

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Jordan River Natural Areas Forum (JRNAF)

September 5, 2006 Meeting

Attendance: Susan Zarckarizi; Utah State Parks
Betsy Herrmann; USFWS
Kent Player; Draper South Valley Parkway
Mark Atencio; Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
Gordon Haight; Taylorsville City
Dan Potts; Salt Lake County Fish & Game Association/June Sucker Project
Jeff Salt; Great Salt Lake Keeper
Wayne Johnson; Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation
Rich Buelte; Rocky Mountain Power
Kevin Astill; West Valley City
Lynn Larsen; Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation
Jeff Williams; NRCS/RC&D
Natalie Rees; Water Resources Planning Program

Update of Pacificorp Project

Rich Buelte of Pacificorp gave the group an update of Pacificorp's restoration project at ~30th

South adjacent to the Jordan River. Some highlights of this update included:

- Pacificorp has been able to partner with numerous agencies on this project.
- The gravel from the old substation will be used for the Parkway.
- Cut stump removal of Russian Olive will be done this fall.
- The Russian Olives will be ground and mulched.
- Box Elders, Cottonwoods, and Elms will be left in place.
- An herbicide treatment will be used next year to follow-up on the exotics removal.
 - o Garlon 3A and Garlon 4 herbicides will be used next year. The Garlon 4 will be used for the stumps. Garlon 3A is water soluble.
- 2" trees will be planted along the pathway.
- A drip irrigation system will be installed in that area.
- Pacificorp has posted signs and blocked the trail during herbicide treatments.

It was mentioned that the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands is interested in identifying a tamarisk beetle project along the Jordan River. Questions regarding this should be directed to Ben Bloodworth of the State Department of Natural Resources (ph: 537-3371; email; benbloodworth@utah.gov).

Current Restoration Projects

Wayne Johnson of the Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Department mentioned that several restoration projects are currently underway in Salt Lake County:

- Crestwood
- 3900 South Pacificorp site
- 11400 to 11900 South Jordan River Resoration Project
- South of the Riverbend site
- Dimple Dell Restoration

The Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring several of these restoration projects.

Questions should be directed to Wayne Johnson (ph: 483-5473, email wjohnson@slco.org).

Update of the proposed amendment to the existing 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.

Update of the Jordan River TMDL

- 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.

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.
- Dan Potts mentioned that there is money available through the June Sucker Restoration Program. It is his belief that the WaQSP effort could tap into these resources.

- Jeff Salt suggested that a comprehensive evaluation of where wetlands are in the County be conducted with the WaQSP development. This includes wetlands that may have been dry during the drought but have been re-vitalized due to increased precipitation/stream flows.
- It was also noted that groundwater levels can change drastically seasonally or annually.

Other Comments, Concerns, Projects etc.

- Jeff Salt would like to see the Jordan River listed for trash. He also mentioned that his group still plans to develop a citizen patrol program for the Jordan River and that they anticipate a training this fall.
- There was a broad discussion of the JRNAF organization and their ability to represent Parks and Recreation for the Jordan River Watershed Council. The general consensus was that user groups need to be invited to attend JRNAF meetings. This effort will be undertaken before the next JRNAF meeting.
- CH2M Hill is currently engaged in a corridor study for Saratoga Springs. Jeff DenBleyker is the contact for this project. His contact information is Jeff.Denbleyker@CH2M.com.
- Jeff Salt requested that JRNAF provide financial assistance for his groups volunteer dinner to be held on October 21st. Jeff Williams mentioned that JRNAF has ~\$4,000 in savings. Jeff Williams and Jeff Salt will have further discussions regarding this exchange.

Next Meeting

The Jordan River Natural Areas Forum (JRNAF) determined that they will continue to meet on a quarterly basis; however, if issues arise and there is a need for more frequent meetings, these will be accommodated. Therefore, the next meeting will be held December 12, 2006. Details will be distributed closer to this meeting date.