

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Environmental Interests Advisory Committee
December 6, 2005 Meeting

Attendance: Merritt Frey; Utah Rivers Council
Dee Holladay; Friends of Big Cottonwood
Jeff Salt; Great Salt Lake Keeper
Jeff Williams; Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development
Kent Lewis; Great Salt Lake Audubon Society
Sarah Liljefelt; University of Utah Environmental Studies Student Advisory
Natalie Rees; Salt Lake County Water Resources Planning Program

Background Information—A powerpoint presentation was discussed that provided: 1) An update of the Watershed Council (i.e. Composition, Goals and Objectives), 2) Update of the Jordan River TMDL (i.e. Water Quality Review, Solid Waste Concerns), Emigration Creek Synoptic Tracer Study update, and an update of the proposed amendment to the Area-Wide Water Quality Management Plan. Additionally, the committee discussed projects that they are working on or are concerned about in a Round Robin.

Update of the Watershed Council

1. The advisory committee reviewed the Council Composition and Goals/Objectives of the Watershed Council. Comments included:
 - a. The concern was raised that government employees (i.e. Federal, State, and local government employees) may not be able to vote on issues that come before the Watershed Council due to conflict of interest concerns.
 - b. The suggestion was made that recreational interests need to be better represented on the Watershed Council.
 - c. The suggestion was also made that user groups could comprise their own advisory committee and consequently have a representative on the core council.
 - d. Similar to our last meeting, several concerns were expressed in regard to the composition of the Watershed Council. The discontent centers on the perspective that the council is too heavily weighted toward government entities. Additionally, there is concern that in having representatives from the Parks and Recreation and Planning/Zoning departments from each city, there is redundancy in representation of municipal interests. The Stormwater Coalition is an additional advisory committee that is comprised primarily of city employees.

- e. The suggestion was made that if stakeholders have alternate ideas about the composition of the Watershed Council, they should submit these ideas in writing to the Flood Control & Engineering Division of Salt Lake County.
- f. One suggestion that was made verbally was to have the City government representatives as an advisory committee.

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.
2. It was also discussed that the consultant is developing a flow model of the Jordan River.
3. On November 10, 2005, the Division of Water Quality held a meeting with their technical advisory group to discuss the progress of the Jordan River TMDL.
4. It was noted that at our next core council meeting we anticipate a presentation by Stantec and Cirrus of the work they have done on the Jordan River Flow Model and Water Quality Review. The representative from the Environmental Advisory Committee will be responsible for disseminating this information to the Environmental stakeholders.

Discussion of Solid Waste problem in the Jordan River

1. Recently, the solid waste problem in the Jordan River has received much publicity.
2. The LA River TMDL, which included a solid waste stipulation, was briefly discussed.
3. It was noted that shopping carts cost ~\$150/cart and that grocery stores generally lose approximately \$1,500 per month due to shopping cart theft.
4. It was also noted that anti-theft devices may be broken off and are therefore not efficient.
5. The question was asked, "Where did the money come from to install waste removal devices in the Jordan River?" This question will be investigated.
6. After our discussion at the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting, I called Rick Olsen—who is in charge of the Flood Control & Engineering operational crews—to get a better understanding of the role that the county plays in this problem. The following is what I gleaned from my conversation with Rick:
 - a. In general, the crews will go out if a complaint is made to the County in regard to fallen trees and debris in the River. In the City, the complaints come from the Salt Lake City Parks and Recreation Department primarily. In the upper reaches, the complaints are generally submitted by private landowners.

- b. In areas where there are known problems such as 2100 South, Flood Control crews go out on a more routine basis.
- c. Flood Control crews have removed hundreds of trees over the last few years.
- d. In addition to fallen trees and debris, Flood Control crews remove abundant shopping carts. This removal is done when there are low flows either as a result of seasonal fluctuations or diversions. Two years ago, Flood Control crews filled 10 ten wheeler trucks with shopping carts. Rick estimated that this constituted ~1,000 carts.

Emigration Creek Update

1. Data that was collected on October 12, 2005 was presented that suggests that only a few source areas for E. Coli contamination.

Proposed amendment to the Area-Wide Water Quality Management Plan

1. A brief review of what has been done to date in regard to this issue was presented.
2. It was noted that Riverton City has revoked the conditional use permit that was granted to South Valley Sewer District (SVSD) and that SVSD has appealed this decision.
3. It was also noted that there was a 6" surcharge of the Interceptor line leading to South Valley Water Reclamation Facility at Shields on Thanksgiving Day, 2005.

Watershed Management Plan

1. It was noted that the Flood Control & Engineering Division anticipates an updated Watershed Management Plan that will take place over the next two to three years.
2. The general categories of information to include were presented and suggestions were made for additional elements. These suggestions included:
 - a. A regional planning approach for wastewater.
 - b. The question was asked, "What is the motivation for stakeholders to participate in the development of this Watershed Management Plan?"
 - c. The suggestion was made that the Plan include Evaluation and Milestone tables to establish a mechanism for revisiting the Plan.

Round Robin of interest, activities, concerns.....

1. Kent Lewis of the Audubon Society asked about the proposed reconfiguration of Meadowbrook Golf Course. Part of this golf course is currently slated to be developed as condominiums.
 - a. Kent asked if there were wetland concerns in this area.
 - b. Steve Jensen of the Salt Lake County Water Resources Planning and Restoration Program was consulted in regard to this issue. He stated that there are no wetland issues with this development.
2. Jeff Williams of the Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation & Development group stated that he has been working with the Bonneville Cooperative Weed Management Area to remove Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) in the area bordered by I-15, I-215, and the Jordan River. He asked that everyone be on the lookout for this noxious weed.



*Photo taken from the USGS invasive species site
(<http://biology.usgs.gov/invasive/Science%20Centers/NorthernPrairieNPWRC.htm>).*

3. Jeff Salt of the Great Salt Lake Keeper informed the Environmental Advisory Committee Stakeholders that:
 - a. His group is forming the Great Salt Lake Watershed Council to facilitate communication between Watershed Coordinators in this area.
 - b. He has formed a watershed level group to help coordinate Mercury studies.
 - c. He is concerned that the county Jordan River clean-up funds will be cut; however, \$300,000 has been approved for restoration of several sites that will be used to cultivate wetland plants for future restoration projects.

- d. The Parkway Foundation is working with Envision Utah to develop a corridor plan that will focus on the Jordan River corridor from a recreational perspective. They have received \$70,000 and are seeking further funding.

Discussion of Logistics

1. The Environmental Interest advisory committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis; however, an earlier meeting may be held if desired.
2. Stakeholders need to get in touch with Natalie Rees [nrees@slco.org; 468-3656] if they want to discuss a specific issue at the next meeting.