



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 9:30 AM

Utah County Historic Courthouse

51 S. University Ave., 3rd Floor Ballroom, Provo, Utah 84601

ATTENDEES:

Mike Mills, Chair, JSRIP
Reed Price, Vice Chair, Orem
Scott Daly, Division of Water Quality
Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission
Rebecca Andrus, Provo
Sarah Carroll, Saratoga Springs
Kari Malkovich, Woodland Hills
Dale Fonken, DWR (Aquatics)
Matt Howard, DWR (Habitat)
Kim Struthers, Lehi

Brandon Snyder, Lindon
Juan Garrido, Springville
Sarah Sutherland, CUWCD
Jesse Stewart, Utah Water Users

VISITORS:

Sam Braegger, Utah Lake Commission
Ann Baynard, Division of Water Resources
Dax Reid, UDAF
Paul Baker, Sweetwater
Randy Lutz, REI

ABSENT: Alpine, American Fork, Highland, Mapleton, Payson, Salem, Spanish Fork, Vineyard, DNR, FFSL, Utah County,

1 **1. Welcome and introductions**

2 Chair Mike Mills called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Everyone introduced themselves.
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4 **2. Review and approve minutes from the September 20, 2017 meeting**

5 A. Mike Mills asked for a motion to approve the September 20, 2017 minutes. Kari Malkovich made a motion to
6 approve the minutes. Jesse Stewart seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of approving the
7 minutes.
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9 **3. Review Meeting Schedule**

10 A. Eric explained that the new schedule reflected the previously followed annual meeting schedules, but
11 decreasing the meetings to every other month. Mike Mills raised the point that the March 21st meeting would
12 conflict with the Utah Water Users Workshop. Discussion ensued amongst the group, and the decision was to
13 move that meeting to March 14 at 10 am. There was also a typo on the agenda, showing meetings in October
14 and December, it was changed to show only one meeting on November 14.
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16 **4. Brief updates on Utah Lake issues, projects, and priorities**

17 A. Eric Ellis:

- i. Lake Levels: levels have actually come up a little since our last meeting. Current level is at 3.6 ft. below full, last meeting it was 3.9 ft. below full. That is a significant improvement over the same time last year. Mike Mills mentioned that current snow pack conditions don't look good, but that February is very important and it's tough to say what the next month will bring.
- ii. Permanent Stations for Wind Sensors on Utah Lake – American Fork and Mile Post 17: UDOT has agreed to install a wind sensor station at mile post 17, which will provide wind data on the southwestern end of the lake. We are still working with AF Boat Harbor to place the second sensor there. DWQ has agreed to cover costs of data and maintenance. Sam summarized the team of interns that the Commission is working with, one of the responsibilities being to develop the user interface for the wind sensor data for the public to access.
- iii. Utah Lake State Park – Non-motorized Access Point at the end of Provo River Trail just outside Park: Eric summarized what the project entails. He also reported that the trees have all been removed from the parcel. Hoping for more progress by spring, we are waiting on grants to come through for funding.
- iv. Dredging in ULSP: The Park closed on Dec. 6 for improvements. There have been delays due to difficulties with the coffer dam. Ice caused damage to the coffer dam last week. State Park and contractors met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and got an earthen dam approved. It should be completed shortly, and pumping will commence immediately. Dale Fonken added that dam should be in by Jan. 29th, and pumping would start immediately. Sam also described the change in management at ULSP.
- v. Arches Group (upcoming presentation): Eric summarized the restoration project, and explained that the development group will be presenting to the Governing Board in February. There were several questions and comments made on this topic, including topics such as: the permitting process, size and purpose of the islands, environmental impacts, water rights, where the project is at currently, etc. More details will be forthcoming at the February 15th Governing Board meeting.
- vi. Communications Efforts-Sam Braegger: There are almost 40,000 photos on Instagram with the hashtag "#utahlake". Sam has been doing online tutorials, reading books, etc. to learn photography/videography in order to create our own content. The Commission's monthly newsletter list is growing slowly but steadily. We are constantly seeking to improve our website, social media, etc. There will be a new "projects" page on the Commission website to summarize the many projects on the lake for the public.
- vii. Phragmites Treatment: Commission, partnered with the County has submitted applications to the DWR WRI program and the Department of Agriculture's Invasive Species Mitigation Fund. Funding requested for two Marsh Masters and for treatments. Various other partners for funding as well. A change in treatment schedule. For the next three years, the plan is to spray in the fall and smash in the winter every year from Saratoga Springs around the north end down to Provo.

5. Water Quality Study; Steering Committee Structure – Scott Daly, DWQ - Updates

- A. Scot refreshed everyone's memory on where the study was the last time the Technical Committee met and then explained where the project is at now. Since the last meeting, DWQ has contracted with a facilitator, the Steering Committee has been seated and has held its first meeting. There were a few changes to the representatives on the Committee, for a variety of reasons. The first meeting established the interests of the stakeholders, background information to explain the purpose of the study, etc. Next steps will be to seat the Science Panel and determine the direction of the study. Agendas will be on the DWQ website.

6. Carp Removal & June Sucker Research Update -- Mike Mills

- A. The poor ice conditions have prohibited fishing this winter, for the third year in a row. Total removed for last year 2.5 million pounds, goal was 3 million pounds. Since the beginning of the project, we have now passed over 26 million pounds removed. Based off past years, we expect that fishing will be good right now, at ice-off, and then will decrease in quantity as the year progresses.
- B. JSRIP is still in the process of finalizing the 2018 work plan. Provo River Delta Restoration Project is in the process of land acquisition. Working on enhancements along the Provo River. Planning enhanced monitoring

1 efforts on Provo River and Hobble Creek. Continuing data collection on Utah Lake connected with carp removal.
2 Concerns of northern pike in Utah Lake, modeling is being done to show impacts. Possibly using local anglers to
3 collect as many pike as possible for use in research.
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5 **7. ULC Technical Committee Planning / Vision / Focus Session**

- 6 **A.** Eric summarized the Technical Committee’s past work in forming the Master Plan, etc. He expressed an interest
7 in group feedback on what they would like to focus on as a committee moving forward. Chair Mills recounted
8 what the Technical Committee did in the beginning, explaining the workflow of the Committee has ebbed and
9 flowed according to the needs of the Governing Board and the needs of the lake. Discussion ensued about the
10 Utah Lake Commission Master Plan, which is due for revision in 2019, and how the Committee might review the
11 document and decide on their direction moving forward based off the plan. The Commission staff committed to
12 break up the Master Plan into sections, divided between the remaining meetings in the year, so that each
13 section could be reviewed at a meeting. Governing Board will review the goals/objectives of the document
14 beforehand and provide direction to the Technical Committee.
- 15 **B.** Conversation ensued about whether or not the Committee should seek to fund additional research on Utah
16 Lake. Emphasis was put on not duplicating research that is already being funded by other groups such as DWQ
17 or WFWQC. Topics were suggested, such as: e coli issues at the lake, phragmites treatment. Suggestion was
18 made to create a list of questions the Committee wants answers to. Chair Mills and Vic-Chair Reed expressed
19 that this Committee don’t have the expertise to evaluate research proposals, but instead should consider
20 helping to provide direction or help vet ideas, maybe use the funding to support other agencies ongoing efforts
21 to research/monitor/etc. Utah Lake.
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23 **8. Round Table updates from committee members**

- 24 **A.** Chair Mills explained that he has served as the Chair of the Technical Committee for two years, the bylaws
25 specify two years of service and that a Chair cannot serve consecutive terms. Reed Price was nominated for the
26 position of Chair by Sarah Sutherland. Reed was elected to Chair by a majority vote of the quorum. As to Vice-
27 Chair, discussion was made about several names: Scott Daly, Laura Ault, Ben Stireman and others. Conversation
28 ended that Commission staff would contact several of those names to measure interest, and a vote would be
29 held at the next Technical Committee meeting.
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31 **9. General comments from the committee members and the public**

- 32 **A.** There were no comments made.
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34 **10. Confirm next meeting time**

35 The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2018 at 10:00 AM.
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37 **11. Adjourn.**

38 The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.