

Jordan River Watershed Council Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, August 14, 2018 – 10:00-11:30am
Salt Lake County Government Center, North Building Room N3-930

Attendees:

Laura Ault – Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Ellen Bailey – Utah Sate University Water Quality Extension
Brian Berndt – Midvale City
Jim Bowcutt – Utah Department of Water Quality
Jared Bunch – Forsgren
Jeff DenBleyker – Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.
Gene Drake – Salt Lake City Conservation District
Dan Drumiler – Millcreek City
Alysia Ducuara – Salt Lake County Health Department
Chris Haight – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration
Kathryn Hiolski – Salt Lake County Health Department
Julie Howe – Stantec
Lingkum Li – South Salt Lake City
Eric McCulley – River Restoration
Jorge Mendez – Salt Lake County Health Department
Elliot Mott
Ann Neville – The Nature Conservancy
Ana Paz – South Jordan City
Pat Shea – University of Utah
Tyler Shelley – Sandy City
Soren Simonsen – Jordan River Commission
Bob Thompson – Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Presentations:

- **Introduction to Healthy living Program**

Presented by:

Alysia Ducuara, Salt Lake County Health Department
Kathryn Hiolski, Salt Lake County Health Department

- Would like to develop partnerships and collaborations on projects with attendees of this meeting
 - Our big goal is physical activity promotion through environmental and policy support
 - Help change the environment to make it easier to be physically active outside
 - We want people to understand there is no need for a gym membership
- We were part of the wayfinding signage along the Jordan River Trail
 - Focused on time not distance

- Want to make the trail accessible to everyone
 - Project evaluation of the way find signs is in the process so there is no data yet to share
 - We would like to be involved with any improvement projects along the Jordan River Trail
- **HAB's**

Presented by:
Jorge Mendez, Salt Lake County Health Department

 - Issues with HAB's have been a big concern the last few years
 - Working along the Jordan River as part of the Rio Grande clean ups
 - Starting early last month, problems with algal blooms began to occur in Utah lake
 - Most HAB's in Salt Lake County are contributed to Utah Lake
 - HABs Cyanotoxins of concern; Microcystin, Anatoxin – A and Cylindrospermopsins
 - Algal blooms likely to occur during warmer months
 - Increased water temp, stronger light intensity and less water movement
 - Factors that trigger HAB's are not well understood
 - Factors that lead to development; High nutrient loads, warmer water temperatures, minimal water movement
 - Salt Lake County's (SLCo) biggest risk is from Utah Lake
 - DEQ's buoys are being used to help forecast HAB's
 - DWQ's website has more details and up to date information on local HAB's. No warnings issued so far in SLCo
 - This year we have a better testing system, working closely with Salt Lake City Public Utilities, there are three sample sites: Jordan Narrows, Wheeler Farm and Blackridge Reservoir
 - Warning signs are now being used through out the state, all signs have been standardized
 - SLCo Health Department response to HAB's; Sampling, case responses (case by case) and advisories and closures
 - For more information please visit habs.utah.gov

- **Utah DWQ Projects and Funding Opportunities**

Presented by:

Jim Bowcutt, Utah Department of Water Quality

- Summary of Non-Point Source Pollution Program
 - Use a Watershed management approach
 - Six watershed management units throughout the state
 - First thing completed is strategic monitoring
 - Assessments (305B or 303D report)
 - Funding is then prioritized and targeted
 - Develop a watershed plan with the 9 elements required by the EPA
 - Once plan is developed implementation begins
 - Start monitoring process again to see if the installed practices are working as planned

- Two grant programs that are managed
 - State Non-Point Source grants
 - One million dollars per year is available
 - \$150,000 dollar per project cap
 - 90 / 10 match required
 - Anyone is eligible
 - 2 years to complete
 - Section 319 Funding
 - Nonpoint source pollution should be addressed on a volunteer incentive base approach
 - \$1.4 million dollars of funding per year
 - \$590,000 dollars of this funding is for project implementation
 - 60 /40 match required, no federal match allowed, anyone is eligible
 - 3 years to complete grant
 - 319 funding usually goes into that year's target basin
 - Next year applications will be accepted for the Jordan river / Utah Lake Basin for 2020
- Projects funded along the Jordan River and in the Watershed
 - 2010 to 2018, 1.3 million dollars funded for Jordan River projects
 - 38% 319 funding, 62% Non-Point Source Funding
 - There have been about twenty projects
 - Notable projects that the funding has been put towards
 - **Big Bend** has received \$100,000 dollars, most funding has gone into design and development
 - **Jordan River Murray Taylorsville**, 3500 linear feet of river bank has been restored, over 1000 trees planted and over 16,000 live cuttings planted
 - **1700 South** has had some funding issues this year but SLCo is still proceeding with the project
 - The hard thing regarding funding for projects along the Jordan River is that the EPA wants to see changes to the pollutant of concern in the river. However, projects along the Jordan River are hard to show any changes to these pollutants due to all the inflows and nutrients constantly flowing into the river
 - The DWQ still likes to see these projects along the Jordan River because it is where the majority of the population is at and it is a great way to show what can be done to the river and the riparian areas
 - Emigration Creek is another project area. Rotary Glenn Park had pet access closed off to the creek and the catch basin was revegetated. Vault toilets were also built
 - Other important Funding
 - The Jordan River Watershed Council (JRWC) for capacity building, SLCo Stream Care Guide, Rain Harvesting exhibits, E. coli monitoring, source ID studies, Road enhancements on forest service roads, Water Quality information and education projects
- Grant Applications (all dates are estimates)
 - February 1st, 2019 Accepting Non-Point Source grant application
 - April 12th, 2019 Application deadline
 - May 17th, 2019 Grant recipients announced

- July 1st funding will be available for non-point source projects, 319 will be available in spring
- Recommend that everyone drum up some projects, get together and rank them with the council (JRWC) so when they are submitted to us we know which ones the high priority projects are

III. Roundtable

River Restoration

- Big bend has received more funding this year, currently there is one million dollars to implement project and about 2.1 million dollars for the entire project
- Riverton ponds have been cleaned up of invasive species, Riverton will be adding a new water source from a well into the ponds

Jordan River Commission

- Received one million dollars from state legislators for the Jordan River
- \$500,000 dollars will be an ongoing funding year after year
- Governing board decided on how to allocate these funds this year
 - Create a temporary education center working with Tracy Aviary next to the river until Tracy Aviary's permanent center is completed
 - Create a direct education program around the Jordan River
 - Build volunteer activities and develop a broader group of stakeholders
 - Develop a bike rental program
 - Invasive species mitigation will receive about \$150,000 dollars
 - Focusing the funding from the legislator around the new homeless resource center
 - Expanding the Urban Ranger Program
- We have 1,000 trees for planting along the Jordan River that are currently growing at High Mountain Nursery
- This September will be Get into the River month, we will be doing a wide range of planned activities, if anyone would like to cross promote any river activities during this time please let us know. This will be our big focus for the year

Elliot Mott

- Doing a float on the Jordan River at 6pm on Friday the 17th
- Would like to see funding for directional arrows along the trail to reduce collisions along the trail, dredging of the river and better trail head designs for the water trail

Forestry Fire and State Lands

- Stream bank stabilization grant funding was \$50,000 dollars, only one application received there is still 20,000 to 30,000 dollars available, it does require a 50/50 match
- If there is any work being done along the river, please remember to get your permits

Friends of Alta, University of Utah

- School should be adopting sections of the river to help with teaching 4th and 9th grade water curriculum

Sandy City

- Channel restoration still occurring on Dry Creek, phase 2 should be completed next month

Forsgren

- Would just like to suggest anyone looking at doing projects along the Jordan River please look at wetlands as part of that project

Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program

- New gauges installed along the Jordan River and its tributaries
- Developed a new website to show our new gauges and what information can be derived from them It shows all our gaging stations and precipitation stations
- The newest gauging station on 4800 South is working but will not display discharge yet, we are still developing the rating table for this gage and as soon as its done it will display discharge.
- Other gauges have been installed on Emigration Creek at Westminster college, showing Emigration might be just as flashy as Red Butte Creek, Parleys Creek is getting two new gauges, the one at the mouth of the canyon will be moving further up the canyon and the second one will be placed in Hidden Hollow right before Parleys Creek goes underground.
- Our database is completely downloadable, this should make answering questions a lot easier
- Macroinvertebrate data is also available

Salt Lake Conservation

- AG in class in Herriman at Butterfield Farms, about 1,000 kids a day made up of 4th graders and homeschool kids visiting the farm
- Working with Schmidt Farms in West Jordan to build a green house for women with social problems and women who are down and out

Utah State University

- Doing statewide outreach and education programs
- Developing a new data base for the volunteer data which will be up to date and work much better with storing and receiving pictures
- Still encouraging and looking for volunteers for monitoring any algal blooms

Next Meeting:

First quarter 2019, date TBD

Register today for the 2018 Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium!

Wednesday November 14th and Thursday November 15th, 2018

Utah Cultural Celebration Center

1355 West 3100 South

West Valley City, Ut 84119

Call for abstracts open through September 28

Register here:

<https://watershedsymposium2018.sched.com/>