

Meeting Minutes

Jordan River Watershed Council and Stakeholder Meeting for Water Quality Stewardship Plan



Tuesday, January 12th, 2016 – 10:00-11:30am
Salt Lake County Building Room N3-930

Attendees:

Chris Haight – Salt Lake County
Hilary Arens --Utah Div. of Water Quality
Lynn Berni --Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Steve Burgon --Salt Lake County Stormwater Coalition
Gene Drake --Salt Lake City Conservation District
Dan Drumiler-- Salt Lake County Townships
Hannah Murphy -- Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Intern
Dan Potts-- Salt Lake County Fish & Game Assoc.
Laura Vernon-- Forestry Fire State Lands
Marian Rice – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Larry Alserda – Salt Lake City Public Utilities
Johanna Stangland – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Eva Nieminski – DEQ / DDW
Teresa Grey – Salt Lake County Health Department
Keith Hambrecht – Forestry Fire and State Lands (FFSL)
Chris Cline – USFWS
Loralie Cox – Salt Lake Conservation District
Greg Archuleta – Salt Lake City Public Utilities
Emma McGowan – CH2MHILL
Lewis Kogan – Salt Lake City
Will Bowers – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Lynn Potter – Murray City
Russ Kakala – Murray City
Julie Howe – Stantec
Bob Thompson – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
David Gardner – Water Pro

I. Welcome and Introductions

(Start Time 10:00 AM)

- Welcome provided by Marian Rice
- Room Introductions

II. Jordan River Comprehensive Management Plan (JRCMP)

(Started 10:03AM)

(Laura Vernon, land use manager, FFSL)

- Would like to introduce Keith Hambrecht who will manage the states noxious weeds on the states sovereign lands
- Why now a JRCMP
 - Manage state sovereign lands
 - Land that was navigable when state-hood occurred
 - Including the beds of the Jordan river and all other sovereign lands but not the water
 - Jordan River bank to bank management
- Developing the required management plan for the Jordan River
 - Consistent guidance over a long period of time
 - Access sovereign lands
 - Meeting with folks to get a handle on river classifications
 - Management plans for Utah, Bear and the Great Salt Lake
 - Zoned like a city
 - Trying to create same management plan for rivers with zones like the Lakes
 - Looking for input
 - Stream line current permit, lease and easement applications for the Jordan river
 - Create a one stop shop
- Create an interactive river map
 - Able to be used by everyone
 - See river classifications
 - Allowable uses
 - Restoration activates
 - Easement locations
 - Areas of concern
- BMP for a range of project types
- List of potential future products
- Hoping to team up with other agencies for future funding of projects
- Multiple Framework
 - JRCMP
 - Focusing on
 - Navigation
 - Aquatic beauty
 - Recreation
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Must consider a range of uses
 - JRCMP is attended to be a 2 year project
 - February 2015 – project kick off
 - March 2015 – 2016 – developing draft plan
 - Spring
 - Have a draft management plan for review

- Second round of public comments / meetings
 - Fall
 - Have a finalized plan
- Project team
 - Forest, Fire and state lands putting it together
 - Working with Laura Hansen at JRC
 - SWCA is the consulting firm helping develop the plans
- Jordan River Classification has not been done before
 - 6 Class are required to be used
 - They were not all used
 - Class 1 – Manage to protect existing resource uses
 - Class 2 – Manage to protect potential resource use options
 - Class 3 – Manage open for consideration for use
 - Class 5 – Manage to protect potential resource preservation
 - Class 6 – Manage to protect existing resource preservation uses
 - Creating a River classification map
 - Visually see classifications
 - Developing a matrix for management actions
 - Left out class 4
 - Required for further research. But because of the research already done, don't feel like there needs to be more research so this option was left off
 - University of Utah completed Jordan River open space classification
 - Looked at all open space zoning next to river
 - JRCMP using as a layer for the classification map
 - Using city and county information for storm drain outfalls and discharge areas
- Next Steps
 - Developing Draft Plan
 - Reviewable draft spring / summer
 - Public comment period
 - Final plan estimated November 2016
- Questions
 - Next scheduled opportunity for stake holders to give input
 - Answer : Planning team made up of state agencies and they have monthly meetings, no real time table but maybe February or March
 - Is there and Mitigation guidance
 - No

(Ended 10:30)

III. Jordan River Taylorsville/Murray project update

(Salt Lake County Watershed planning, Bob Thompson)

(Started at 10:33)

- Update on Jordan River Murray / Taylorsville project
 - Last update was a year and half ago during the design phase
 - Monitors the river for trouble spots
 - Discovered 5200 south to 4800 south had potential to be control sediment project
 - 4800 south is where the flood control dredges the rivers sediment and always removes tons of sediments from this area
 - Developed a project to control sediment going into the river in this area for better river management

- This portion of the project starts at pedestrian bridge and will stop north side of the confluence of little cottonwood creek
- Phase 1 of the project
 - Focused on the stomach shaped bend
 - East bank where LCC flow into the river
 - Real steep eroding banks
 - Excessive land has built up on the west side
 - In 2011, 385, 18 wheelers worth of sediment removed
 - Had a hiccup at start of construction
 - Was going to use a flex a mat product to lay banks back to a 2 to 1 slope
 - Costs of the flex a mat tripled right before construction began
 - Decided to redesign so that all the budget would not be spent on 200 feet of bank
 - Redesigned the project
 - Got to focus on 2 major areas that the flex a mat didn't address
 - Using the flex a mat didn't allow for a flood plain creation
 - It didn't provide an area for a riparian community to become established
 - Bob got to address both problems in the redesign
 - The area doesn't provide a lot of space but it provided enough
 - Completed multiple surveys
 - 8 or more cross sections
 - Provided tons of data
 - Redesign began
 - Designed a completely different structure that changed the toe rather than just laying the banks back
 - Brought the bank almost 40 feet out to maintain a natural curvature
 - Brought some toes up 8-10 feet
 - Built toe wood structures
 - No hard armoring
 - Use wood / logs and regarding banks
 - Questions were asked about using wood in the river and wasn't are job to take would out of the river
 - Response was wood is the best fish habitat and if you keep wood submerged and not allow it to dry out it will not rot away. Examples are the wood being removed from the great lakes that have been submerged for hundreds or years an at flat head lake in Wy.
 - As long as the elevation is correct on the logs the structures will stay for a very long time
 - Question from Hilary Arens. What was the low flow that you are considering?
 - Answer. For low flow we were using our 90th south gage and reestablished another staff gage just north of the project
 - Tried to equate but 90th S didn't give good enough numbers, so basically low flow discharge was never determined so we went with stage ratings and we used 0.33 on our data
 - Elevation of the wood was placed at 4243 ft. and the finished elevation was 4245 ft.
 - Footer logs were placed parallel to the flow of the river and the header logs were placed perpendicular to that
 - The logs have massive root wads

- After logs were laid down we created a soil lift by back filling the holes with branches and other material to provide roughness should the channel get near it
- Then covered with a cover fabric blanket with a finished elevation of 4247 feet or bankfull elevation (roughly a year in half storm event elevation).
- All soil lifts have been finished
- 12,000 willow and dog wood stakes planted
- 1500 container plants planted
- 385 linear feet of bank was addressed
- Estimated cost for the flex a mat was 252,000 dollars which tripled to over 750,000 dollars to do the project
- With the redesign it only cost 82,000 dollars including the design
- Great lesson learned for us and was cost effective
- Stats
 - Weed suppression equals about 5 acres
 - Regarded a total of 485 feet of bank
 - 44 toe wood structures
 - Approximately 12,000 willow cuttings
 - Seeded 5 acres with native seeds
 - 1500 container plants planted
- Questions asked
 - Was the 82,000 dollars basically material costs?
 - Yes predominantly and an excavator
- Partners
 - Big thanks to the DWQ the project was a 319 funded project with a focus of removing sediments form the river
 - Murray was a great partner that helped every step of the way

(Finished 10:48)

IV. Round Robin

(Started 10:50)

- Watershed watch newsletter will be taken over by Chris Haight. So if you would like to have an article in the Watershed Watch we are looking for 500,250 and 150 word articles and you can send them to Chaight@slco.org
 - No deadline
- We also have the JRWC listserv so if you need anything send out or are looking for volunteers for example let Chris know and we can get it distributed
- If anyone would like to do presentations at the JRWC meeting please let Chris know and we can get you on the schedule
- Lewis Kogan (Salt Lake City)
 - In a couple of months they will be looking for public input on the restoration projects at the three creeks site and the par 3 golf course
- Chris Kline (USFWS)
 - Big Bend project
 - Funding to begin the recreational components that are closer to the Jordan River trail

- Further out – more ambitious projects for later will be moving the current Jordan River channel out into the natural flood plain
 - Have to remove a lot of fill to create a flood plain that is in contact with the river
 - A very costly option
 - Need to find a place for the fill. This is the biggest piece of the puzzle
 - Possibly uses, out at the new state prison
 - Looking for connections and/ or support to move the fill dirt
- Question from Marian Rice-What kind of analytical are being done on the soil?
 - EPA took samples and found no contamination at the time
 - Funding for TCLPs and other analysis
 - Geotechnical considerations as well
- Hilary Arens
 - DWQ 3 major things
 - Project management
 - Trying to make it to all the meetings
 - Jordan River phase 2 TMDL
 - Filling in gaps from phase 1
 - Meeting in summer
 - Drafted synopsis from phase 2
 - Which Influenced second half of phase 2
 - Utah Lake
 - Utah Lake Work plan
 - WQ subgroup committee
 - Offset of Utah lake technical advisory committee
 - 55 people on subcommittee
 - Ask to volunteer for different parts of the plan
 - Kick off meetings in October
 - Handed out Utah lake workout plan draft
 - Comments were due 11th still getting some in
 - UWQ Utah Lake web page went live January 11th
 - Meeting notes on the web site
- Laura Vernon
 - In the process of getting all the contracts signed
- Theron Miller
 - Trying to identify sources and contributors in Utah Lake
 - Discharge studies
 - Develop more accurate data with lake contributors
 - Phosphorous
 - How it's being used in Utah lake
 - Availability
 - Farmington Bay
 - Taking 2-3 days for water to move through regarding retention
 - Believes it might becoming a meandering stream due to lakes continuing drop
 - Lake is still not fully understood
 - Brine shrimp should be normal harvest this year
 - No major blooms
 - Trying to figure out what is going on with the lake
 - Should it be 2b or 2c or 2a
 - Utah lake 2b possibly moving to 2a
 - Sampling for toxic algae blooms outbreaks

- Whole lake is sampled
 - No blooms this year
- Sovereign Lands weed management (Keith Hambrecht)
 - Would love and kind of help and ideas to get his job rolling
- Healthy Salt Lake
 - Decrease animal and human contamination in waterways and water bodies
 - Identify businesses in violation
 - Prioritizing outreach
 - Looking at certain industries
 - Working with cleaning industry right now
- Lynn Berni
 - WQaSP update
 - First quarter release
 - Changing the name of it to Integrate watershed plan (IWP)
 - Watershed Symposium
 - 38% response online to the survey
 - Next year will be the 10 year anniversary of the Symposium
- Drinking Water
 - EPA UCMR 4 (unregulated contaminant monitoring)
 - 9 algae on this list
 - Routine monitoring needed once the list is released
 - Stake holder comments open with the EPA
 - Find the link for comments on the UCMR website
- Larry Alserda
 - When will the Jordan River Trail be finished
 - Nothing yet on finish time
 - Working to finalize property transfers.