

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Environmental Interests Advisory Committee
October 4, 2005 Meeting

Attendance: Merritt Frey; Utah Rivers Council
Dee Holladay; Friends of Big Cottonwood
Jeff Salt; Great Salt Lake Keeper
Lynn De Freitas; Friends of Great Salt Lake
Ann Wechsler; Bend in the River
Jeff Williams; Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development
Earl Jackson; Utah State University Extension
Kent Lewis; Great Salt Lake Audubon Society
Wendy Fisher; Utah Open Lands
Natalie Rees; Salt Lake County Water Resources Planning Program

Background Information—A powerpoint presentation was provided that provided: 1) an update of the Watershed Council, 2) an update of the Jordan River TMDL, 3) a discussion of TMDL write-up provided by the Utah Rivers Council, 4) a discussion of opportunities to participate in the request to the Area-Wide Water Quality Management Plan, 5) an update of Little Cottonwood Creek TMDL, 6) an update of Emigration Canyon TMDL, and a 7) a discussion of other watershed issues.

Update of the Watershed Council

1. The advisory group reviewed the Mission and Vision statements developed by the Core Council. Some comments included:
 - a. Add water quantity and quality language to clarify.
 - b. Need to expand beyond the riparian zone.
 - c. Add the term “meaningful stakeholder involvement” to the mission statement.
 - d. Several concerns were expressed in regard to the composition of the Watershed Council. Many of the Environmental Advisory Committee members expressed discontent that the core council is comprised of regulatory entities. The suggestion was made that the council be restructured to consist of advisory committees who all elect a representative to sit on the core council. This idea will be discussed with the Salt Lake County Flood Control and Engineering Division Director as well as the Salt Lake County Water Resources Planning and Restoration Program Manager. Members of the Environmental Advisory Committee who wish to provide input regarding the Watershed Council composition are invited to contact either of these individuals or members of the County Council.

Update of the Jordan River TMDL

1. It was discussed that Cirrus (the State's consultant working on the Jordan River TMDL) has compiled water quality data and is in the process of writing a review document-identifying gap in this data. Although, no specific timeline is set, it is anticipated that this review document will be available in a few months.

Discussion of TMDL write-up provided by the Utah Rivers Council

1. Members of the Environmental Advisory Committee are generally pleased with the write-up. Merritt Frey will accept comments until October 7, 2005, after which a final draft will be distributed to both Steve Jensen and Neil Stack. Subsequently, a copy will be given to members of the Watershed Council with expertise in TMDLs for review. Finally, this statement will be distributed to all members of the Council.
2. It was also mentioned that a "layman's" description of the TMDL process and potential outcomes should be distributed to all members of the Watershed Council. Therefore, a document will be compiled and distributed by the end of October.
3. Additionally, the possibility of conducting a meeting for all members of the Watershed Council, as well as interested citizens, to provide information regarding the TMDL process and potential outcomes was discussed. This option will be further explored as the TMDL moves ahead.

Proposed amendment to the Area-Wide Water Quality Management Plan

1. A brief history of the Area-Wide Water Quality Management Plan was discussed.
2. The amendment proposed by South Valley Sewer District (SVSD) and the impetus for this proposed amendment were discussed.
3. Opportunities to participate in the decision to grant or deny this amendment were presented. They are as follows:
 - a. Workshop: October 17, 2005 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Salt Lake County Government Center (Council Chambers)
 - b. Public Hearing: November 3, 2005 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Riverton Government Center—sponsored by the Council of Governments (COG)
 - c. Public Hearing: November 14, 2005 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Salt Lake County Government Center (Council Chambers)

4. Several members of the Environmental Advisory Committee expressed interest in reviewing the Division of Water Quality Model for the Jordan River. Copies are being secured and will be distributed when received.

Update of Little Cottonwood Creek TMDL

1. A brief summary of the Little Cottonwood Creek TMDL and the Alta Fen Pilot project were discussed.
2. Notably, USGS is currently completing a model of the Alta Fen and will submit their findings to the Salt Lake County Water Resources Planning and Restoration Program soon. This model will indicate the capacity of the fen to accommodate the entire Columbus-Rexall mine drainage discharge. If so, the fen will be deepened to accommodate increased metals removal.

Update of Emigration Creek TMDL

1. Emigration Creek is listed as an impaired water body due to high pathogen levels. It was discussed that Salt Lake County has contracted with USGS to conduct a synoptic tracer injection study of the Creek to determine load sources. This study will be conducted the week of October 10, 2005.
2. It was also mentioned that the Salt Lake County Water Resources Planning and Restoration Program has been contracted by the Utah Division of Water Quality to conduct the TMDL for Emigration Creek. This process will begin Spring of 2006.

Discussion of Other Watershed Issues

1. A brief discussion was provided in regard to:
 - a. High mercury levels found in Great Salt Lake Ducks.
 - b. Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation Groundwater Stakeholder meeting.
 - c. Stream alteration requests in the Jordan River Watershed.
 - d. Purchase of Perkins Flat in Emigration Canyon by Utah Open Lands.

Discussion of desired meeting frequency and schedule

The Environmental Interest advisory committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis; however, an earlier meeting may be held if desired. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 6, 2005 at 3:00 PM. The water quality review will most likely be complete by this next meeting.

Tasks to accomplish

- Finalize and distribute TMDL write-up
- Draft a values statement (Merritt Frey and Lynn De Freitas)
- Distribute the Values and Mission Statements for review.
- Compile and distribute layman's explanation of TMDL process and consequences.
- Distribute DWQ water quality model of the Jordan River to interested members.
- Further discuss and finalize the council composition.