

**JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Agriculture and Irrigation Advisory Committee**  
**June 28, 2005 Meeting**

Attendance: Wayne Johnson; Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Department  
Gordon Haight; Taylorsville City Engineer  
Steve Jensen; Water Resources Planning Program Manager  
Natalie Rees; Water Resources Planning Program

**Background Information**—A powerpoint presentation was provided that went over some background information in regard to: 1) Jordan River Watershed; 2) Jordan River Watershed 3) Council history; 4) Current watershed issues; 5) Impaired waters in the Jordan River Watershed; 6) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) overview; 7) Watershed Council goals and objectives, and 8) Anticipated timeline of TMDL. Please refer to attached PDF of powerpoint presentation.

**Discussion of parks and recreation concerns**

1. The question was raised that since the Jordan River and Emigration Creek both have excess amounts of bacteria, will health signs be posted?

*Garth Miner of the Salt Lake County Health Department said that this is not something that the health department has done in the past. However, he will look into this further and get back with us.*

2. What are the repercussions of non-compliance to TMDL allocations?

*Point source TMDL allocations are incorporated into discharge permits. Therefore, the discharge of loads greater than a permit allocation will/may result in fines. However, nonpoint source violations are more difficult to adjudicate. If nonpoint source loads cause the total allocation to be exceeded, litigation can be brought against the governing State for failure to adhere to the established TMDL.*

3. Zoning needs along the parkway.

*Currently, development is allowed to the waters edge in many areas. There is a need for buffer zoning along the Jordan River to minimize the impacts of development.*

4. Need to invite user groups (i.e. bikers, hikers, dog users etc.).

*We are still searching for existing organizations that may be able to represent local user groups. Please let Natalie know if there are existing groups that may be able to fulfill this role.*

5. Who is responsible for stormwater compliance if the city has contracted to the county for maintenance and operation?

*Since all cities and municipalities have their own stormwater management plan in place, it is their responsibility to assure compliance with any TMDL allocation.*

6. Who owns wastewater effluent?

*After speaking with Kent Jones of the Division of Water Rights I think I have a better handle on this. Title 73, Section 3C of the Utah Code addresses wastewater and effluent water rights. According to Kent, wastewater effluent rights are still under existing water rights. So, if a city has a given water right, and that water is dispensed to individual homes, sent to the treatment plant, and discharged as treated effluent, it is still under the legal water right of the city. In terms of actual quantity, it is assumed that a 20% consumption occurs in the home and that 80% returns to the system. Therefore, if a city has a water right of 1,000 acre-feet, this would equal 800 acre-feet of wastewater effluent. Inflow and infiltration will cause this number to fluctuate, but the general equation used is a 20% reduction.*

*Additionally, the following email was provided by Craig Anderson of Salt Lake County "Natalie: The use of sewage effluent is governed by state statute - Sections 73-3c-1 et seq., Utah Code Ann. Essentially, the statute provides that an entity operation a POTW that treats sewage in water supplied under the entity's water rights, may apply the resulting sewage effluent to a beneficial use. The entity must file a change application with the state engineer if it plans to use the effluent outside the place of use authorized in the underlying water rights. The statute also deals with unappropriated water flowing into a POTW and requires the entity to apply to the state engineer to appropriate the water to a beneficial use. The statute does not appear to address the issue of appropriated water which flows into a POTW - where the underlying water right is held by someone other than the treatment entity. For example, water originating from a private well or water company which ultimately is discharged into a POTW. In any event, the statute requires anyone intending to apply sewage effluent to a beneficial use or change the point of discharge, to notify the state engineer. The state engineer then publishes a notification. Hope this helps. Let me know if you have any other questions. Thanks, Craig"*

7. Park and Recreation interface with storm drains.

Discussion of desired meeting frequency and schedule

*Since we had so few attendees at this initial meeting, it was determined that we should wait to set a meeting schedule.*

Open discussion of questions and concerns

- *Mill Rays dog park is just upstream from noted bacteria violations in the Jordan River*
- *Murray City also has a fish pond on the east side of the river where bacteria violations were observed in the summer of 2004.*

Closing thoughts??

*We need to identify existing stakeholder groups that may be able to represent parks and recreation concerns in the Jordan River Watershed Council.*