

Jordan River Watershed Council Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, May 9th, 2017 – 10:00-11:30am
Salt Lake County Building Room N3-930

Attendees:

Chris Haight – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program
Carl Adams – Utah Division of Water Quality
Marian Rice – Salt Lake City Public Utilities
Gary Bowen - Emigration Community Council
Teresa Grey - Salt Lake County Health Department
Dallas Henline – Magna Water District
Steve Burgon – Salt Lake County Stormwater
Elliot Mott – Utah Outdoor
Chris Cline – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Michael Auger – Utah Open Lands
Laura Ault – Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Eric McCulley – River Restoration
Gene Drake --Salt Lake City Conservation District
Alex Edstrom – Stantec
Lizel Allen – Salt Lake County Flood Control
Robert Edgel – Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Ellen Bailey – USU Water Quality
Ana Paz – South Jordan City
Allison Jones – Wild Utah Project
Brian T – Seven Canyons Trust
Laura Hansen – Jordan River Commission

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Presentations:

UDWR and JRWC, Looking to the Future

Presented by Robert Edgel, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

- New to this position for UDWR, I am a Habitat Restoration Biologist
- Working with Salt Lake City and Fairmont Park to improve habitat in the park and the stream in the park, Waiting for funding, first attempt at a project in an urban environment
 - Deepen the pond and get more native vegetation in the area why increasing the water flow into the pond, looked at several different urban ponds before choosing Fairmont. This project has created a realization surrounding the importance of the urban systems for wildlife
- City Creek Catchment basins: working with Patrick Nelson to improve the area by removing phrag to make the area more useful for anglers. Removing star thistle in City Creek, Upper pond cleared of phrag near the pond, dredged the pond and sprayed for star thistle and planted native vegetation. Lower pond has a large amount of sediments running off into the pond, using rocks to keep it from being a muddy mess and allowing anglers access

- Working with Utah Lake Commission on phrag removal and native species planting.
- Future Work
 - City Creek: Removal; or redesign of fish barriers, daylighting City Creek have talked with seven canyons trust
 - Jordan River (JR) Big Bend
 - Mill Creek: Removal of a few more culverts and move some of the projects down into the valley like Fitz Park, looking to improve natural water flow all the way down to JR.
 - Little Cottonwood creek: Just starting to look at it, might be plenty of opportunities including improving the riparian areas around the parking lots
 - Parleys Creek: remove fish barriers, help clean up and make small improvements
 - Utah Lake: Wetland restoration to help reduce nutrient levels in the lake, continue to remove phrag while increasing fishing opportunities.
- BDA's (beaver dam analogs), the post hole diggers have been purchased to help pound stakes. We will weave willows in between each stake to create an artificial beaver dam, these can be used where beavers are not able to be such as the west desert.
- WAP Species pushing agendas for wildlife restoration and keeping them off of the endangered species list. Our goal is to increase fishing opportunities so in planning projects and if you would like to bring us on board please keep this on mind, it is much easier to get money when we can show that it will increase fishing areas.

Utah Water Watch Volunteers

Presented by Ellen Bailey, Utah State University

- Utah Water Watch updates, tanning in SLC in April went really well and we had a good turnout of 20 people, a lot of new people to help monitor. Tier 1 monitoring volunteers are taking measurements, we have 100 active volunteers and 158 monitoring sites. There is 6 Tier 2 volunteers in Salt Lake City and 36 active in the JR watershed. Pushing Tier 2 trainings to later this summer to avoid high flows
- Sandy Wingert suggestions for volunteer monitoring included cross sections and Pete's labyrinth and the 3 creek confluence, streambank assessments and extra E.coli testing in Big Cottonwood Creek and Little Cottonwood Creek to go along with their extra testing for E.coli. Baseline E.coli tests not using the states IDXXX method
- Trying to encourage longer monitoring around implemented BMPs possibly using volunteers.

III. Roundtable

Department of Water Quality

- Federal funding for Non-Point Source and water quality is the big focus. The Presidents new budget was released a few weeks ago and it states there was no funding necessary through 319. This is the most drastic we have seen.
- Hopefully we will continue to receive federal funding that provides our staffing and project funding. This drives home the point that we all have to work together.

Wild Utah Project

- Allyson Jones the director of Wild Utah Project has been involved on the federal lands in a number of projects and also serve on the environmental dashboard team for Phase 2 of the mountain Accord

- Need to start taking a holistic approach and get involved in JR projects. Have done a lot of citizen science

Salt Lake County Flood Control

- Biggest project right now is the JR surplus canal Levees. We are trying to get back into compliance. If you are doing or see work being done along the levees please let us know.
- 7200 south drain Failure will be fixed this year
- Willow Creek realignment at the JR for erosion control.
- Millcreek at Scotts Ave. the levees are leaking so we will fix that and we completed three grates in Hidden Hollow, Highland Circle and Emigration canyon at Wilson Ave.

Salt Lake Conservation District

- Concerned about flooding
- Working with farmers and the community

River Restoration

- Working on Riverton ponds with Jordan River Commission and Riverton to decrease the phrag decrease the angle of the steep banks to provide more recreational access.
- Big Bend at 90th south we are trying to build a community fishery and working with Rocky Mountain Power to move the access road and repair the riparian area. This year will be the biggest year in fighting the noxious weeds on site and then we will begin to scale that down.
- Millcreek Confluence trying to develop BMP for dredging and planting more native plants.
- This is the last year of the Lower Jordan River Project, completed cleanups, developed a curriculum with schools to get them engaged. Coming up with an action plan for 5th N thru the legacy preserve to set the forward motion for projects, using the rest of the funding for planting.

Seven Canyons Trust

- Working on the Millcreek Confluence right now, Mark miller paid for all the plants for this project over 1500 trees, Other projects we are working on is the three creek confluence. Daylighting effort for where these creeks flow into the JR. Waiting on funding but construction should start this fall.

Forestry, Fire and State Lands

- Our saying is if you see something say something. If you see work on the JR please let us know. Please do not hesitate to call us at 801-550-7754 day or night
- There is a little funding available for restoration along the JR needs to be spent by June 30th and requires a 50/50 match and please get permits

Jordan River Commission

- Focusing on social and recreation projects, get into the river festival in all of September we will have sign up for this. Have been doing a lot of field trips and have also completed the way finding signage plan for the trail, seeking funds for installation. Master plan for the water trail should be kicking off any day, secured 2 million dollars for implementation. June 3rd there will be a ribbon cutting for a new boat access point at Center Street in N Salt Lake.
- Working with homelessness along the JR showing cities how to help eliminate hiding spots without destroying the environment.
- Concept for creating a JR state park in motion.

Utah Open Lands

- Main focus on the river right now is in draper, working in invasive species, have been doing some work along Hidden Hollows. Completed a preservation project in Emigration Creek along Owl Meadows approximately 5 acres.

Utah Outdoors

- Several floats on the river already and have another one planned for June 3rd

Salt Lake County Health Department

- Health regulation #1 is out for review regarding processing facilities including carpet cleaners
- Earth day celebration saw about 800 kids visit the office and out booths. Been very active in the homeless issues and the trash that occurs, being pushed towards the bigger homeless populations.
- Coordinating a HAB potential response with trainings and collaborative work. Doing a lot of collaborative work with E.coli issues, most work has been focused on Emigration Creek. Dogs are still a big issue we are dealing with also.

Emigration Community Council

- Very impressed and thank you for the work everyone is doing, but you need to do more outreach to the residents of Emigration. May 20th Emigration Canyon is having their fire wise days.

Utah State University

- Big push to the citizens on HABs and our volunteers.

Salt Lake City

- HAB response plan is being worked in in two components one for drinking water and the other for canal water, so one plan two sections.
- Environmental dashboard is still moving forward. Framework setup, working on the platform component for online dashboard.
- Putting out for an RFP for an update to our 1990 Watershed plan including a Fire plan as well

Salt Lake County Storm Water Collation

- Commercial will start airing again and will run for two weeks (Pet waste and grass clippings), and the water fair is this week

US Fish and Wildlife Services

- Working on a couple of different projects along the river: Big Bend, Restoration on the Audubon Property
- Trying to finalize the funding pot we got from the Sharon Steel settlement, working with Salt Lake County on a project in Murray to use the rest of this funding.
- HABs workshop last week and how to deal with animal kills associated with HABs
- Dealing with a situation that feels like we are walking into a train wreck here with ecological services and water conveyance. It has gotten into a very black and white situation. Very contentious on Willow Creek, trying to understand if we can back up and look at this project and decide risks and best ways to mitigate the risks.

South Jordan

- Just wanted to let you know we finished a bank stabilization and planting project on 110th