

Meeting Minutes

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



Tuesday, April 5th, 2016 – 10:00-11:30am
Salt Lake County Building Room N3-930

Attendees:

Chris Haight – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Marian Rice – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Lynn Berni --Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Sandy Wingert --Utah Division of Water Quality
Carl Adams – Utah Division of Water Quality
Bob Thompson – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Austin White -- Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Johanna Stangland – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Gene Drake --Salt Lake City Conservation District
Dan Drumiler-- Salt Lake County Townships
Dan Potts-- Salt Lake County Fish & Game Assoc.
Teresa Grey – SLCO Health
Emma McGowan – CH2M Hill
Julie Howe – Stantec
David Gardner – Water Pro
Lynn Larsen – Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation
Eric McCulley – River Restoration Group
Jenna McRory – J-U-B Engineers
Jeff Salt – Great Salt Lake keeper
Sam Taylor – Salt Lake County
Kirsten Nelson – Salt Lake City Open Space
Sherilyn Hirschi -- Salt Lake City Open Space
Lynn de Freitas -- Friends of the Great Salt Lake

I. Welcome and Introductions

(Start Time 10:00 AM)

- To start the meeting I want to let everyone know that we are recording this meeting
- Welcome provided by Chris Haight

- Room Introductions

II. Round Table

Marian Rice

- Trash boom delay waiting for The Nature Conservancy to take ownership of land and easements
- TNC has given okay to go ahead and work with DOT to get an easement for work on the project
 - Comments:
 - Jeff Salt- Has comments on trash boom and ideas to improve
 - Marian – West side has no access to remove trash from, we are making sure that have navigable waters, only east side to conduct clean outs
 - Jeff – Need to make structures so they can serve a purpose while protecting navigation access, Design he has seen does not look like it will pick up garbage and will push trash down river to the dam, I see possible improvements.
 - Marian – Did you submit proposal and questions to Chuck Williamson (State Utah)?
 - Jeff – I have not submitted anything but I have talked to him.

Eric McCulley

- Working on projects funded by the Willard Bay oil spill funds
 - Clean up garbage and reduce branches holding up trash
 - Clean up in September after bird nesting is finished
 - Number of different events to help clean up trash from 500 w to the end of Legacy Nature Preserve
 - Have made a lot of progress and have seen additional interest developing
 - Working with South Davis Sewer District to scoop the trash out by Burnham dam
 - Hope to continue this and appreciate everyone's help
 - Starting to look at vegetation enhancement
 - Looking at everything to make sure vegetation does not change the rivers flood characteristics
 - Replace non-native vegetation with native vegetation
 - Residency going with northwest middle school, they help with plantings and other things
 - Marian Rice – Are you working with Ty on that residency?
 - Eric – yes, the Center of Documentary Expression and Art is leading the program
 - Marian – It has been tremendous and wonderful and we have seen a lot of great input and praise
 - Scholars and residents is an 8 week program they take into the schools , take the kids out to the river
 - Trying to improve people knowledge of the river
 - Also working with Jordan River Commission to improve the rivers integrity
 - This is the last residency under this funding source

- Two schools have adopted parts of the river through Salt Lake City's adopt a spot program
 - Dan Potts – I have a concern removing branches that might affect the complexity of the river as well as habitats
 - Eric – The Jordan River is pretty well managed throughout this area. Trying to cut branches sticking out of the water as well as branches hanging down into the water, trying to leave as much as we possibly can
- Big Bend project
 - Continuing forward with West Jordan
 - Get Into the River coming up soon and will be used to plant more native species

Gene Drake

- Salt Lake Conservancy is working along the river with landowners to upgrade the creeks that come into the river
- Working with schools in Herriman with a program called "AG in the Classroom"
- Everyone is invited out it will be may 4th and 5th
 - Marian Rice – if you would like to send that information to us we can send it out on our listserv
 - Gene – That would be great and I will get that sent over

Dan Potts

- Conducting clean up in Salt Lake City reach, using canoes to complete a shoreline and water clean up
- Cleaning out trees
- Did a weed pull on the 9th South oxbow which has been adopted by the Fife family
- The wetland preserve has been named the Fred Naylor Rose Wetland Preserve
- Trying to bring it down to the community level
- Working with Chris to bring a presentation to a JRWC meeting about wildlife on the Jordan
 - Eric McCulley – Saw the work you have done and I was wondering if you have thought about putting seed down where you have done pulls? Laura Hanson has seeds that can be used
 - Dan – What I think we should do is there is other people and organizations that can also co adopt the oxbow. The more partners we have the better it is, the Fife family originally wanted a parking lot in this area and are slowly coming around to a more natural aspect.
 - Eric – There is a grant in for Glendale middle school engaged with Salt Lake City to help manage the oxbow
 - Dan – That would be the perfect people to do that partnership is important.

Carl Adams

- Came to introduce the Watershed Coordinator for the Jordan River Sandy Wingert
- Hilary Arens has moved on to Snowbird
- Sandy has been with the Division for 8 years
- I will hand it over to Sandy

Sandy Wingert

- Came from the Uinta Basin
- In charge of all things surface water quality in the Uinta basin and the Upper Provo

- Keeping the Provo and moving from Uinta to the Jordan
- Not taking over Utah lake will cover the upper portion and the lower portion and the middle will stay in with the same coordinator
- I have experience in the Salt Lake Valley, helped develop Upper Emigration TMDL
- Interested and excited about jumping in and can't wait to see what's going on
 - Email: Swingert@utah.gov
 - Phone # 801-536-4338
- Priority is the 8-10 reaches that are impaired for *E. coli*
- Looking at data to find the sources and do some modeling and implementation of plans

Dan Drumiler

- Very busy with various compliance activities for UPDES permits
- Various trainings
- Various water quality programs
- An upcoming Water Quality Fair at Hogle zoo on May 11th and 12th
- New commercials scheduled to air in spring and fall

Lynn Larsen

- Received grant through Jordan River Commission for water trail master plan
- Getting consultants and pulling together stakeholders
- Completing the project by May of next year
- Working on the Jordan
 - Completed the boat take out right above Winchester
 - Dan Potts – Were any of the comments the we proposed implemented in the building process
 - Lynn -- Yes we looked at everything please go out and take a look at it
 - Dan Potts – Our Clubhouse is right by there so maybe I will take a trip over there and look. Also is there a new put in being installed
 - Jeff Salt – are we going to do anything to make the put in more formal for boaters
 - Bob Thompson – I will cover all that when I come up
- Jordan River trail is completed between 15900 south to 16500 south, by late spring 14400 south to 14600 south should be completed, 14600 south to 15000 south is still dealing with land acquisitions and easements

Jeff Salt

- Glad we are moving to implementation of navigable routes
- I would like to address a topic that is always brought up during these meetings, what can we do as a Watershed Council to get beyond just the information sharing meetings and forming an active watershed council?
- We have had them in past and have had attempts at committees
- Can we get beyond information sharing
- Don't think this meeting or the symposium serves the watershed well
 - Marian Rice – Let me address your question. I think the symposium is a great thing everyone has been really happy and it is a great venue to share information and build networks. We have had group meetings in the past however a person complained that they felt they were not receiving information and as a result we now have one

big public quarterly meeting. Due to the complaint about the previous structure we will not be going back to that structure so no one thinks we are hiding any kind of information from them. We will continue to have one big public meeting, which this is and everyone in the public is invited to attend. Hope to expand these meetings with Chris taking over. I would suggest bringing any suggestions up here in the meetings or emailing them to Chris

- Jeff – it shouldn't be on the County's shoulders to do everything, amongst all of us stakeholders of the watershed have a responsibility to help divvy up the responsibilities. I proposed to give a presentation at the symposium which didn't happen on a survey of the watershed councils around the intermountain region.
- Marian – Can you give the presentation at the next meeting?
- Jeff – Yes I can
- Marian – How long is it?
- Jeff – I can tailor it, I just don't see it is fair to put it all on the County. What works to keep people engaged, Carl's group has watershed councils.
- Sandy Wingert – We have an operation budget of \$350,000 a year so it is a little different than this. It has been intact since the 1980s and we just got done drafting a council MOU mirrored from the Jordan River Commission. It is who we are and how we're broken down, who is represented, how we vote, how to secure funding, what project do we do, how do we operate as a business. Does the JRWC have anything like this?
- Marian – no but we would have to work with our DA. We can meet with you Sandy and discuss this further.
- Sandy – Yea that is the same thing we came up with, what we wanted and every partnering agency took it back to their legal representation to make sure the concept was approved and passed
- Jeff – This is for Jordanelle
- Sandy – This is for everything Provo, monitoring we spend \$100,000 a year, fund seeding projects. The MOU process is very laborious it will not be three months and done we have been working on this for over a year with meetings every two weeks.
- Jeff – The other part of this is where people get on the fence, in my research from a few years ago show what makes watershed councils work across the country is grassroots, stakeholder involvement, it is the stakeholders who should drive the strategic plan for the watershed. It should be the stakeholders from the watershed that drives the agendas. We are working in a top down approach but it should be inverted, if we try a new approach it might solve old problems what do you think Carl?
- Carl Adams – Stakeholders come in all shapes and sizes, people that are paid to be here and then volunteers. It's a struggle to maintain the watershed champions as you get broader scoops you tend to lose people in certain areas and jurisdictional issues can arise.
- Jeff – we have a statewide watershed council I use to chair it, where is the state do we have active watershed councils that could be a model
- Carl – the upper Provo basin has stakeholders that are extremely engaged and willing to contribute funding
- Sandy – I can invite our consultant to come talk to us at a meeting
- Marian – Maybe at the next meeting we can have Jeff present as well as your consultant

- Dan Drumiler – We do meet with all the cities every third wed of the month and everyone is invited to attend
- Teresa Gray – on the other side of that the cities are very involved in the environmental crimes task force that we host at the health department

Bob Thompson

- Winchester
 - Largely complete, first weed treatment last week again later this week.
 - More towards summer we will work on the boat put in, we will add a little structure, cut off the metal rails build a smaller step
- Murray / Taylorsville
 - First phase largely complete, In spring we will do more weed treatment and seeding, and we will be moving upstream for more work later this year
- Possibly doing work at 17th south, putting together a proposal right now and designing a channel to move sediment and change the channel to a more natural channel
- Water quality data collection continues

David Gardner

- Where do you collect water quality from, the creeks or just the river
 - Johanna Stangland – there are 50 sites throughout the county
 - David – I was curious because I operate eight canyon streams and I have never seen anyone up there testing. I also never hear anyone talking about up in the canyons, I think of watershed as all of these not just the river that we seem to talk about mostly here. This is my second time here and thinking this is watershed but it is all about the Jordan river
 - Marian Rice – The data is collected throughout the entire watershed including the canyons
 - Bob Thompson – We have 50 *E. coli* sites and 65 macroinvertebrate and physical habitat sites, we use a density model, so where the water is, is where we test. Little cottonwood has 13 sites including four in the city.
 - David – what about the canyons south of little cottonwood there are eight of them
 - Bob – Again we use a density model, so most of those canyons provide so little water we don't have a lot of sites over there, but we do have data for them.
 - David – I would love to see that data
 - Bob – we can share that data it will be published on our website and in the IWP
 - Marian – Do you share your data with the State?
 - David – no we do not share that data
 - Marian – what parameters or methodology do you use for your samples
 - David – we send them to chemtech
 - Teresa Gray – David you have been very busy lately, I personally commend anything where you have a private / public relationships to address an issue.
 - David – We were able to get dogs outlawed in corner canyon and got Draper City to distinguish all the watersheds of limits to dogs.
 - Teresa – They hired another ranger to help with this as well, I found the solution oriented approach interesting that was taking, the proposal was not to take it all away.
 - David – We opened 4 miles of trails for dogs on out property to try and enhance were not just taking this away but were also giving back to the community.

Teresa Gray

- A couple of updates, Climate Change symposium is being held at the Viridian Center in West Jordan with a technical section during the day and a public forum in the evening. There will be a lot of clean natural vehicles there, some national speakers.
- We do have 150 people already registered.
- Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation is working on a master dog plan with Wayne Johnson
- We are also working with pressure washers and laundry cleaners. These are the one routinely having issues.
- Two seminars with suppliers of chemicals to teach them ways to better manage their waste stream
- Working with Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City with MS4 Phase 1 to develop business model for forward education and outreach to businesses.
- Health Department took over inspections and will report back to the County and City.
- Dumpster and mop discharge are biggest issues
- A lot of work with Healthy Salt Lake County have developed and are running a website with a dashboard
 - www.healthy.slco.org
- We are really good at public health statistics but we are really lousy at environmental health statistics.
- We need to get a good benchmark.
- Few areas that have linked water quality to the health of the area
- Pharmaceuticals being the biggest issue
- IHC has been amazing partner with the change in DA rules they now have the ability to take pharmaceuticals back at the pharmacies rather than police stations
- Looking at a mail back program but it is \$4.25 per envelope trying to find funding for pilot project
- Shake out happening April 15th
 - Focus on broken water main situations
- April 20th annual earth day at their office , 4 schools to be present
- Continuing to push the homeless issues and the impact on the environment especially human waste and cleaning up on the river of the homeless camps.
 - Jeff Salt – With the homeless cleanup is there any hope in the future for expanded funding / Budget being the constraint
 - Teresa – it's a moving target with a lot of focus on the homeless right now, it all comes down to funding, community service workers are no longer an option to help clean up these areas
 - Jeff – These homeless camps are perfect examples that not just anyone can go in and clean these places up
 - Teresa – Right. We have legal responsibility with postings and the rights of the homeless. A broader picture associated with this working with Downtown Alliance and other cities to come up with a funding option If there was one solution it would have been solved by now
 - Jeff – Does the County council need to be more active
 - Teresa – They have been very active with the homeless issues

Lynn Berni

- 2 Quick updates
- Working on incorporating internal watershed and flood control comments into the IWP
- Will have a draft to send out on the listserv for further comments
- Call for abstracts for the Watershed Symposium will be coming in the next month

Lynn de Freitas

- Inviting everyone out to the Great Salt Lake Issues Forum
- The Great Salt Lake and the big picture is the forums title
- Three days to converse on hydrology, biology, and other issues about the Lake
- We will be bringing in speakers from the Salton sea, Mono lake and Owens lake, we will be talking about the railroad causeway development, Bear river development project and the sever impact it could have on the ecosystem
- The other thing FGSL is involved in is helping with the prison relocation committee
 - This is a very ambitious deadline to get it completed, reports on three different parcels by summer should be decided which one to use
 - Marian Rice – Can you send us the website so we can send it out on the listserv
 - Lynn – yes I can do that
 - Jeff Salt – a concern I have is the long range waste treatment plan according to the 208, Salt Lake city who is not here
 - Sherilyn Hirschi – We are right here
 - Jeff – Sorry I did not recognize you guys. Salt Lake City had a plan for waste water treatment plan but there is not a 20 year plan for waste water treatment for the plans of the prison. The prison plan is in clear violation of the Clean Water Act without the long range plan. We should all be informed what the Clean Water Act rules are including our legislators
 - Lynn – Thanks Jeff, the only huge problem being considered was the inability to develop the real estate in Draper in a different way, there is a challenge water quality wise and structurally with the fill needed to develop the prison, environmental issues including connectivity along the south shore, bird use and night lighting.

Sherilyn Hirschi

- We are here with Salt Lake City Open Space
- Lewis is still with us thank goodness
- We have had a ton of adopt a space applications coming in
- Our focus has been on schools and education about the river
- A lot of stewardship opportunities in may
- We are digging a lot of weeds and reseeding as we do it, as well as spot spraying the weeds
 - Dan Potts – Is there a problem with co-adopting
 - Sherilyn – I will find out about that and let you know
 - Marian Rice – Dan you are pretty involved with the Oxbow, right?
 - Dan -- From the get go as soon as money started coming in from the oil spill, we put out a draft plan where we had people write on a printed out map their ideas for the area, then we created a tree inventory of their ideas. Still struggling to get any buy in

Chris Haight

- Well if there is nothing else we will end the meeting here, and thank you for everyone coming today and out next JRWC meeting will be July 19th at 10:00 am to 11:30 am in the same room. Again thanks for coming out and have a great day.

Side Notes

Lynn de Freitas

- After Jeff Salt's comment about the prison facility being in direct violation of the CWA because it was not included in SLC's 20 year plan, I checked in with Rob Dubuc, who is an attorney for Western Resource Advocates, and former president of the Board of FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake. He said that the remark was unfounded because since there is no discharge no one is in violation of the CWA. Any wastewater from the prison would be treated so that the facility would comply with the terms of the CWA.
- The Utah Department of Administrative Services has a new website for the new Utah State Correctional Facility. It is <http://newutahstatecorrectionalfacility.com/>.