

Utah Lake Study Committee Meeting
April 28, 2005
Utah Lake State Park Visitor's Center Conference Room
4400 West Center, Provo, Utah

ATTENDEES:

Members

Mayor Randy Farnworth, Vineyard
Mayor E. Fritz Boyer, Springville
Mayor Burnell C. Evans, Payson
Mayor Tim Parker, Saratoga Springs
Mayor Jeff Acerson, Lindon
Larry Ellertson, Ut. County Commissioner
Merrill Bingham, for Mayor Billings, Provo
Quentin Francom, Genola

Other Interested Parties

Karl Kappe, Div. Of Forestry, Fire/State Lands
Bruce Chesnut, Orem (Technical Committee)
Reed Price, Orem (Technical Committee)
Chris Finlinson, CUP
Chris Keleher, JSRIP
Greg Beckstrom, Provo
Robert West, Provo
Chad Eccles

1. Mayor Farnworth welcomed the group and excused Mayor Billings. Introductions were made.
2. The minutes of the meeting of March 24, 2005, were approved as written.
3. **Wasatch Choices 2040 Planning Study, Ted Knowlton, Envision Utah.** This process is to address long range transportation planning for Utah County and is now a requirement for continued Federal funding for transportation issues.
 - New features include teaming up with the Wasatch Regional Council to include four counties in the study. Traditionally, design solutions center on the anticipated growth patterns. This study asks the questions first and then considers how the solution will impact growth patterns.
 - The goal is to look forward 40 years to see what life will be like in Utah County, especially as it involves land use and planning for transportation.
 - Various scenarios were used as a way to estimate what the future might be based on different land use and transportation options. This is the use of "crash test dummies" or prototypes to see what works and what doesn't. Thirteen public workshops were held (about 100 participants) to generate ideas for the varying scenarios for testing and to get a feeling of the public values for growth and transportation. The scenarios will be tested and then brought back to the public for discussion and input. The result will be a vision of the future, or a different set of growth patterns and goals for the future of the region, to be considered by the Wasatch Front Regional Council, Mountainlands and cities and counties.
 - Information from Utah County participants involved using a map showing land use, options for freeway improvements and light rail, and "stickers and chips" to represent different

developments, i.e., residential, commercial, etc. The maps can now be digitally compared to see common themes.

- The public feedback/information provided via the maps was compared in areas of freeway improvement, expressways (1/3 of the maps included at least one causeway across Utah Lake), light rail (strong support from Draper to State Street, also University Avenue and 800 North and between UVSC and BYU), bus rapid transit, average residential housing density, employment density, open space frequency, and dominant use.
- The feedback will be consolidated into scenarios for growth principles and will be presented at open houses in July and August for additional feedback. After that, a draft principles option will be presented to cities and counties for input in “fleshing out” the vision.

4. **Technical Committee Report: Bruce Chesnut.**

- The Technical Committee has been reviewing recreation uses of the Lake and water quality (TMDL) working with Dave Wham of the State. Progress on the TMDL studies is intentionally slow to insure the data is complete. The Technical Committee will establish a position paper on TMDL at some point this summer after meeting with the State in June.
- The initial “alarm” and “expense” impact associated with TMDL compliance has eased and the State is looking at new parameters. The Technical Committee and others will have input on the final results. The TMDL study will take two years or longer to complete.
- The County has burned and chemically treated the phragmites attempting to destroy it and has had no success. Extended flooding appears to be the only way to eliminate the grass which thrives on fluctuating lake levels.
- A review is under way addressing Lake level impacts on the June Sucker. The JSRIP is trying to figure out what happened on the Lake in its natural condition; mimicking those conditions would be best for the June Sucker. Restoring rooted aquatic vegetation will hopefully provide the habitat necessary for young fish survival.
- It is difficult to determine the cause of the reduction in frog numbers, but some factors are development on wetland habitat and predators.

5. **Utah Lake State Park Overview and Plans. Ty Hunter, Manager, Utah Lake State Park**

- The Visitor’s Center was completed in 2002, and the Utah Lake Exhibit in the lobby was completed in January, thanks to the JSRIP.
- Additional plans include completion of the Boating Safety room, building a kids activity center between the restrooms, off-highway vehicle safety information, fishing activities, etc.
- Their plan is to accommodate, as much as possible, public expectations of the park as reflected in the Resource Management Plan completed in 2001. Funding for projects is limited and they

have decided to do fewer projects to completion with available funding rather than trying to do everything partially. The south jetty realignment project was completed to protect the harbor from wave action and reduce dirt coming into the harbor from the Lake.

- Berms will be created around the trees in the campground to raise the roots above the water level to avoid “drowning” the trees.
- 23 shade shelters have been completed in the campground and an additional 22 shelters are planned.
- Additional shade shelters will also be provided for day-use only visitors.
- The restroom (which was covered with 3 feet of water in 1983) will be replaced by Fall. Portable restrooms will be provided until that time.
- A new fish cleaning station is planned and will have a three-phase system 440 volt grinder to accommodate disposal of all species in the Lake, including catfish.
- Bank stabilization around the Visitor’s Center is needed.
- Because of the higher water levels, increased visitation is expected this year. The average depth of the lake is now seven feet compared to four feet last year. An additional four feet of water in the harbor, which is a little over compromise, could be accommodated.
- Dredging along both basins is desired, but is yet unfunded. Mechanical dredging would cost about \$2 million.
- When the Visitor’s Center was built, the Park Service was guaranteed there would be no damage to the building if flood levels again reached the levels of 1983.

6. Other business and discussion.

The tentative date for the visit to the Bear Lake Regional Commission is June 8, 2005.

7. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 26, 2005, at 7:30 a.m. at the Central Utah Water Conservancy District Office, 355 West University Parkway, Orem, Utah.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Hunter noted the State Park is trying to organize a multi-jurisdictional lake emergency response team—medical and law enforcement—and encouraged cities around the Lake and Utah County to participate.