

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Jordan River Natural Areas Forum (JRNAF)

February 15, 2007 Meeting

Attendance: Merritt Frey; Utah Rivers Council
Jeff Salt; Great Salt Lakekeeper
Jeff Williams; NRCS/RC&D
Terry Holzworth; Blue Ribbon Committee
Dan Potts; SLCF&GA
Ann Wechsler; Sierra Club
Jim Harris; Utah Division of Water Quality
Terry Way; Salt Lake County Engineering Division
Jason Green; Envision Utah
Shane Swenson; Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
Lynn de Freitas; Friends of Great Salt Lake
Ben Bloodworth; State Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Karen Nichols; Stantec Consulting
Jeff DenBleyker; CH2M Hill
Natalie Rees; Water Resources Planning Program

Update of the Jordan River Trails Master Plan

1. Lynn Larsen of the Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Department gave an update of the Jordan River Trails Master Plan that is being developed by the Parks and Recreation Department.
 - a. The Parks & Recreation Department has identified six (6) major gaps in the Jordan River Parkway Trail. They will be developing a trails master plan that will look at land ownership, acquisition and engineering difficulties associated with these trail gaps along the Jordan River. The plan will also examine connectors to the Jordan River Parkway Trail.
 - b. Currently, efforts are focused on gathering existing conditions of the Jordan River Parkway trail.
 - c. The Parks & Recreation Department will be holding a meeting on March 5th at 3PM in room S4017 to discuss the Trails Master Plan. They anticipate 3 to 4 meetings throughout the plan development.
 - d. The Parks & Recreation Department anticipates a draft plan by mid-summer. This plan will be presented to the Mayor and the County Council.

Representation of user groups/environmental interests

1. Some concerns have recently been raised in regard to: 1) representation of environmental interests at the various WaQSP element meetings, and 2) representation of user groups on the Jordan River Watershed Council.
2. After a discussion by the group, we determined that both JRNAF members and members of the Environmental Advisory Group will assist in identifying appropriate individuals to represent the following user groups active in our watershed:
 - a. Recreational Boating
 - b. Watchable Wildlife
 - c. Equestrian
 - d. Rock Climbers
 - e. Hunters
 - f. Mountaineers
 - g. Hiking
 - h. Skiing
 - i. Fishing
 - j. Dog Owners
 - k. Nature Centers
3. Once the group has identified appropriate individuals to represent the following user groups, we will again meet with JRNAF members, members of the Environmental Interest Advisory Group, and the user group representatives to discuss the issue of representation on the Jordan River Watershed Council.
4. In regard to representation of environmental interests at the element workshops for the WaQSP, we determined that all members of the Watershed Council will be “cc-ed” on invitations for each workshop.
5. Additionally, the group requested that a list of the plan elements be distributed. The plan elements include:
 - a. Economics
 - b. Wastewater Source/Point Sources
 - c. Stormwater
 - d. Non-point Sources
 - e. Water Supply
 - f. In-stream Flows
 - g. Utah Lake

- h. Habitat

Discussion of Water Quality Stewardship Plan (WaQSP)

1. The group reviewed numerous maps. Some comments that were received include:
 - a. The Jordan River has become much more incised since the 1985 Wetland Advance Identification Study (WAIDS). It was suggested that these areas may be identified as “potential” rather than “existing” wetland areas.
 - b. The wetland data being developed by the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD) will be available in approximately a month and will be incorporated into the existing wetland dataset.
 - c. It was suggested that NRI soil data may be used to identify hydric soils.
 - d. It was also mentioned that the NRCS has done wetland delineations. Ray Grow of NRCS was given as a contact for this data.
 - e. The Great Salt Lake Shorelands Plan also contained wetlands. It was suggested that this dataset be acquired as well.
2. It was also mentioned that deliverables such as maps, documents, and graphics that are developed as part of the Water Quality Stewardship Plan (WaQSP) will be posted on the Water Resources Planning and Restoration Program website (www.waterresources.slco.org). Additionally, notices will be sent through the Jordan River Watershed Council list serve to notify the Council of new postings.

Ecosystem Health Index (EHI)/Watershed Function Index (WFI)

1. It was explained that in conjunction with development of the WaQSP, Salt Lake County has developed a monitoring tool that examines physical, chemical, and biological components of the stream corridors. This index is referred to as the Ecosystem Health Index (EHI). With the knowledge that recreational use is an important function of our watershed, but that these uses may act in contradiction to ecological health, the County has another index that is referred to as the Watershed Function Index (WFI). The WFI is essentially the EHI with social metrics added in.
2. Beginning in March of 2007, County staff will begin a watershed-wide assessment of our stream corridors.

3. It was asked that we send out a list of the metrics that will be used in this assessment. They are as follows:

Watershed Functional Group	Sub-group	Metric
Habitat	Stream Channel	Pool/Riffle Ratio
		Width/Depth Ratio
		Fish Passage
		Habitat Structures
		Pebble Count
		Flow Diversion
	Riparian Corridor	Width
		Structure
Community Type		
Hydrology	Flood Conveyence	Flood Protection
		Floodplain Connectivity
	Stream Stability	Pfankuch Bank Stability
		Hydraulic Alteration
Water Quality	Regulatory	State Impairment List
	Aquatic	Macroinvertebrate Indices
	Monitoring	Total P
		Temperature
		Specific Conductivity
		DO
		Coliform
Social	Aesthetics	Management
		Visual Aesthetics
	Recreational Amenities (Nodes)	Location
		Accessibility (ADA Approved)
		Restrooms
		Resource Compatibility
	Recreational Amenities (Trails)	Connectivity
		Resource Compatibilitiy

Round Robin of Activities

1. It was mentioned that the Great Salt Lakekeeper will begin their Jordan River clean-up activities this coming Spring. They will also have a float in the Pioneer Day Parade. Finally, the question was raised in regard to the citizen patrol that the Great Salt Lakekeeper - they have not been able to actualize that program yet.
2. Jason Green of Envision Utah mentioned that they are working toward a comprehensive Jordan River Corridor Master Plan and that this effort will work in conjunction with both the Parks & Recreation Plan and the WaQSP.

Next Meeting

It was determined that the Jordan River Natural Areas Forum (JRNAF), Environmental Advisory Group, and the representatives identified for various user groups will next meet on May 10, 2007. More information will be distributed to the group prior to that date; however, if there are specific issues that any individual would like to discuss at this meeting, they should notify Natalie Rees at (801) 468-3656 or nrees@slco.org.