

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Environmental Interests Advisory Committee
June 6, 2006 Meeting

Attendance: Merritt Frey; Utah Rivers Council
Ann Wechsler; Sierra Club
Jim Harris; Utah Division of Water Quality
Kent Lewis; Audubon Society
Natalie Rees; Salt Lake County Water Resources Planning Program

Update of the request to amend the Area-Wide Water Quality Management Plan

1. Craig White (South Valley Sewer District General Manager) informed the Watershed Council that there was a court hearing on March 11, 2006 in the 3rd District Court in West Jordan. This hearing was in regard to the conditional use permit that was revoked by the Riverton City Board of Adjustments last winter. As of June 27th, the judge has not issued a final decision on this matter; however, all members of the Jordan River Watershed Council will be notified when a decision is made.
2. Once a decision has been made, SVSD anticipates filing a facilities plan with the State and submitting the county approved Area-Wide Water Quality Management Plan amendment.
3. After approval of the facilities plan, SVSD anticipates construction of a new wastewater treatment facility at their Riverton site. However, an appeal to a higher court may occur.

Water Quality Stewardship Plan (WaQSP)

1. It was noted that in the process of re-visiting the 1978 Area-Wide Water Quality Management Plan for the proposed South Valley Sewer District amendment, it became apparent that numerous factors such as land-use, population projections, jurisdictional boundaries, water quality requirements/impairments, water supply/use, and wastewater treatment processes have changed significantly since 1978.
2. As a result, the Salt Lake County Council allocated \$240,000 into the 2006 budget to initiate the development of a Water Quality Stewardship Plan (WaQSP), which will update the existing Area-Wide Water Quality Management Plan. This plan will contain all of the essential elements found in the original Area-Wide Water Quality Management Plan and will incorporate guidance from the recently published Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters (EPA, 2006).
3. Salt Lake County has recently selected Stantec Inc. to be the project manager for the WaQSP. Please find attached a list of individuals involved in this project.

4. The WaQSP development will take approximately three (3) years and will be divided into three (3) phases. The first phase is data compilation and collection will occur during the first year of this project and has already begun at the County level. The second phase is comprised primarily of writing the plan, and the final phase will be focused on stakeholder buy-in and approval.
5. Advice was solicited from the Environment Advisory Group in regard to involving the public throughout the WaQSP development process. Several suggestions were made which will be discussed with county staff and the WaQSP consultant. These suggestions include:
 - a. Prioritizing elements
 - b. Presenting information to Rotary groups
 - c. Sponsoring a canoe trip to highlight issues along the Jordan River
 - d. Develop layman materials such as brochures to be distributed at public libraries, schools, and recreational facilities.

Watershed Conference

1. Salt Lake County has applied for a small grant through the Utah Watershed Coordinators Council to facilitate a watershed conference at the completion of the first phase of the WaQSP development.
2. As a follow up, Salt Lake County did receive these monies and will be organizing a conference for late fall/early winter.

Jordan River TMDL Update

1. Jim Harris of the Division of Water Quality mentioned that the first element of the Jordan River TMDL (the water quality review) was to be presented on June 8th at the core council meeting. Merritt Frey is scheduled to attend this meeting as the representative from the Environmental Advisory Group.
2. A brief discussion ensued concerning when best to meet in relation to the core council, i.e. Is it better to meet before or after the core council meets? For now, the Environmental Advisory Group will continue to meet prior to the core council meeting.

Round Robin of Activities

1. Ann Wechsler asked about the reverse osmosis project sponsored by Kennecott Land to provide drinking water for ~4,300 homes on the west side of the Salt Lake Valley. One concern that was discussed was the disposal of brine from the reverse osmosis process.

The following is an explanation provided **Kenecott Land** concerning the reverse osmosis process. “Reverse osmosis uses high pressure to push water through a membrane and remove dissolved minerals—especially sulfate salts—from groundwater contaminated by historic leach water management practices. The dissolved minerals that are left behind will be disposed of in **KUC’s Tailings Impoundment**. This technology, coupled with rigorous control and monitoring, will ensure that water delivered to the public meets state and federal drinking water standards. Finally, an organic fertilizer called **Biosol®** was applied to approximately 50 acres and seeded with a native seed mix. **Biosol®** provides organic matter and nitrogen to waste rock that is typically void of essential minerals. In addition, it releases nutrients slowly and is applied in much smaller quantities than traditional fertilizers. The low application rate reduces costs while the slow release promotes the establishment of native vegetation rather than weedy species.”

The next meeting for the Environmental Advisory Group for the Jordan River Watershed Council will be on September 7, 2006 at 3:00 PM in room N3001 of the Salt Lake County Government Center (2001 South State Street). As always, if there are items that you would like to discuss at this meeting, please email or call Natalie Rees at nrees@slco.org and 801-468-3656.