

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

May 31, 2012-1:30pm to 3:00pm
Salt Lake County Building Room N2003

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Carl Adams, Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Stacey Adams, Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Hilary Arens, Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Mark Attencio, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JWVCD)
Scott Baird, Salt Lake County (SLCo)
Lynn Berni, Salt Lake County (SLCo)
Steve Burgon, Salt Lake County (SLCo)
Jerry Chaney, Utah Dept. of Transportation (UDOT)
Chris Cline, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)
Gene Drake, Salt Lake Conservation District
Dan Drumiler, Salt Lake County (SLCo)
Shawn Gonzales, Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD)
David Hampshire
Laura Hanson, Jordan River Commission
Tim Heyrend, West Jordan
Julie Howe, Stantec
Marian Hubbard, Salt Lake County (SLCo)
Van King, Kennecott/Rio Tinto
Ron Lund, Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD)
Eric McCulley, Environ
Karen Nichols, HDR
Ron Roberts, Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility (CVWRF)
W. D. Robinson, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Jenni Oman, Salt Lake County
Melissa Stamp, Bio-West
Megan Walsh, Salt Lake County (SLCo)
Scott Zeidler, Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL)

Introductions

Housekeeping (Megan Walsh)

- Mission Statement: The Jordan River Watershed Council is dedicated to the ecological and economic sustainability of the Jordan River watershed through the promotion of stakeholder involvement.
- There will be an upcoming web survey on the Jordan River that will be sent out through the list serv. Please keep your eyes open for an email and answer a short web survey to help determine what people want to see in terms of how the Council operates.

- Salt Lake Countywide Watershed Symposium scheduled for September 26th-28th, 2012 @ Utah Cultural Celebration Center. Schedule and Registration should be up next week.
- Next JRWC Meeting is November 7th from 2pm to 3:30pm in room N3005.
- Utah Lake Festival: Saturday June 2nd
- Millcreek Venture Outdoors Festival: Saturday June 16th @ Canyon Rim Park

Event Update (Stacey Adams, Utah DEQ and Eric McCulley, Environ)

- DEQ Children's Initiative and Event and River Cleanup, Saturday June 23rd at Day-Riverside Library.
- DEQ Children's Initiative started in 2010. It is an Environmental Justice project and has been going on for the last couple of years. A lot of public organizations & community groups are involved. EPA selected this community on the west side of Salt Lake City and the focus has been on the Jordan River and how to improve access and recreation. Eric McCulley of Environ was hired to run a stewardship project. River Cleanup will involve native species planting, bird scavenger hunt and various volunteer activities. The event will try to encourage ongoing stewardship as well as improve accessibility to the River.
- The first phase of the project is coming to an end so for the next phase, resources could be focused even more on the River.
- For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/region8/ej/slc.html>

Presentation: "Jordan River Dissolved Oxygen-Where Does it Go?, Theron Miller, PhD

- (Background Slide) Dissolved Oxygen (DO) demand occurs all the time in the river. Generally the DO levels fluctuate daily due to temperature. DO excursion occurs when it suddenly drops. DO can get as low as 4.0 mg/l. These excursions track with storm events. As flow increases during a storm, DO decreases.
- Algal-Biomass (July to October). October 2010-water column studies. What are the Algal sources? Blooms in Utah Lake.
- Most critical pollutant. Used Qual2K (program recommended by EPA) to create model.
- Tributaries upstream from 2011 south were tested. The tributaries delivered a lot of organic matter (OM). For example, Siberian elms dumped a lot of seeds into rivers.
- In 2011 the floodwater was high, affecting the ability to take samples
- What is the rate of decomposition that goes into the sediment? Dr. Goel is working on this topic.
- There are plenty of nutrients in the Jordan River, however there are no algal growth, possibly due to a habitat issue.
- Theron's Qual2K model points to SOD as culprit for DO levels. The model says its not just suspended solids.
- Theron did not have 2012 sampling results ready to present.
- Can't just remove FPOM to solve problem, will probably have to analyze CPOM.
- *See Theron's presentation for more information*
- Comments:
 - Hilary Arens (DWQ) would like to see Theron's data and thinks it is misleading to say that the state is only looking at FPOM.

- TMDL on DWQ has been updated.

Watershed-Wide Updates:

- (Hilary Arens, DEQ) Public Draft of TMDL out for comment for 90 days (phase 1 TMDL). Comments and DWQ's responses to comments will be on website next week.
- (Chris Cline, USFWS) 90th South Restoration Project (going on since 1997). Have been working with the city. Will work to reintroduce the meander.
- (Scott Zeidler, Utah DNR, FFSL) Salt Lake County Open Space parcel restoration projects underway. White top removal spray has been completed. Impacts of Spruce Beetle-will definitely change the headwaters hydrology.