Removal: Crushing the Powell Slough began just before Christmas, and has now been
26 completed. Provo Bay work has begun and should be complete soon. Utah County crews have been
27 doing some additional removal of other invasive species, such as Russian Olive trees. We received an
28 additional \$20k to extend an extra 250 acres in the Provo Bay area. There were a few questions posed
29 again by Board members, and Eric responded to those questions. Discussion also on the upcoming
30 potential purchase of Marsh Masters to improve crushing.
- 31 C. Grants:
 - 32 a. NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Grant for augmenting trail plans for unfinished Shoreline
33 Trail segments around Utah Lake: Moving along well. Goal for this year it to further develop
34 the trail master plan; find funding partners, get a delineation completed on sections that need
35 it, etc. Board requested the RTC agenda for that projected timeline, Commission staff agreed
36 to provide that to the Board via email. Questions posed from newer Board members, and
37 responses from Eric.
 - 38 b. ISM: Eric reported on the status of the applications, and purposes behind the grant request.
 - 39 i. \$148k for Phragmites Treatment – Accepted for funding
 - 40 ii. \$150k for Marsh Masters – Accepted, pending
 - 41 c. WRI: Eric reported on the status of the applications, and purposes behind the grant request.
 - 42 i. \$148k for Phragmites Treatment – Ranked to be funded
 - 43 ii. \$50k for Marsh Masters – Tentatively accepted

44
45 **5. Utah Lake Restoration Inc. Presentation**

- 46 A. Ryan Benson gave the presentation. He complimented the Commission's efforts on phragmites
47 removal and other restoration projects. He explained that since Ben Parker's visit to the previous
48 Governing Board meeting, they have now submitted their proposal to the State and are awaiting to
49 hear if they will receive a permit. Info is available on UtahLakeRestoration.com. *The Governing

APPROVED

1 Board asked questions throughout the presentation. See the audio minutes on our website for more
2 specific details.

- 3 **B. Current State of the Lake:** He started by covering some history of the lake. Talked about the pristine
4 water conditions, the submerged vegetation, the native species of fish, how the lake has changed,
5 etc. The ecosystem of the lake today is broken. The sediments on the bottom of the lake are loaded
6 with nutrients, water quality is impaired and has algae blooms, the shorelines are dominated by
7 phragmites, etc. He discussed last year's algae bloom and its impact on the lake, specifically its
8 recreation uses. He also talked about the impacts of carp and phragmites, wind and wave action.
- 9 **C. Project overview:** The restoration investment will be \$6.4 billion to dredge and do all the other
10 improvements. He talked about some of the work experience of their senior management involved on
11 this project. He mentioned one of their staff worked on the Palm Diera project in Dubai. Other
12 projects were in Africa, Asia and Panama. The core objective of this project is improving water quality.
- 13 **D. Dredging:** The dredging will improve water storage capacity and reduce evaporation. They estimate
14 the water conservation from all elements will conserve about 34 billion gallons of water per year. The
15 plan is to increase the depth of the lake, on average, by 5 feet. That won't be a uniform depth, the
16 underwater topography will be planned out. Dredging will remove and encapsulate the loose
17 sediments that are the top layer on the bottom of the lake, which get stirred up and make the water
18 cloudy. The second part will be to remove the nutrient loaded sediments and encapsulate them in the
19 islands as well.
- 20 **E. Native Species:** Native species are struggling, June Sucker is endangered. Goal is restore the June
21 Sucker, native vegetation, etc. A fish hatchery will be built. Objective is to get the lake to the point
22 that it can heal itself, which it can't do right now; underwater vegetation will play a part in that.
- 23 **F. Water Quality:** The lake is hypereutrophic currently, whereas it was clear water in the past. They will
24 upgrade the current wastewater treatment facilities so that the water coming to the lake will have
25 less nutrients. Another important tool will be 40 bio-filtration systems around the lake. They will look
26 like natural water features (i.e. rivers, waterfalls), and they will cycle water from the lake, through
27 those treatment facilities, and back into the lake. Aeration systems and pumping facilities to improve
28 circulation and oxygen levels.
- 29 **G. Studies:** They have \$500 million allocated to study the engineering, monitoring, everything to make
30 sure that it will work. They will be working with local universities and wildlife biologists on those
31 studies.
- 32 **H. Islands:** Deepening the lake by an average of 5 ft. on a 96,000 acre surface area is almost 1 billion
33 cubic yards of material.
- 34 **a.** There were various ideas of what to do with that material. The islands encapsulate and store
35 that material so that it doesn't leak back into the lake, they help with wind/wave action, and
36 provide additional wildlife habitat. They use a geo-tube, pump the sediments into them, and
37 form the outlines/foundations of the islands. Discussion on the geo-tubes with the Board.
- 38 **b.** Dredging starts after geo-tubes go in. This is 60 dredgers, working 20 hours a day, 6 days a
39 week, for 8 years to move the material. They have to time the dredging, so that the lake levels
40 remain constant. They will mix the soils from various parts of the lake to provide a solid soil
41 structure. After the material has been placed, they use a type of drain 20-40 feet down, the
42 water leaves the material and reenters the lake. After de-watering, they do a dynamic
43 compaction. After completion, the soil will be 98% compaction, likely more solid than
44 anywhere else in Utah Valley. Place rocks, gravel, etc. to finish the natural appearance of and
45 island. The design was configured to reduce surface area on the lake between 16 and 20%, to
46 reduce evaporation. The main island in the middle is just under 10,000 acres; all together the
47 project is approx. 16,000 acres.
- 48 **c.** The islands reduce wave action across the lake. Wave size is a product of fetch length (how
49 far that wave rolls across the lake). Currently, in a 26 mph wind event, produces a 1-3 ft wave
50 across 85% of the lake. With the island design, that changes to a 26 mph wind event

APPROVED

1 producing a 6 in – 1 ft. across 85% of the lake. The islands create safe zones, where people
2 can shelter until the waves die down. The reduction in wave action will reduce the uprooting
3 of underwater vegetation.

- 4 **d.** 190 miles of new shoreline, creating significant new wildlife habitat. They will replant native
5 vegetation, such as cattails, bulrushes, etc.
- 6 **e.** Central Utah Water project was created to bring more water to the Wasatch Front. Right
7 now, that water isn't being brought right now due to the endangered status of the June
8 Sucker. With this project improving the habitat and aiming to get the June Sucker delisted,
9 more water can be brought to the Wasatch Front. Discussion about water levels, water rights.
- 10 **f.** There are three types of islands. Estuary islands around the outside of the lake will help
11 address ice floes, protect shorelines, restoration of upland habitats, safe areas for water
12 sports. Recreation islands are dotted across the lake. They will have beaches, docks,
13 campgrounds. Development islands are how they will pay for the restoration and everything
14 else. Funding is what has always held up restoration at Utah Lake.

- 15 **I.** Highlights: There will be 12 miles of new beaches. They want to integrate their trail system on the
16 islands with the Utah Lake Trail Plan that's planned a continuous trail around the lake. 64% of the
17 island space that will be created is open space: parks, trails, beaches, etc. The central island will be
18 the first LEED certified city in the U.S.
- 19 **J.** Economic/Tourism Opportunities: Roger Brooks spoke on this topic. He introduced himself and his
20 company, tourism and economic/community development. For the first time in U.S. history, quality of
21 life is leading economic development. Water is number one for tourism and development. Jobs are
22 going where the talent is or where the talent wants to be. Recreation is what is drawing these
23 workers in. In 2016 in Utah, tourism was \$8.4 billion dollars. The state has promoted "The Mighty
24 Five", Flaming Gorge and other great recreation spots. This valley has no recreational lake as a
25 tourism draw. Jordanelle Reservoirs has 10 times the monthly visitors as Utah Lake. This development
26 is designed around residential, pedestrian-friendly ideas. 90% of the developed area on the islands is
27 residential. Utah Lake should be known just as well as the National Parks or State Parks here in Utah.
28 People think they are going to clean up the lake just so they can make a lot of money on the islands. It
29 doesn't work that way. If they can't provide an outstanding lake, the development won't come,
30 people won't come. That's why the lake restoration is more important than the development on the
31 lake, the development on the lake is just a way to fund it. The cost restoring the lake would be 60% of
32 the state's annual budget. Ryan Benson chimed in that just the dredging part of the project, which is
33 less than the half the total cost, would cost the residents of Utah County \$180 per household, per
34 month, for 20 years.
- 35 **K.** Ryan showed a map that compared surface areas with other lakes in Utah against that of Utah Lake
36 (96,000 acres). Strawberry Reservoir, Yuba Lake, Willard Bay, Deer Creek Reservoir, Jordanelle
37 Reservoir, Fish Lake, Echo Reservoir, Gunnison Reservoir, Panguitch, Delta, Joe's Valley Reservoirs,
38 etc. don't add up to even close to the same surface area for water based recreation.
- 39 **L.** Q & A with the Governing Board:
 - 40 **a.** Major Frost asked what the next steps would be. They need to be included on road planning,
41 etc. so that they aren't cut off.
 - 42 **i.** Transportation is a huge topic. The design includes 3 causeways, including one that
43 will align with Provo Center St. They will be working with UDOT and the cities to make
44 it all work together.
 - 45 **b.** Councilwoman Malkovich asked how causeways would impact boat traffic, and what the
46 timeline for the project.
 - 47 **i.** The bridges will be 90 feet high, so even a large sailboat can pass underneath. The
48 causeways will be designed with water flows in mind. As to timeline, permitting and
49 environmental studies is 2-4 years, then dredging is 8 years. About a decade until all
50 the islands are in place. Another 25 years of development after that. This is an

APPROVED

- 1 iterative process. Conservation/restoration are front-loaded, so the benefits start
2 early on in the project. All the recreation opportunities will be completed within the
3 first 10 years.
- 4 c. Councilman Scoubes asked what the impacts would be on farmers, residents who use the
5 rivers for irrigation, etc. When and how?
6 i. They have funding in place for bio-swells, for agricultural outflows to make them
7 cleaner. The decisions will be made during the EIS process.
- 8 d. Another Board member asked: Sometimes projects are proposed and somewhere along the
9 line, funding falls through. Where will the \$6.4 billion come from, and what reassurance do
10 we have that the project will be completed?
11 i. Financial model is important. This project is done on a self-perform basis, so they
12 don't make money on the restoration/conservation. If the state were to contract it
13 out, it would be over \$12 billion. Part of the innovation is using the sediments to form
14 land, but doing it in phases. Phase 1 is restoration of Provo Bay, all the conservation is
15 done before land is granted to help pay for that. The project has been designed to
16 sustain 1-2 financial recessions. In terms of financial models, they can sit down with
17 Board members, as it's a longer conversation with the financial team.
- 18 e. Another Board member: Do anticipate jobs being located on the island so not everyone has to
19 commute off the island for work?
20 i. This won't just be a residential development, there will be a business sector. Most of
21 the land is residential, but the goal is to help it be attractive to business as well. Roger
22 Brooks added that the development is meant to be a place for people to live and
23 work, maybe not even own a car, etc.
- 24 f. Councilwoman Malkovich: How many companies within our state boundaries will be able to
25 work on this project? Or will it all be from outside companies?
26 i. It will be combination. Mostly self-performed, within their company, because if they
27 contracted it all out the cost would escalate too quickly. The project is anticipated to
28 bring 22,000 new jobs.
- 29 g. Councilman Jensen had a question about transportation, providing information better to the
30 public.
31 i. This is a preliminary design, they will work with UDOT, info will be made available to
32 the public.
- 33 **M. Q & A from the public:**
- 34 a. Where will the northernmost causeway connect on the west side?
35 i. The Mountainview Corridor is the current plan. There is a map on pg. 173 of the
36 proposal.
- 37 b. During the 8 years of dredging, what will the residents around the lake see/experience?
38 i. Dredgers look like a boat with piping connected to it. The process is designed so that
39 people can continue to recreate and maintain water levels. Aeration process and
40 other water quality improvements happen throughout the dredging process.
- 41 c. Will there be studies done on the impacts on other lakes?
42 i. Many recreational areas are becoming overcrowded. Providing more recreational
43 opportunities, it should help with that overcrowding.
- 44 d. When and how much access to the lake will there be?
45 i. There will be additional marinas constructed to enable greater access to the lake.
- 46 e. How do we control traffic, what about water quality, and developing infrastructure?
47 i. There will be 11 new marinas on the lake. In terms of transportation, the islands will
48 take 8 years but the causeways will be done before that. There will be development
49 throughout the project. Opportunities to get on or across the lake will be while the
50 project is still happening.

APPROVED

- f. How does this project work with the existing restoration projects, such as phragmites removal or the Provo River Delta Restoration Project?
 - i. The other projects will continue, this project will augment them with additional funding and resources. It will be a collaborate effort to accelerate restoration.
- g. If you aren't monetizing for 10-12 years or more, how to you prevent the scenario of getting halfway through building the islands and the money dried up so it's stuck half-done?
 - i. Monetization of the project starts at the beginning of the project. It's revenue positive by year 4. It wouldn't work to wait 8 years to monetize. That's why there are phases, to help with funding. Additional discussion on funding.

6. Report from Technical Committee

- A. Reed Price, the new Committee Chair, had to leave early, so Eric Ellis reported that the Technical Committee is ready and willing to dive into questions the Governing Board might have on the project presented today. For the remainder of the year, they will be reviewing the entire Commission master plan, in prep for next year's master plan revision in partnership with Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.

7. Utah Lake Water Quality Study Update

- A. Erica Gaddis summarized where the study is at. Division of Water Quality (DWQ) partnered with the Utah Lake Commission to form the Steering Committee to guide the water quality studies that will be occurring over the next 3-5 years. The Committee has met twice. Representation includes several municipalities, Timpanogos Special Service District, and to others. The Committee has decided to expand the scope of the work from just water quality to watershed wide and implementation of the costs, etc. There isn't enough funding for that, so DWQ is actively seeking funding partners. Next, they will be seating the Science Panel to administer the research part of the project.

8. Communications/Public Relations Plan—Sam Braegger

- A. Read off all the Board members who requested a photo canvas from the Utah Lake Commission's photo contest. He will be at the back of the room; see him to pick yours up.
- B. He then reported on the progress of the team of interns the Commission is working with, through the BYU On-Campus Internship program. Five interns are working with Commission staff on developing our public relations campaign, developing a new web page for recreation users, developing the Adopt-a-Shoreline program and review and improve our existing events at the lake.
- C. Utah Lake Festival will be June 2nd this year.

9. Governing Board Meeting schedule for the year

- A. March 22, 2018
- B. June 21, 2018
- C. September 27, 2018
- D. November 15, 2018 (adjusted for Thanksgiving)
- E. Chair Baertsch asked for a motion to approve the 2018 Governing Board meeting schedule. Commissioner Ivie made a motion to approve, and Laura Ault seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of approving the meeting schedule..

10. General comments from board members and the public

- A. Chair

11. Next Governing Board Meeting

- Chair Baertsch reminded the board that the next Governing Board Meeting will be on March 22, 2018 at 7:30 AM in the Utah County Health and Justice Building, Room 2500.

APPROVED

1

2 **12. Adjourn**

3 The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 AM.