

Jordan River Watershed Council Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, October 4th, 2016 – 10:00-11:30am
Salt Lake County Building Room N3-930

Attendees:

Chris Haight – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Robert Thompson -- Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Marian Rice – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Gene Drake --Salt Lake City Conservation District
Dan Potts-- Salt Lake County Fish & Game Assoc.
Holly Simonsen – Friends of the Great Salt Lake
Emma McGowan – CH2M
Tony Berceau – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Austin White - Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Elliot Johnson – Salt Lake County
Julie Howe – Stantec Consulting
Teresa Grey – Salt Lake County Health Department
Laura Ault – Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Brian Tonetti – Seven Canyons Trust / Jordan River Commission
Laura Hanson – Jordan River Commission
Alex Edstrom – Stantec
Ana Paz – South Jordan City

I. Welcome and Introductions (Start Time 10:02 AM)

II. Roundtable

Salt Lake County Watershed Planning and Restoration:

- Public and stakeholder comments have been incorporated into the 2015 Salt Lake County integrated Watershed Plan (IWP). The IWP will be going to County Council next Tuesday for a Resolution of approval and will next go to the printer.
- Registration for the Watershed Symposium (November 15-16 2016) is open.. Keynote speakers are Jeff Niermeyer, former director of SLC Public Utilities, and Marc Yaggi, Executive Director of the Waterkeeper Alliance.
- In honor of the 10th anniversary of the Symposium, the two-day program has been expanded to include an evening film screening on Tuesday Nov 15 at The City Library (cohosted with the Utah Film Society) and on Friday we are co-hosting a workshop with the Jordan River Commission (JRC) about Green infrastructure.
- Phase 1 of construction finished last fall on the Jordan River (JR) in the Murray Taylorsville area. Going to phase 2 in two weeks. This next phase is an outside bend that's eroding into the river losing one of the last good stands of cottonwoods in that section. Trying to protect by using toe wood structures instead of rock armoring techniques, construction starts mid-October.

- The other project is in the design phase, a complete channel realignment of 1700 linear feet of channel on the JR near 17th. The final drawings are at CRS engineers to create layouts based on design. Presenting this project in different forums to insure an understanding of what is being done, first presentations is at the Watershed Symposium with SLC Public Utilities, explaining how this can be a pilot project for changing the way flood control activities are done and new design strategy for river revetment.
- Weed mitigation will begin next week on the JR at the Midvale Slag project. Weed mitigation has been ongoing for the last five years, this is the last year due to funding.
- The Mountain Accord Environmental Dashboard is at 60% of the development.

Salt Lake City Conservation District update:

- The District is working with soil, water and air up and down the river especially in the southern section including West Jordan, trying to straighten out the small stream problems working with farmers and ranchers and anyone else with a problem. They meet once a month down at the conservancy district in West Jordan, and invite everyone to work with them.

Jordan River Commission Update:

- Our flow study experiment to see if there is a relationship between water flow and DO has had water rights donated. The paper water rights don't transfer over to actual water rights, especially in a dry year like this year. The State Division of Water Rights won't allow a single water right to be used for two different beneficial uses. For example, irrigation for the majority of the season, two weeks for the flow experiment and back to irrigation. Working through policy discussion to create more flexibility, has the potential to become a tool for dealing with drought and low water as our climate changes and more demand for water.
- Working with Riverton to restore the wetland ponds along the river corridor right where the trifecta of Russian olives, tamarisk and phragmites reside. Figuring out how to work around an existing restoration project while getting useful native vegetation planted.
- Pioneer Crossing Park in WVC a proposed nature park north of 3300 south, is completely filled with invasive plants. Working with BIO-West to weed map, Forestry, Fire and State Lands to manage phragmites and UCC to reseed this fall. This project has a potential for three million dollars coming if the parks and rec bond is approved and potentially two million going to water trail implementation.

Seven Canyons Trust Update:

- Seven Canyons Trust received funding through a split grant, the National Environmental Education Foundation and Toyota to expand the *myjordanriver.org* website to create specific landing pages for each creek. Should be functional in two months. Working with SLC to daylight about 170 feet on the three creek confluence, the design is finished and SLC is taking comments. Millcreek confluence, the DWQ is working with central valley who is discharging the streams in that confluence area, due to permits they will have to change the discharge point creating an opportunity to construct wetlands on 6 to 8 acres with restoration potential.
- Rolling out the JR comprehensive management plans in the next few weeks and working on various invasive species removal projects. The Trust is available to assist with phragmites

removal projects, contact them. The Trust has navigational hazard funding, contact them regarding any hazard removal projects as well. They have \$250,000 in account and asked for another \$250,000. They are working with SLC to mitigate 9th South bridge promised them \$50,000 for it. They would like to create a plan of costs for mitigating all hazards that can be taken to the legislature like a punch list.

Salt Lake County Fish & Game Association:

- Most restoration projects have an end point of water quality, we need better water quality for wildlife. The County has done awesome projects resulting in benefits.

Salt Lake County Health Department (SLCOHD):

- SLCOHD has been dealing with the harmful algal bloom from Utah Lake that came down the JR. They pooled sampling because the lab could only handle so much. SLC did the east side sampling, DWQ did the JR, SLCOHD to the west side. Signs were posted to limit access.. After receiving the second set of clearance samples, SLCOHD lifted the warnings on Sep 16th. Looking to develop a response plan internally. Cities and water systems diverted drinking water into the systems to flush the water including ground water.
- Last year's storm water reports are now finalized. This is the sixth year that they have seen an increase in complaints for discharge infractions. If you do see any please notify the SLCOHD at 801-580-6681 ASAP, The complexity of the complaints are decreasing and have more consistent information causing more prosecutions. People are more knowledgeable.
- Working with legislators and the Quality Growth Commission looking at the enforcement of the watershed looking specifically at the watershed in the county.