

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Headwaters and Water Supply Advisory Committee
July 11, 2005 Meeting

Attendance: Shane Swensen; Jordan Valley Water Conservation District
Paul H. Ashton; White City Water Improvement District
Ron Roberts; Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Claudia Wheeler; Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy
Florence Reynolds; Salt Lake City Public Utilities
Steve Jensen; Water Resources Planning Program Manager
Natalie Rees; Water Resources Planning Program Salt Lake County

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

Discussion of Headwaters and Water Supply specific concerns

1. The question was raised if the indicator standard for phosphorus in fisheries was 0.05 mg/L. According to the 2000 standards found on the EPA website, [<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/wqslibrary/ut/ut.pdf>], it is.
2. It was noted that Jordan Valley Water Conservation District is conducting a study (through a consultant) of wetlands, selenium, mercury, and shallow groundwater from the treatment plant to the Great Salt Lake. Chris Mikell will be contacted to determine the status of this study.
3. There has been no clean methods metals analysis of the Jordan River. This is an apparent void in the data and should be noted in the water quality review.
4. There is a court case currently in District 1 that is being brought over water rights. A company that operates and maintains a pipe network is filing for the water rights of the wastewater that their pipes convey. This issue will be investigated further and an update will be sent to the members of the advisory committee.
5. It was also noted that Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District currently offers funds to cities to promote water reuse. These funds are primarily directed toward infrastructure development.

6. The need for enactment of a countywide source water protection ordinance was discussed. Currently, several cities have source water protection ordinances in place, but there is no area-wide ordinance. This is of particular concern due to the overlap of municipal lands and well systems, e.g., a Sandy City well may be found in West Jordan.
7. It was noted that Dale Swensen of the County Planning and Development Services Department has supported the removal of setback requirements for on-site wastewater disposal system. This is another area where follow up is required.
8. It was noted that the highest concentration of well sites is in the southeastern portion of the valley.
9. “Takings” issues were also discussed thoroughly. If the county, or area government, doesn’t allow development of land due to construction requirements/restrictions, this can be classified as a “takings” and the government entity is held accountable for the cost of the property. Source water protection and “takings” are intimately linked due to the potential “takings” cost incurred by government entities as a result of instilling source water protection plans.
10. Foothills and Canyon Overlay Zone (FCOZ) requirements and the need to assure that these requirements are being followed was also discussed.
11. It was noted that water quality requirements for water reuse would vary depending on application. For example, many homes have sensitive trees that will respond poorly to high TDS levels. Secondary water could also stain cars and plug sprinkler heads in domestic settings. Therefore, if water is to be reused on residential landscapes, precautions will need to be implemented to assure public support. Commercial application (i.e. golf courses) may be more tolerant of lower water quality.

Discussion of desired meeting frequency and schedule

It was determined that the headwaters and water supply advisory committee will meet after the water quality review for the Jordan River TMDL is complete. In the interim, updates will be distributed to assure awareness.

Closing thoughts??

- *The need for a countywide source water protection ordinance was a primary concern of the headwaters and water supply advisory group. Therefore, the Water Resources Planning and Restoration Program will be investigating passing such an ordinance. On Thursday, July 14th, staff of the Water Resources Program met with Craig Anderson of the District Attorney’s office to discuss instigating a source water protection ordinance.*

However, a “takings” lawsuit was discussed that will inhibit the effectiveness of a source water protection ordinance. This coming week another meeting will be conducted to further discuss this lawsuit. After this meeting, it is anticipated that a more thorough explanation will be provided to the headwaters and water supply advisory committee.

- *In order to gain an understanding of source water protection plans and corresponding needs within the watershed, it is requested that all members of the advisory committee provide a copy of their source water protection plan to the county.*