

# Jordan River Watershed Council Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – 10:00-11:30am  
Salt Lake County Building Room N3-930

## Attendees:

Chris Haight – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program  
Hilary Arens – Snowbird  
Sandy Wingert – Utah Department of Water Quality  
Larry Alserda – Salt Lake City  
Steve Burgon – Salt Lake County Stormwater  
Sarah Hinnners – University of Utah  
Alex Edstrom – Stantec  
Gene Drake --Salt Lake City Conservation District  
Laura Ault – Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands  
Pat Shea – University of Utah / Friends of Alta  
Ann Neville – The Nature Conservancy  
Karen Nicholes -- HDR  
Gary Bowen - Emigration Community Council  
Soren Simonsen – Jordan River Commission  
Elliot Mott – Utah Outdoor  
Ellen Bailey – USU Water Quality  
Teresa Grey - Salt Lake County Health Department  
Lynn Berni – Salt Lake County Watershed  
Cody Moser – NOAA / CBRFC  
Sam Taylor – Salt Lake County Watershed  
Dallas Henline – Magna Water District  
Julie Howe – Stantec Consulting  
Alex Rudowski – Salt Lake County Flood Control / Engineering  
Alex Hamilton – Salt Lake County Watershed  
Johanna Stangland – Salt Lake City Open Space  
Hanna Murphy – Salt Lake County Watershed  
Jeff DenBleyker – CH2M

## I. Welcome and Introductions

## II. Presentations:

### **Harmful Algal Blooms Update**

Presented by: Sandy Wingert, Utah Department of Water Quality and Teresa Grey, Salt Lake County Health Department.

- This is what happened last year.

- There were a lot of warnings and cautions put up on Utah Lake and the Jordan River and a lot of sampling along both.
- Based everything last year off of cell count data due to it being the fastest information we could get, it took 3, 6 or 8 weeks to get toxicology back making it difficult to use.
- Lot of efforts by the DWQ over winter for really figuring out how to get over the data hump and public communication.
- Today's presentation will cover methodology in how we receive and interpret the data.
  - Currently there is a HAB warning on Utah Lake and Blackridge Reservoir.
  - Lessons learned from last year, trying to stay in front of the blooms by prioritizing vulnerable waters increasing areas where they would have a reasonable maximum of exposure to the public.
  - Targeting areas with known problems like Schofield reservoir, Utah Lake and Blackridge reservoir.
  - Reached out to partners; universities, health departments, Department of Ag, State Parks and drinking water utilities. Utilizing each other's resources has proven to a help in the success we were able accomplish this year and the procedures we have put into place.
  - Through an NOAA program we outfitted a citizen monitoring program with microscopes so volunteers can identify potential blooms themselves.
  - Redrafted the HAB guidance document to account for cell counts and neuro toxins present.
  - The caution warning has been eliminated and now there is a warning and danger warnings that will be posted.
  - Our first step in sampling is visual, then the use of test strips for initial screening. If positive then lab testing will follow the other test to determine warnings that need to be posted.
  - Last year the state didn't have anyone to run the lab tests, this year the Dept. of Ag and Unified Labs are both ready for tests.
  - Salt Lake City Public Utilities just got a test strip reader allows more detailed reading of the redness of the test strip, removes any human error.
  - Samples sent out last year quickly overwhelmed the lab they were sent to. This year we are being more cautious with our sampling and have found more labs for testing creating quicker turn around on sample tests.
  - The DWQ's website for HAB's is updated every week with the location of warning indicators and the data to go along with them.
  - Figuring out if there is any way to predict or forecast potential HAB's for early warnings.
  - DWQ has three water quality buoys in Utah Lake, 1 in Deer Creek and 1 in Schofield reservoir and several others along the Jordan River. The sensors look at multiple parameters including blue and green algae.
  - The 3 buoys in Utah Lake will be present April through November.
  - Real time data, streams every 15 minutes. This is the first year using this technology, all on the DWQ's website. Using aerial imagery (Just starting) to determine where we can see these blooms. The goal is to compare satellite imagery to WQ data to look at the daily and seasonal forecast of blooms. This will also give us the ability to detect HAB's when people can't get there. This is all research and no decisions are based on this data from satellite.
  - June 29<sup>th</sup> HAB was confirmed in Utah Bay, you can see this HAB move through the lake in the satellite imagery.
  - In order to remove warnings there must be two consecutive samples below the minimum warning levels, samples are completed weekly.

- Last year there was 600 phone calls to poison control about concerns from HAB's as of July 12<sup>th</sup> this year 81 phone calls have been made to poison control, about ¼ of these calls show symptoms of exposure.
- Salt Lake County Health Dept. is doing the majority of sampling in the county and Salt Lake City is sampling the main canals on the east side.
- The main concern is once a HAB hits the narrows it will just shot through the entire county with this year's flows.

### III. Roundtable

- Colorado Basin Forecast Center
  - Two new employees at the center. Please contact us if any information is needed.
- Salt Lake Public Utilities
  - Took over management of Red Butte Reservoir.
  - Removed the June Suckers and adding Tiger Trout.
  - Keeping water higher for more irrigation use and Red Butte Creek will have increasing flow in it until irrigation season is over.
- Salt Lake County Stormwater Coalition
  - Going to be doing a poll with a sample size of 800 to gage our education program.
  - 1 year left on the MS4 contract.
- University of Utah
  - Breaking ground next year on a research and demonstration facility for storm water management, in the design stage right now.
- University of Utah / Friends of Alta
  - Talking with the Dept. of Corrections and Utah National Guard to try to coordinate an invasive weed action along the Jordan River with them. They have a grant but it needs to go through a home agency so the grant can be monitored.
  - Interested to know if there is an agency that could help accept and allocate funds.
- Forest, Fire and State Lands
  - Trying to remove structures that are trespassing along the river.
  - If you see something please say something and there are no permeant floating docks along the Jordan River.
- Jordan River Commission
  - Flow experiment was lined up and ready to go, then there were questions about the water rights so this experiment is on hold once again.
- Utah Outdoors
  - Encouraging everyone to get out on the river and float it.
- Utah Water Watch
  - Always looking for volunteers.
  - We just had a training in Provo in July and have another one in Ogden planned for August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Salt Lake County Health Department
  - Finalizing rewrite of the drinking water source protecting ordinance, should be out for public hearing soon.
  - Institutional controls, having to do with super fund sites starts in September.

- Doing presentations to Business Licensing Dept. in state to discuss how to connect the Health Dept. and Business Licensing to get the proper information to the businesses that may have an impact on the different rivers and streams.
- Salt Lake County Watershed
  - Installing interpretive signs along the Jordan River at our restoration sites.
  - Photo monitoring stations are being installed as well at the restoration sites. They will allow citizens to take pictures and send them to use using twitter so we can create a time lapse of the area as it grows.
  - 11<sup>th</sup> annual Watershed Symposium is November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center. Call for abstracts have been sent out.
- Salt Lake City Open Space
  - Have a volunteer day September 9<sup>th</sup> for a puncture vine weed pull between 2100 South and 2300 North.
  - Working with Public Utilities to repair the culvert in Mill Bird Park that got blowing out during the thunderstorm last week.