



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, August 20, 2012, 8:30 A.M.

Utah Lake State Park

4400 West Center Street, Provo, Utah 84601

ATTENDEES:

Chris Keleher, Chairman, Department of Natural Resources
Richard Nielson, Vice-Chairman, Utah County
Greg Beckstrom, Provo City
Neal Winterton, Orem City
Adam Cowie, Lindon City
Greg Flint, Santaquin City
Lee Hansen, Saratoga Springs City
Mike West, Lehi City
Ann Merrill, State Division of Water Resources

ATTENDEES:

Mike Mills, June Sucker Recovery
Reed Price, Utah Lake Commission
Sarah Sutherland, Central Utah Water Conservancy District

VISITORS:

Jim Price, Mountainland Association of Governments
Karen Nichols, HDR, Inc.
Larry Ballard, Citizen

ABSENT:

American Fork City, Mapleton City, Springville City, Vineyard Town, Woodland Hills Town, Utah State Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, Utah State Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Utah Lake Water Users

1 **1. Welcome.**

2 Vice-Chairman Richard Nielsen called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. He noted the absence of
3 Chairman Chris Keleher. He welcomed the Technical Committee members and all visitors and asked
4 everyone introduced him or herself.
5

6 **2. Review and approve minutes from the April 23, 2012 meeting.**

7 Mr. Nielsen asked for discussion, comments, or corrections for the minutes of the meeting held on
8 April 23, 2012. There weren't any. It was motioned by Mr. Greg Beckstrom to approve the minutes; and it
9 was seconded by Mr. Lee Hansen. The motion carried and the minutes were unanimously approved.
10

11 **3. Reports and discussion on various Utah Lake issues.**

12 **a. Invasive Species:**

13 **i. Carp** -- A planning meeting with key decision-makers in the Carp Removal Program (CRP) was
14 held a few weeks prior. Funding for the carp removal process has been sustained through grants as well
15 matching funds from the Endangered Species Mitigation fund. CRP is trying to broaden the sources of
16 funding with the legislature as a key place to contact. A key group of stakeholders will work with the

1 business community to develop a plan of how to best approach the legislature with a solid plan to where
2 they would recognize a need for continual funding of the carp removal program. There is currently a grant
3 request through a federal agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, for a fish processing facility. The harvested
4 carp would be produced into fish meal and used as a high protein supplement put into all sorts of animal
5 feed. The goal is to work with Utah Valley Chamber, Economic Development Corporation of Utah, and
6 other business members to create the best business strategy to approach the legislature for continual
7 funding with a focus on carp. The overall goal is to sell the legislature on restoring the Utah Lake
8 ecosystem, which is a multi-faceted approach, including invasive species, water quality issues, etc. – carp as
9 the driving force behind the goal.

10 Mr. Mills said 8.5 million pounds of carp have been removed since beginning. During the summer
11 months, inventory of fish species was taken around the lake to get relative abundance and provide
12 information if any progress has been made in terms of carp numbers. No current results are reported.
13 Removal has continued all summer but is slower in the summer than in the winter/fall periods.

14 Mr. Beckstrom asked if summer carp removal improved with the lake level down. He felt with the
15 lower elevation, fishing opportunities might improve. Mr. Mills said no, but there may be improvements
16 this fall. At present, compromise level is 2.5 feet below the required level.

17 Mr. Hansen asked about approaching USTAR for matching funding for the fishmeal facility. The state
18 gives grants to get businesses started in the state, it is run out of the Governor's office, and might be a
19 good approach for the specified purpose. Mr. Mills said he would ask them. JSRIP works with the
20 Economic Development Corporation of Utah. A lot of small business loans and grants are available for
21 communities, but they didn't qualify for those. Mr. Robyn Pearson with DNR, who is more business savvy
22 than the biologists, has been leading the effort trying to access more business-type grants.

23 Mr. Adam Cowie asked if the study JSRIP is working on would help determine the current production of
24 any natural recurrence of the carp and if records were being kept. Mr. Mills said yes. They had an idea of
25 how many carp were in the lake for a baseline, and what the abundance of those were compared to the
26 other species. During the summer, seining was done all over the lake to get an idea if abundances have
27 changed. The analyzed information with numbers should be completed by the end of the year. Initially the
28 goal was to remove five million pounds a year to keep up with production. A lot of fish has been removed,
29 but never five million pounds in one calendar year. The new numbers will indicate if progress has been
30 made, if carp is getting more healthy and/or gaining momentum. Mr. Cowie asked if it could lead to
31 changes. Mr. Mills said it would lead to changes no matter what. It is a good opportunity to get back
32 information to see if a difference was being made.

33 **ii. Phragmites** -- The phragmites removal team (PRT) has focused on removal for the past two
34 weeks. A lot of media coverage has been reported on the removal. Mr. Price pointed out the treatment
35 areas on a map and the removal achievements. He explained the three-year phragmites removal process
36 started in 2008. The pilot project area began at the Lindon Marina and went south to Vineyard Center
37 Street, totaling about 150 acres. The phragmites was growing upland and out into the lake by 100 yards.
38 The first year an aquatic-rated herbicide called AquaNeat was sprayed. The active ingredient is glyphosate,
39 the same active ingredient found in Roundup. It is a nonselective herbicide and when treating according to
40 the label kills the reeds. After the area was treated, an 80 percent kill was expected and received. Dead
41 reeds were left behind and they needed to be removed. The easiest way to remove was by burning with
42 the right wind/weather conditions. A couple of test locations along the area were completed with success
43 with one time but not the other. (It was tough to burn out onto the water.) Another way to get rid of the
44 mass is to smash it down closer to the earth. The lake would then come over it, which speeds up the
45 process. The third way is to leave it alone and let Mother Nature take its course, by slow biodegradation.
46 All methods were used in this area and all three were successful, Mother Nature being the best -- ice flows
47 came in, pushed right up to the edge of the shore, and knocked everything over. Shoreline restoration
48 efforts have been started with a visible beach and lakeshore access.

1 The second area started in September 2011 was 250 acres in Saratoga Springs from the outlet of the
2 Jordan River to the bay with a helicopter spraying the area. Spring revealed it was an effective spray. Over
3 80 percent was destroyed using the helicopter. A 50-foot buffer area is because PRT doesn't want the
4 helicopter to get too close to the homes. There was some regrowth as expected after the first year of
5 treatment. The county crews have it on their schedule to go in and retreat the regrowth this fall.

6 Another concern with the proximity of the phragmites growth to homes was the fire hazard. Mr. Jim
7 Cross, of Cross Marines, came in and created a fire break of 50 to 100 feet right next to the homes for more
8 protection. Mr. J. Price asked what Cross Marines did. Mr. Price said they had a Marsh Master, a much
9 larger machine, drive over the top of the phragmites and smash it down to create a break.

10 Mr. Hansen asked if PRT was planning on doing anything said from the Saratoga Springs boat harbor,
11 running north along the fence next to the trail. Mr. Price said they would be treating it in the fall. Mr.
12 Hansen said at the Inlet Park, a county park, an empty field is located there. He asked what the county
13 plans to do with the land. Mr. Nielson said they were not improving the land, except spraying it.

14 Mr. Price explained two grants were received through the Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI), a
15 legislature-fund to help restore the watershed. The first was for \$35,000 to treat the project area. PRT
16 expanded the area and requested \$60,000 to treat a larger acreage through the WRI funds. It is designated
17 for the Utah Lake State Park and north with the county trail that goes along the lake. When the Technical
18 Committee met last time, the funding was unsure. But, they received the monies and treatment of 750
19 acres was finished. Second, Department of Ag funds would be available through a competitive grant and
20 PRT applied for the funds. About \$113,000 was received to treat 750 acres between the Jordan River and
21 the Lindon Boat Harbor. The grant funds allow the PRT to hire crews needed to get the work completed.

22 Mr. Larry Ballard asked if the Watershed Restoration was Federal money. Mr. Price said WRI and the
23 Department of Agriculture was state money. Treatment will have begun and/or been completed between
24 Saratoga Bay to Vineyard, about 25 miles of shoreline, then along Provo Airport and into Provo Bay, with
25 total acreage to about 2000 acres. This ambitious project was achieved thanks to the county crews.

26 A second Land Tamer was co-purchased with Central Utah Water Conservancy District. The second
27 vehicle allows the county to feel safe when working on the phragmites and can complete more work of
28 smashing and spraying.

29 Mr. Beckstrom asked what the observations are in terms of treatment being past the three-year mark
30 in the pilot area. Mr. Price said two small patches have popped up and PRT will retreat them; they can stay
31 on top of regrowth by retreating it. In the future, when it is knocked down, and assuming PRT is successful,
32 it will take a few days to go around the lake to assure everything is retreated. Phragmites quickly spreads
33 and has a strong rhizome system. Mr. Beckstrom had questions concerning treatment occurring around
34 the airport. Mr. Aaron Eagar was looking for support in maintenance on the back roads. Mr. Price
35 understood from Mr. Eagar when he left a meeting that Provo didn't want to do anything to deter people
36 from accessing the area. Mr. Beckstrom said that was the desire, but he wanted to get with Mr. Eagar and
37 discuss the phragmites efforts. Mr. Price will speak with Mr. Eagar and ask him to contact Mr. Beckstrom
38 to resolve the matter.

39 Mr. Cowie said the removal of vegetation, debris, and sediment along the Lindon shoreline, caused
40 erosion. He was concerned if treating 1500 acres all at once around the lake would affect the ecosystem.
41 Mr. Price said no, it shouldn't affect the ecosystem. The first erosion was primarily due to the high lake
42 level last year. The new areas being treated should not upset the ecosystem, as it is a different
43 environment than the Lindon area. Mr. Cowie said people were asking what happened at the beach, as it
44 was just mud. However, after 1.5 years, there is some vegetation returning. Mr. Price said the
45 decomposing of the phragmites, as well letting Mother Nature take her course, created the mud. He heard
46 the same complaint as well pertaining to the sediment level as it grows and dies. A peat bog would be
47 created over the years if nothing were done. By stopping the phragmites, the organic matter should

1 decrease now the phragmites is gone. Mr. Hansen said native vegetation would return. Mr. Price said
2 quite a bit of vegetation has returned in some of the areas, i.e., hard stem bulrush and other species.

3 **Mr. Keleher arrived at the meeting at 9:05 and conducted the remainder of the meeting.**

4 **b. Transportation:**

5 *i. Westside Connector* -- Mr. Beckstrom said the Westside Connector is the road to be
6 constructed between University Avenue I-15 interchange connecting the entrance to the Provo Airport.
7 The project contract has been awarded for the final design. There have been ongoing 404 permitting
8 discussions with the Army Corps of Engineers. He understood a proposed permit with a number of
9 conditions had been given. The city has asked for modifications on a few of the conditions. A response to
10 the city's letter requesting modification on the 404 conditions is at the end of the month. At that time, the
11 final determination will be made and a permit will be issued. No significant construction will occur over the
12 next six to eight months, unless it is minimal grading work where the connection will be made to the
13 University Avenue interchange and after I-Core projects wraps up.

14 A combination of funding for the project came from state, regional, and local levels. Final funding has
15 not been finalized. It should be a two-lane road to the airport and probably a full road width extending
16 over to 5th West or 11th West in Provo. The actual nature of the initial construction will depend upon the
17 finalization of the design. Mr. Nielsen asked if the concept drawing had a trail on the lake side of the road,
18 and if it was included in the first phase. Mr. Beckstrom said the two-lane road would be the southerly two
19 lanes of the alignment when it is constructed. When the construction is completed with the road, it will
20 include the trail work. There will be a minimum of two-lane road including the trail and other amenities.
21 Mr. Price asked if funding for the road was from the I-core project. Mr. Beckstrom said part of it was
22 coming from the state.

23 Mr. Keleher asked how the land acquisition was progressing and if private lands were required. Mr.
24 Beckstrom said yes. The main reason land acquisition has not been pursued more aggressively was
25 determining the land acquisition requirements associated with it.

26 **c. Outreach:**

27 *i. Fishing Tournament* -- The Utah Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau (UVCVB) was approached
28 by FLW Outdoors, a large fishing company. UVCVB then contacted Utah Lake Commission for support and
29 to co-host a bass fishing tournament. Utah Lake Commission felt it would be a good idea and pursued the
30 venture to spotlight the lake. Bass fishing is quite a popular sport in the south and the east. Two variances
31 were needed in order to have a successful tournament. First, was a variance to the current regulation of
32 removing more than one fish greater than 12 inches. Second, were restrictions taking live fish off site. FLW
33 usually holds off-site weigh-ins and wanted to hold it at the Walmart, who is a corporate sponsor, for the
34 tournament. The Orem location would host the weigh-ins. The two variances needed were granted.

35 The Western Region Collegiate finals at Utah Lake will be held on August 30, 31, and September 1.
36 Twenty teams will be coming and they will fish for two days. The top five winners during the two days will
37 advance to the finals on the last day, and add to their first two-day total. The winner gets a \$50,000 boat
38 for their club. The second and third place winners get cash awards. The tournament is nationally televised
39 with film crews going out when they fish and then editing an hour-long feature to air in late Fall.

40 Another item of interest is the UVU Bass Club was formed in November 2011. Earlier in the year, they
41 entered several competitions and won two FLW tournaments, which are qualifying events. This is an
42 opportunity to showcase the lake and let people know bass fishing is good. Mr. J. Price asked how they
43 decided on Utah. Mr. Price said it was the first time a Utah team had shown up to their qualifying events.
44 The UVU Bass Club was asked where the team fished and they answered Utah Lake. Mr. Price didn't want
45 to embarrass Utah Lake on national TV, and questioned the wisdom of holding a bass fishing tournament.
46 He was shown pictures of largemouth bass in the lake and was assured it could work. A few episodes he
47 watched showed a few teams always outshine others. Ten teams come back after two days of fishing with
48 only a fish or two, and are not as good as those who end up winning. The benefit outweighs the risk. They

1 are operating out the Utah Lake State Park. It will be broadcast nationwide and worldwide on the NBC
2 Sports Channel. The lake level has been below compromise and Mr. Ty Hunter assured FLW it is okay.

3 Mr. Hansen asked if Utah Lake Commission could get rights to the tournament filming for advertising
4 purposes. Mr. Price said he would have to read through the contract for the benefits received. Links to
5 their advertising and website with follow up articles will be obtained. Mr. Mills asked if there were
6 matching funds. Mr. Price said initially in February, they wanted local funds of \$30,000. He was not sure
7 what partners could obtain that much money. As discussion progressed, there was a sense of desperation
8 in the timing and scheduling. The requested amount went from \$30,000 to \$10,000, which was more
9 palatable. One of the reasons they decreased the amount was moving the weigh-ins initially from BYU who
10 charged to Walmart where it is free and they had significant savings. The Utah Lake Commission budgeted
11 and committed \$10,000. An application for a grant with the Utah Sports Commission gave \$5,000 and
12 UVCVB donated \$1,000. The \$10,000 is well invested money for the local and national exposure. A press
13 release will be given to the local media to get them excited. The ongoing exposure will bring people who
14 are interested in fishing to Utah and the Lake. It should be a fun event.

15 There is also an educational component, which is good. Mr. Scott Root, Division of Wildlife Resources,
16 will be going with a few of the professional fishermen to schools to teach about fishing.

17 Mr. Beckstrom asked who was doing the press releases and advertising on the event. Mr. Price said
18 Utah Lake Commission was with the UVCVB. FLW has a team of PR who provide information. He just
19 received a press release on Friday and will be getting it out to the local media. The UVU team has been
20 spotlighted. A few stories have been done on the Bass Club through KSL Outdoors and other sports
21 programs. Mr. Hansen said it ran in the local newspapers also.

22 **ii. National Parks Service Grant** -- An application opportunity was made known to Mr. Price to
23 apply for a grant through the National Park Service. Staff members are devoted to promoting recreational
24 opportunities and understanding the natural resources in the various regions around the country. There
25 are two grant program employees in the Salt Lake Office, who act as consultants for worthy projects
26 selected to promote recreation and understanding of natural resources. In talking to them, they focused
27 on trails. Mr. Price recommended a nature/research center close to the lake as well trails. It would be tied
28 into the regional-wide trail system and they were keen on that idea.

29 He worked with Ms. Marcy Demillion, Salt Lake National Park Service Grants, to write up the
30 application. He requested different support letters from government and private organizations for the
31 nature center and research facility. That grant was submitted at the end of July and announcements will be
32 given in a few months. If Utah Lake Commission is selected, a process will begin to put the project on
33 paper. Then other partners will be approached (state agencies, legislature, or private companies) to bring
34 the goal to fruition. The National Park Service would act as consultant to bring it together and have
35 discussions to determine the location, what it would contain, how it would tie in with the trail system, etc.
36 Once it is obtained, the next year they would work with MAG, the county, and others on solidifying the lake
37 trail that goes all the way around the lake. At this time, the area between the Provo River Parkway Trail
38 and the Jordan River Parkway trail is defined. Mr. Nielsen said the alignment and wetland delineation is
39 established in the areas, but part of it would be determined by the Provo River delta, as the segment from
40 Provo to Powell Slough could change. Mr. Price said it was a good opportunity and he would keep the
41 committee posted on progress of the grant.

42 Mr. Beckstrom said he felt it was a great idea. He asked if a dollar figure was included as the concept
43 unfolds. Mr. Price said it is just a concept proposal and no dollar figure is attached to it, and nothing in the
44 grant asked for it.

45 **iii. Lesson Plans** – The state adopted a new core curriculum. The existing lesson plans for 4th and
46 7th grades were tweaked with a consulting teacher during the summer to be more compatible with the new
47 core standards. The plans should be finalized soon to give to the teachers so they can use them during the
48 school year. They are up to date reflecting the core changes. Mr. Ballard asked what some of the changes

1 were. Mr. Price said identifying how the new concepts were worded, taking the old language out, and
2 putting the new language in. These were primarily in language arts and math. Social studies and science
3 didn't change, but may in the future. Some lesson plans didn't fit in the fourth grade anymore as those
4 concepts were moved to a different grade level. Mr. Ballard asked if the objectives changed. Mr. Price said
5 no, the objectives were much the same, but some were tweaked to make them more compatible with the
6 new core.

7 Mr. Beckstrom asked about the demand for field trips, and if they would continue to be funded. Mr.
8 Price said the Commission supplemented transportation for the field trips. It is anticipated there will be an
9 increased demand next year. This year went to three days and almost 1000 students, up from 600 students
10 the year before. A similar increase is again expected but classes will possibly be turned away secondary to
11 demand. Mr. Beckstrom said he felt it was a strong part of the program and they were popular. Mr. Price
12 said they were held at the Utah Lake State Park with 12 different stations where kids learn more about the
13 lesson plans taught in classrooms. The students rotate around to six different stations and learn about
14 invasive species, (carp removal and phragmites), macro invertebrates found in Utah Lake, sailing, casting a
15 fishing line, history of Utah Lake, wildlife, birds, raptors, etc. It is a fun program requiring a lot of planning.
16 It has been successful and it is rewarding to participate in it, and teachers and students appreciate it.

17 Mr. Hansen asked to be kept informed of the progress on the trails projects, lesson plans, etc. to help
18 him in connection with the Boy Scout project he is working on. Mr. Price agreed he would.

19 **d. Water Quality:** Mr. Dave Wham was to report but with no update the agenda item was tabled.

20 **e. Dock Review Process:** Ms. Laura Ault replied FFSL had met with Saratoga Springs City Council, who
21 has expressed an interest in allowing docks. This was after a nine-month moratorium ended August 1.
22 FFSL expressed concerns and issues they identified, especially with the low water level. No other update is
23 available, but the state is still reviewing the process and no decisions have been made. They are seeking
24 feedback from Saratoga Springs City, which is the main driving force.

25
26 **4. Other discussion items.**

27 Mr. Keleher asked if there were any additional items to be discussed.

28 Mr. Hansen said a locked gate ran across the trail on the north end of the lake where the Saratoga
29 Springs well is located. Mr. Nielsen said it was at the end of the pavement. The trail had been roughed in
30 east of the gate, but the trail didn't connect to the Loch Lomond subdivision, as a few properties had not
31 consented to a right-of-way. When permissions are obtained, then the trail will be continued. Saratoga
32 Springs has applied for funding through Mountainlands for this purpose.

33 Mrs. Green offered copies of two separate brochures for access points on the Lake.
34

35 **5. Confirm that the next meeting will be held in Suite 212 of the Historic Utah County Courthouse on**
36 **Monday, September 24, 2012 at 8:30 AM.**

37 Mr. Keleher reminded the committee their next meeting will be held in Suite 212 of the Historic Utah
38 County Courthouse on Monday, September 24, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

39
40 **Adjourn.**

41 Mr. Keleher adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m. After adjournment, Mr. Price took several members of
42 the Technical Committee on a tour of the phragmites treatment areas from the Utah Lake State Park and
43 ended at the Vineyard beach area.