

Jordan River Watershed Council Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, February 7th, 2017 – 10:00-11:30am
Salt Lake County Building Room N3-930

Attendees:

Laura Ault – Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Lynn Berni – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Ryan Blair - Salt Lake County Health Department
Gary Bowen - Emigration Community Council
Jeff Denbleyker – CH2M
Gene Drake --Salt Lake City Conservation District
Alex Edstrom – Stantec
Michael Forester – South Valley sewer
Chris Haight – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Jeff Hicken - Salt Lake County Health Department
Julie Howe – Stantec Consulting
Jory Howell – Herriman City
Elliot Johnson – Salt Lake County
Elliot Mott
Erin Mounce – Jordan River Commission
Hannah Murphy - Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Marian Rice – Salt Lake City Public Utilities
Shay Smith – Taylorsville City
Johanna Stangland – Salt Lake City Open Space
Sam Taylor - Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Robert Thompson -- Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Brian Tonetti – Seven Canyons Trust / Jordan River Commission
Tee Tyler – Cottonwood Heights City
Austin White - Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Sandy Wingert – Utah Division of Water Quality
Jen Wilson – West Jordan City

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Presentations:

Jordan River Channel Readjustment at 1700 South Project Funding

Presented by Bob Thompson, Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration

- Project update to familiarize attendees with this project in the design phase. Also to get more ideas for other projects using natural channel design. WPRP is here to partner with other municipalities to find funding and get these projects done.

- 17th south aiming to fix the issues with the Jordan River which is not meeting beneficial use standards with current management practices. Going to a more natural management strategy (because most natural rivers usually meet beneficial use standards) to see how much this redesign can change the Water Quality in restoration specific site.
- Want to turn a managed channel into a more natural channel allowing a natural conveyance of water to move sediment differently. Will have to contend with a storm drain in the area and cannot have an effect on the USGS gage on 17th south including its waters elevation and flood flow.
- The channel is extremely wide and shallow with incredible fine substrate moving through, sediment is accumulating on the bottom of the channel. The river is likely needs a narrower channel to accomplish sediment transport.
- Want to construct a narrower channel with an inner berm and flood plain to act as a surface to distribute sediments rather than in the channel. All measurements for the new channel are significantly different from the current channel measurements except where they cannot be changed.
- The project process is that WPRP does the survey work and the reference reach work, currently in the modeling conceptual design and permitting phase, construction is slated to begin in summer of 2018.
- 4 stages will be built not just bankfull; there will be low flow, flood plain, low terrace and a high terrace stages to help Salt Lake City's storm water from 17th S. drain and distribute over the flood plain. Will try to mimic a cut-off chute and create an oxbow feature were an oxbow lake likely would have formed.
- Pre-vegetated coir products have been purchased with a grant from DWQ. The existing channel will be filled with material cut from the new channel, will also be putting in a hardened dredging access basin downstream for SLCo Flood Control access.

Non-indigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) / Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Presented by Sam Taylor, [Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration](#)

- NAS and AIS are good to bring up every year it is easy to get complacent, Quagga and Zebra mussels are the big ones nationally, in Utah DWR has a broad AIS management plan to manage for them but it is species focused.
- One Quagga mussel can have millions of eggs, the great lakes numbers are now in the trillions. DWR has a 2009 map of the mussels at wildlife.utah.gov/threats.html , USGS has a more comprehensive mapping at nas.er.usgs.gov . The mussels came from Ukraine and can adjust very well to our waters.
- Whirling disease effects Salmonids, it is a microscopic parasite and has been found in Salt Lake County. It is a two-step parasitic host (The microspores can live out of water for a very long time) the microspores get into the tubifex worms in the worms the microspores change to triactinomyon, then there released into the water where they burrow into and infect the fish.
- To help prevent these NAS and AIS movements when we move through the watershed it is important to follow SOPs and decontaminate between subsequent visits to waterbodies. Cleaning all apparatus that come in contact with the water, plants or substrate at the visitation site, making sure to clean waders and never use felt bottom boots are all important components to controlling the spread of NAS. There are lots of different cleaning options available and it's not just clothes that need to be a concern but also boats and other water vehicles.

III. Roundtable

Cottonwood Heights

- Big Cottonwood Trail that extends through our city into Holladay City is complete except for the last 130 yards. Trail work began three years ago. Grant to finish the last 130 yards to completely finish off the trail.
- Would like to work with other agencies to help prevent flooding in hot spots along the creeks in Cottonwood Heights.

DWQ

- Jordan and Provo River intense monitoring next water year starting in October. DWQ will have a winter or spring meeting with partners to come up with intensive monitoring plan.
- Working on several TMDLs across the state, in phase 2 of the lower Jordan River TMDL to determine storm water implementations are and how it effects DO in the river.
- Jordan River 8 is regarding what is coming out of Utah lake including high levels of arsenic that is exceeding drinking water standards and upper City Creek above the plant there is high levels of cadmium working on these plans in the next year and half to two years

Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL)

- Jordan River Comprehensive Management Plan is final and should create a more consistent and easier permitting process with only one consistency view.

Herriman City

- Interested in the big picture about the watershed, would like to find out who the players are, what monies are out there and who they can partner with.

Salt Lake Conservation District

- May 2nd and 3rd in Herriman, will host third graders where they will come and learn about where their food comes from with farmers and others in the food industry. Expecting about 3,000 third graders this year.

Salt Lake City Open Space

- Wasatch Hollow restoration finished up and will be going into the monitoring stage. Lots of riparian seeding, fences installed and trails built along Emigration Creek.

Salt Lake City Public Utilities

- Central Wasatch Commission dashboard is moving ahead right on schedule. Meeting about possible platform for online dashboard after written report component. Framework is almost finished, meeting with technical experts now.
- Meeting with Salt Lake County and the DWQ to discuss water quality sampling in the head waters.

Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration

- Still performing WQ sampling but this winter is making it difficult, macroinvertebrate sampling should start in spring.
- 2015 Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan was published in fall 2016 and printed copies are available. Waiting for final approval from the State and then it should go on to the EPA.

- Murray / Taylorsville phase 1 and phase 2 are complete. Phase 2 was complete last fall and recreated a lost flood plain and began reestablishment a riparian ecosystem. Moving upstream, phase 3 will be located along a bank in Taylorsville this fall. Once this phase is completed it will complete the Murray/ Taylorsville project.

Seven Canyons Trust

- Received \$25,000 grant to pilot vegetation strategies on the Mill Creek confluence on the levee side and adaptive weed management on the south side, also wrote \$30,000 grant for some environmental education to hire college level students to create conceptually designs of the south side.
- The Trust was chosen by a landscape architecture firm to design a vision for Herman Franks Park to daylight about 1000 feet of Emigration Creek. Completed two community workshops and have two design concepts and are welcoming any feedback right now.
- Expanding www.myjordanriver.org right now and its two components where users can submit interactive stops and report an issue feature for the Jordan River, these components will be expanded to seven tributaries of the Jordan River.

Taylorsville

- Using an EPA grant to work on better mapping. Currently working with a company from Las Vegas that is 3D scanning the storm drains to create a map that looks like Google streets of West Jordan's storm drains.

West Jordan

- New position opened as a storm water manager and Jen Wilson filled it three months ago so just starting to get involved, creating the position as it goes go. The city is very interested in being part of the JRWC.