

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2010

Attendance:

Ron Lund; SLVHD
Megan Ferguson; SLVHD
Garry Durrant; MWDSLS
Karen Nichols; Stantec
Marie Owens; JVVCD
Todd Marti; JVVCD
Jeff DenBleyker; CH2M Hill
Theron Miller, JR/FB WQC
Eric McCulley; SWCA
Ed Rufener; South Salt Lake
Charles Condrat; USFS
Hilary Arens, UDWQ
Carl Adams, UDWQ
Kris Hohenshelt; Emigration Canyon Community Council
Ron Lund; Salt Lake Valley Health Department
Dan Potts; Salt Lake County Fish & Game
Lynn Berni; Salt Lake County
Steve Burgon; Salt Lake County
Dan Drumiler; Salt Lake County
Marian Hubbard; Salt Lake County
Jenni Oman; Salt Lake County
Bob Thompson; Salt Lake County
Elli Cosky; Salt Lake County
Jeanny Miles; Independent
Tony Guest; Independent

Update of Jordan River TMDL (DWQ)

- Hilary Arens reported that the Qual2K Model results are hot off the press. Decreased DO is a problem and to increase DO we need to decrease nutrients and TSS (as organic matter OM). Model design and calibrations were done with input from many water quality experts throughout the valley. Peer review process by the Technical Advisory Committee has begun.
- Questions about where the OM is coming from. Hilary reported that the TAC will create an “OM budget” (what’s coming from the tributaries and stormdrains, what’s from the Jordan River, will determine loads from all subwatersheds)
- Dan Potts brought up Utah Lake silt, asking what is the relation between organic and non-organic TSS
- Theron Miller commented that there is still a lot of algae coming out of Utah lake and that the first place TSS has to settle is below 2100 South. There we will see both OM and NOM layered and it is hard to tease them out as distinct. Anytime you have a high TSS you will have a high TVSS and if you address one it will take care of the other.
- Eric McCulley commented that leaf litter in the fall contributes to low DO several months later as leaves are decomposing, understanding timing will be critical.
- Hilary Arens mentioned that the spring runoff “pulse” is important as well. All that leaf litter from fall starts running down into the river in spring. Educating the public about cleaning leaves out of drains will be critical.
- Carl Adams commented that there are new methodologies nationwide to address this problem and there is much research yet to be reviewed by the DWQ. We are not unique. He found reports from 1973 highlight OM as an issue for the Jordan River. Knowing what types of OM will/could be helpful.
- Eric McCulley pointed out that back in 1973 the OM was coming from ag ops, which are not as plentiful today.

Round Robin

- Hilary Arens of DWQ reported on the Emigration Creek TMDL (Step 1, Work Element 1): *E.coli* is listed, currently the TMDL is being reviewed by a group of about 15 (primarily those whose data was used in the report)
- Eric McCulley of SWCA reported on the Jordan River Working Group activities including a field trip to look at weed control and habitat restoration. He is trying to map out the river to see prioritize weed infestations and is working with Salt Lake County Weeds. His plan is to create a Google map with photos and ultimately create an Adopt-a-River program.
- Eric also reported on the GSL info system, as set up by the FFSL, which was created as a GIS portal. This resource could/should be the place for all entities to connect their data so that interactive maps can be created. Was originally created by USU and has been sitting idle.
- Jeanny Wong-Miles reported that she has started EcoWong and is helping LC canal district map their irrigation system. She would like to expand this effort to map all canals and gates in the county. This mapping effort could be tied in with the source loading study.
- Dan Drumiler of SLCo reported on the County's Stormwater program which will be focusing on education efforts via the Stormwater Coalition. A public opinion poll will be completed to measure effectiveness of the "We All Live Downstream" message. He also reported that the first draft of a Stormwater Ordinance is complete; it will likely be renamed Land Disturbance Ordinance and sampling will start next month.
- Todd Marti of JWVCD reported on the new visitor center at the Jordan Valley Conservation Garden Park, groundbreaking scheduled for April 2010, est. completion 2011. They are going for LEED Platinum. The project is mostly internally funded with some ARRA funds from DWQ for a bioswale. JWVCD wants to connect the garden and park to the river, but currently do not have funding to build trails; they are looking for partners.
- Ron Lund and Megan Furley of SLVHD reported on the toxics collections, and the expanding prescription drug collections locations. SLVHD is promoting green business and building and is hosting an event on Earth Day; the office is being renovated to including xeriscaping, veggie gardens.
- Ed Rufener of South Salt Lake reported that the taco stands in South Salt Lake have been found dumping their kitchen waste into storm drains. Some licenses have been pulled. This has become a real problem. SSL has also found many illegal sewer connections by running cameras up the drain tunnels...50 have been found to date.
- Elli Cosky of SLCo Planning announced the Wasatch Canyons open house scheduled for March 23, 2010. They will review scenarios and look at overhauling ordinances.
- Dan Potts reported that his non profit is trying to convince Salt Lake City to find another site for the Sports Complex. He commented that the site was inundated by about 2.5 feet of water in 1987 and that it would be a mistake to build there. He estimated there would be a loss of about 100 vertebrates if developed versus restored; he commend that it is highly restorable land. His nonprofit has put together a proposal to build a nature center there instead.
- Charles Condrat of USFS reported that the budget for their Watershed Protection & Education Program is down, but overall his is pleased with the partnerships they have developed. He is working on transportation studies for Albion Basin and Millcreek Canyon.
- Carl Adams of DWQ reported that the plan to revise the State Nonpoint Source Charter is in process, via the NPS Task Force. Carl reported that the task force is proposing a more targeted basin approach for funding and will have approximately \$500,000. Every basin would be intensively monitored every 6 years, all other basins could anticipate maintenance funding. The Jordan River basin is scheduled to be the beneficiary in 2013.

Next Time

- Suggestion that future JRWC meetings could include a site tour of restoration areas.