

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Environmental Interests Advisory Committee
September 7, 2006 Meeting

Attendance: Merritt Frey; Utah Rivers Council
Ann Wechsler; Sierra Club
Jim Harris; Utah Division of Water Quality
Lynn deFreitas; Friends of the Great Salt Lake
Dee Holladay; Friends of Big Cottonwood
Kent Lewis; Great Salt Lake Audubon Society
Sarah Liljefelt; University of Utah
Earl Jackson; USU Extension
Karen Nichols; Stantec Consulting
Natalie Rees; Salt Lake County Water Resources Planning Program

Jordan River TMDL Update

- DWQ is expanding the contract with Cirrus to include all reaches of the Jordan River. Cirrus will therefore develop an expanded Element I document.
- DWQ anticipates conducting four (4) synoptic studies of the Jordan River over the next year.
- The first synoptic study utilized grab sample techniques and was conducted August 8th through August 11th.
- Although this first synoptic used grab samples, DWQ would like to conduct equal-width integrated sampling techniques in the future.
- In order to conduct equal-width integrated sampling, DWQ will need three (3) to four (4) crews of two (2) people each
- Phytoplankton data were collected with the most recent synoptic.
- At this point, DWQ's consultant will proceed with developing work Element II; however, the timeline for this has not been established.
- Additionally, Cirrus is currently examining the sensitivity of the Qual2K model.
- Cirrus has identified that the most critical period for DO in the Jordan River is in October.
- Observed DO levels have been around 4.0 at Cudahy Lane.
- April of 2008 is still the target for completion of the Jordan River TMDL.

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

- The Board of Adjustments decision to revoke South Valley Sewer District's (SVSD) conditional use permit was not overturned in a recent decision.

- The judge said that visual impacts were not adequately addressed; however, the judge agreed with the majority of SVSD's positions.
- It is SVSD's opinion that visual impacts should be addressed in the permitting process, not in the zoning phase. Therefore, they have requested that the same judge re-evaluate his decision.
- Barring that the judge maintains his decision, the next step for SVSD would be to file an actual lawsuit.
- SVSD is currently engaged in a \$3 million expansion of their interceptor line.
- South Valley Water Reclamation Facility is currently expanding to 50 MGD. This expansion will be complete in 2010. The next expansion for SVWRF would be to add an additional 10 MGD of capacity.

Water Quality Stewardship Plan (WaQSP)

- The group was given a copy of the six initial targets identified by Salt Lake County and asked for their opinions regarding the targets. The targets are as follows:
 - o Reduce pollutant loads to improve water quality in streams sufficient to support aquatic habitat, water use and social functions.
 - o Develop regional wastewater planning procedure requirements to identify treatment facilities to improve and protect water quality functions.
 - o Evaluate effects of Utah Lake outflow and diversion canals on water quality and flow to develop optimized management protocols to restore and protect water quality, habitat and hydrology functions.
 - o Restore and protect channel and stream bank stability to prevent degradation from erosion and sediment deposition and to restore and protect hydrologic and aquatic habitat functions.
 - o Increase stream corridor and watershed recharge area preservation to improve habitat, recreational and water use functions.
 - o Develop strategy for stream flows to support aquatic habitat and recreational functions.
 - o Identify funding mechanisms for long term watershed monitoring.
- Karen Nichols of Stantec Consulting mentioned that the County anticipates a Dan Jones survey that will be used to assess knowledge of watershed functions as well as social views of the watershed and priorities. This survey is anticipated to be conducted within the next few months.

- This survey will be used as a baseline and to direct future educational programs. Additionally, results from this survey may assist in identifying which recreational aspects to develop in the Watershed.
- The question was raised regarding seasonal fluctuations in polling.
- Dee Holladay mentioned that there was a survey conducted of Big Cottonwood Canyon residents about five (5) years ago. He is going to get a copy of that survey to either Karen Nichols (knichols@stantec.com) or Natalie Rees (nrees@slco.org).
- It was also mentioned that Utah Rivers Council canoe trips typically have a long waiting list; however, access and diversions limit canoeing of the Jordan River.
- Earl Jackson of the Utah State University Extension mentioned that the survey and the public outreach effort in general should pay attention to what specific activities are occurring in the stream corridors. This could then be used to direct management targets.
- Lynn DeFreitas of Friends of Great Salt Lake asked whether Sovereign Lands has been invited to be involved in the WaQSP development due to their management of Utah Lake. They have not been involved to date; however, we will try to involve them in the future.

Next Meeting

It was determined that the Environmental Interest Advisory Group wait to see how the visioning session for the core council goes to determine their next meeting date. Merritt Frey of the Utah Rivers Council is the Environmental representative and will therefore be responsible for making this determination. She can be reached at (801) 486-4776 or merritt@utahrivers.org.