

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2009

Attendance:

Dan Johnson; West Valley City
Mike Lancaster; Murray City Corp.
Denis Stuhff; UDOT Hydraulics
Theron Miller; JR/FB WQC
Jeff Salt; Great Salt Lake Keeper
Jeff Betton; Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
Jen Kecor; Save Our Canyons
Scott Zeidler; DNR—Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Reed N. Fisher; Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Tom Holstrom; Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Ana Paz; South Jordan City
Van King; Rio Tinto
Jeanny Miles; Tetra Tech
Florence Reynolds; Salt Lake City
Kris Hohenshelt; Emigration Canyon C.C.
Ron Lund; Salt Lake Valley Health Department
Dan Potts; Salt Lake County Fish & Game
Jenni Oman; Salt Lake County
Dan Drumiler; Salt Lake County
Marian Hubbard; Salt Lake County
Kathlyn Collins; Salt Lake County
Lynn Berni; Salt Lake County
Julie Howe; Stantec
Karen Nichols; Stantec
David Baczek; Independent
Natalie Wannamaker; Independent

Water Quality Stewardship Plan (WaQSP) Overview

- Marian Hubbard presented an overview of WaQSP including a brief history and plan recommendations. Implementation is underway, current projects include:
 - Grant coordination & facilitation for water quality improvements
 - SLCo currently has \$4,139,975 in grants
 - Installation of 5 new flow & water quality monitoring stations
 - Development of a computer based water quality model that will assist future watershed planning and implementation efforts throughout the County
 - Sampling instream water quality during storm events
 - Jordan River Ecosystem Restoration Projects
 - Bingham Junction (Midvale Slag Superfund Site); between 6400 S & 7800 S
 - Upper Jordan River; between 8600 S & 9000 S
 - SLCo/SLC partnership for JR restoration; 4 sites between 561 S & 2100 S
 - 3 more large-scale sites; between 104th S & 132nd S
 - Constructed wetlands built at 8600 S
 - Dry Creek stream restoration at Dimple Dell Park (implemented through SLCo Parks & Rec)
 - Continued emphasis on public involvement
 - outreach, Watershed Watch newsletter, Watershed Symposium, JRWC meeting, etc.
- Jeff Salt expressed concern that many elements of the original 208 Area-Wide Water Quality Plan have not been addressed (as required by the Clean Water Act) but are not in the WaQSP. Please note that this was addressed due to the 208 regs were superseded by the WaQSP. He also mentioned that he feels there is a disconnect with the efforts of Blueprint Jordan River initiative, that there is much overlap in project recommendations and goals and yet Blueprint does not mention WaQSP in their meeting.

Stream Function Index (SFI) Overview

- Natalie Wannamaker and Kathlyn Collins presented the final results of the Stream Function Index Rapid Assessment Protocol—a watershed-wide assessment of our stream corridors that began in 2006—and asked, “...is what we found consistent with the personal knowledge of those in the room?”
- SFI is a rapid assessment protocol of stream habitat, hydrology, water quality and social factors that influence both water quality and quality of life. The intention is that the SFI will help guide restoration efforts and monitor the results.
- Assessed waterways included the Jordan River and all primary streams; the rapid assessment was limited to what could be observed visually in a 100-foot buffer around stream corridors and conducted during low flow periods.
- Jeff Salt mentioned a recent State Supreme Court ruling on stream access that could affect future ability to do stream assessments. Dennis Stuhff suggested that perhaps a luxury type tax on stream front property would be appropriate for private landowners to help fund restoration. Jeff Salt mentioned that Blueprint JR is talking about the creation of a special service district to fund JR acquisitions.
- Jeff Salt suggested the inclusion of Environmental Justice and Public Health metrics in the Social Index. Dan Potts suggested the measure of fish edibility as an issue. Kathlyn Collins explained that until there is sample data that can be plugged into the matrix, these types of metrics couldn't be included, as they cannot be taken visually as part of the rapid assessment. Kathlyn also mentioned this would be a good study on its own.
- Kathlyn Collins explained that each metric received a score that was based on several established protocols, adjusted for urban streams (of which there is not much precedent). Much research was done by SLCo staff and consultants; targets were thoroughly researched by Eric Duffin of Cirrus Ecological Solutions, Inc to determine what could be related to this county. Natalie Wannamaker mentioned that there are currently no category rankings or ratings assigned to the scores such as A, B,C.
- The following components of the matrix were discussed in the most depth:
 - Flood Plain Connectivity: Dennis Stuhff wondered if this metric is sensitive enough, or if it was created correctly. Jeff Salt stated that this metric gives a false sense of stream health in some instances. Dan Potts agreed.
 - Water Quality Monitoring: Theron Miller stated that TSS should be included as well, particularly with it's affect on light penetration and scouring; it is just important, if not more, than Total Phosphorus. Jeff Salt suggested including a visual assessment of litter in the next review.
 - Trail Corridor: Comments included the following: questioned why sections of the JR with a trail aren't rated correctly; might be better to have a finer scale assessment of this metric; perhaps simply show details of trail surface types, mainstem portion of map is not accurate; questioned why roads that are used as trails (City Creek, Emigration Canyon) were not included.
- Wrap up and discussion;
 - The final SFI report is anticipated to be available online by the end of August 2009; city-specific reports are being prepared for 16 municipalities; GIS data will also be available by request. Updates are planned to be on the same schedule as the WaQSP.
 - The SFI is intended to highlight areas of concern, without going into specific, fine scale detail, city-specific reports are being provided with reports to that municipalities can develop more detailed plans.
 - This is the final technical report, there is no formal comment period; we appreciate feedback and comments, suggestions, errors, etc. will be accepted any time.