

Approved



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 9:30 AM
Utah Lake State Park
4400 W. Center St. Provo, Utah 84601

ATTENDEES:

Reed Price, Chair, Orem
Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission
Sullivan Love, Vineyard
Tippe Morlan, Saratoga Springs
Scott Daly, Vice Chair, DWQ
Mike Rau, CUWCD
Anders Bake, Lindon
Juan Garrido, Springville
Morgan Faulkner, FFSL
Jesse Stewart, Utah Lake Water Users
Mike Mills, JSRIP
Cory Pierce, Spanish Fork
Scott Bird, Utah County
Chris Keleher, DNR
Keith Lawrence, DWR (Aquatics)

Todd Munger, Lehi
Rebecca Andrus, Provo

VISITORS:

Sam Braegger, Utah Lake Commission
Dax Reid, UDAF
Clayton Wolf, Vineyard resident
Jeff Denbleyker, Jacobs
Kevin Shurtleff, UVU
Mike Cole, UDOT
Neal Winterton, Orem City

ABSENT: Alpine, American Fork, Cedar Hills, DWR (Habitat), Highland, Payson, Salem, Woodland Hills

1 **1. Welcome and introductions**

2 Chair Reed Price called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM. Everyone introduced themselves.
3

4 **2. Review and approve minutes from the May 15, 2019 meeting**

- 5 A. Chair Price pointed out the date listed on the minutes for the May 15th meeting was wrong, Commission staff
6 agreed to update. Chair Price asked for a motion to approve the May 15, 2019 minutes. Jesse Stewart made a
7 motion to approve the minutes. Scott Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of approving
8 the minutes.
9

10 **3. ULC Director's updates on Utah Lake issues, projects, and priorities**

- 11 A. Eric Ellis:

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- i. Lake level: we are at 1.5 feet below compromise, which is a great sign for next year. A decent winter means even Great Salt Lake will benefit as well. Reservoirs upstream from Utah Lake are making room for the forecasted snow and runoff. Last year, at this time, the lake was at 5.5 feet below compromise.
- ii. Algae blooms status: Eric briefly shared the status of the bloom at the lake, he shared that EPA is finalizing a revision of the advisory thresholds, raising them and hence reducing the number of blooms qualifying for advisories. Eric and Scott Daly shared some info on how DEQ bloom sampling works, the number of lakes across Utah experiencing blooms this year, etc. Some discussion and questions/answers about bloom advisories.
- iii. Budget Requests:
 - i. ULC Shoreline Improvement CPF Request to GB – sending out to lakeshore communities shortly, small grant from ULC to help fund shoreline/recreation access enhancements. Grant amounts will be \$5000-\$15000 dollars.
 - ii. ULC Shoreline Assessment Study – going out for RFP in concert with FFSL, as they are partnering in the funding, as is Utah County.
- iv. Walkara Way Project: Eric summarized the project for those unfamiliar. A kickoff meeting was held two days ago, over 20 entities were represented at that meeting, sponsored by the County Commission. Next steps is to get fencing put in and cattle grazing to keep vegetation down. A few questions asked/answered regarding status of the project, details, etc.
- v. North Lake Trail/Engineered Wetland: Eric summarized the project. TSSD need to gain access to their main sewer line that heads west of their plant, which happens to fall along what's likely the best-case scenario for the trail alignment for the Utah lake Shoreline Trail. They are working with the Commission and MAG to get a trail put in, fitting our trail plans and their needs to access their manholes, for a couple of miles of shoreline. He covered a few other details. TSSD is also looking to develop an engineered wetland along the south-east corner of their property, for removal of nutrients from their outflows. They would have the trail come near that project, include bird towers potentially, solving their concerns and providing a great amenity at the lake at the same time.
- vi. Marsh Master Schedule – Mowing Status: chemical treatments were able to wrap almost all the way around the lake this year, due to higher water levels and low regrowth of phragmites from last year's treatment to this year's treatment. Scott Bird spoke to the Marsh Masters. He reported that the machines have been in the Vineyard area, and near the state park marina. He highlighted some challenges in the landscape, and the machines progress. Eric summarized the process the County has gone through to get the mowing attachments work. The county has mowed parts of the Powell Slough access points to utilize the phragmites for pheasant and waterfowl hunting, opening the Orem River and also leaving some stands for wildlife to hide in/be flushed out of.
- vii. RFP for Algae Bloom Treatments – Update/progress: Algae pilot treatments will likely occur June 2020. We wanted to capitalize on the projects not just for testing the technologies, but use the situation from a public relations standpoint to make announcements at the beginning of the busy season. Utah Lake State Park, Lindon Marina and Lincoln Beach will be the pilot sites, the companies doing treatments are: AE Com, ATS, SePro. Further discussion in the Committee on the details of the pilot testing, i.e. timeline, types of technology to be used, what next steps will be, etc.
- viii. Communications: "Utah Lake is My Lake" – Interview Ideas:
 - i. Facebook Live w/ Mike Mills: recently interviewed Mike about carp removal for about 45 minutes. 10 or so people watched it live, its been shared since then and seems to have produced more questions and answers for the public.
 - ii. Future Interviews: Sam suggested that if anyone at the meeting wanted to help us in doing one of these videos, or had a suggestion of someone else, he wants to continue the series of interviews. He highlighted some points from the carp removal discussion and how it helped to provide that info to the public. Discussion on ideas for future topics.

- 1 iii. Group Discussion on HAB Media- Sam was seeking input from the group on the issues of public
2 perception on the algae blooms at Utah Lake. Some discussion with the Committee around
3 press releases, normalizing Utah Lake blooms versus other blooms, educational efforts to inform
4 the news media about FAQs about blooms, etc.
5

6 **4. Water Quality Study; Steering Committee Structure – Scott Daly – Progress Report**

- 7 A. Scott reviewed the work over the summer months, i.e. a two-day Science Panel meeting working over what
8 needs to be done to answer their charge questions, etc. The strategic research plan is being flushed out with
9 information being gathered. DWQ will be reviewing the loading information for the lake, trying to determine
10 more accurately how much is coming from which sources. Working to hire a dust deposition expert to help
11 refine the work on that topic. Gearing up for a follow-up phone call with Science Panel soon, scheduling another
12 two day event likely Nov-Dec, continue work on the strategic research plan. Eric added that the focus on dust
13 deposition is to try to find concurrence on how it should be collected and how much it actually adds to the lake.
14

15 **5. JSRIP Update – Mike Mills**

- 16 A. Mike reported on carp removal. It's been a rough year; due to the carp population being at its lowest, as well as
17 increasing water levels increasing the area carp can hide/escape in. They continue to harvest, albeit at a reduced
18 rate of success. Provo River Delta Restoration Project, started in 2008, has finally acquired all the land for the
19 project; construction of the project will start spring 2020. The first phase will include a city park on Lakeshore
20 Dr., called Delta Gateway Park. Final designs for the delta and all its features in the next two weeks, permits will
21 go through in the next several months. A few questions were discussed about the project, i.e. land being
22 dry/wet during construction, is there a nature center still planned, percent of flow of Provo R. diverted for the
23 project
24

25 **6. General comments from the committee members and the public**

- 26 A. Cory Pierce, working on new design/infrastructure at the treatment plant.
27 B. Keith Lawrence, associated with the Provo River Delta Restoration Project, DWR has been charged with
28 developing a monitoring plan for June Sucker and other species to provide basis of comparison from before the
29 project goes in to afterwards. DWR went out this summer in Hobble Creek to do so, Keith relayed some of the
30 numbers they saw.
31 C. Jesse Stewart, reiterated the request that the Marsh Masters not mow too close to the pump houses, Eric
32 replied that they do keep that buffer around the pump house.
33 D. Rebecca Andrus, Provo City has selected a pre-construction services contractor for their new wastewater
34 treatment plant, finalizing plans, etc. It will be an on-site overhaul, building the new facility while the current
35 one still operates. They have a variance from DWQ, but hope to be done before 2025.
36 E. Juan Garrido, working with UDOT on the issue of water flow being impeded at Spring Creek. UDOT is concerned
37 about the water rising on the culvert.
38 F. Mike Cole, with UDOT, expressed their concerns of the rising water levels at Spring Creek along the freeway,
39 blocking access for maintenance, etc. Seeking solutions such as diverting the water flows north temporarily, to
40 gain access, etc. Discussion amongst the group about options. Chair Price asked which parties are at play:
41 Springville City, UDOT, Utah County, DNR. Chair Price suggested that it might not be Utah Lake Commission's
42 role to facilitate that or not, but that group of agencies should figure it out. Mike said the county has done some
43 work to improve the situation.
44

45 **7. Confirm next meeting time**

46 The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 20th, 2019 at 9:30 AM.
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48 **8. Adjourn.**

49 The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 AM.