

Approved



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 10:00 AM

Electronic meeting via Zoom

ATTENDEES:

Kari Malkovich, Vice Chair, Woodland Hills
Scott Daly, Chair, DWQ
Reed Price, Orem
Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission
Sullivan Love, Vineyard
Mike Rau, CUWCD
Morgan Faulkner, FFSL
Mike Mills, JSRIP
Chris Keleher, DNR
Todd Munger, Lehi
Josh Holt, State Parks
Shellie Turnbow, Provo
Travis Jockmunsen, Payson
Sarah Carroll, Saratoga Springs

Jesse Stewart, Utah Water Users

VISITORS:

Sam Braegger, Utah Lake Commission
Renn Lambert, Limnotech
Russ Franklin, JSRIP
Ryan VanGoetham, SePro
Scott Shuler, SePro
Jared Penrod
Jeff DenBleyker, Jacobs

ABSENT: Alpine, American Fork, Cedar Hills, DWR (Aquatics), DWR (Habitat), Highland, Lindon, Salem, Springville, Utah County

1. Welcome and introductions

Chair Daly called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Review and approve minutes from the June 17, 2020 meeting

- A. Chair Daly asked for a motion to approve the June 17, 2020 minutes. Kari Malkovich made a motion to approve the minutes. Sullivan Love seconded. Voting was unanimous in favor of approving the minutes.

3. Water Quality Study; Discuss Management Goals Table – Scott Daly

- A. Review Rough Draft Management Goals: Scott summarized the work on developing the management goals for the lake. He also reviewed the high-level charge questions that provide the direction for the study. The Science Panel has assessed the information, modeling, etc. available to get responses to those questions and also identified data gaps that need to be filled to answer those questions. The goals are in keeping with the

1 designated beneficial uses of Utah Lake. He went over a few examples of those goals, demonstrating the process
2 in setting the goals. Some of the goals don't have targets listed yet, which is because those targets will be
3 determined during the research portion of the Utah Lake Water Quality Study. The management goals
4 document came about because the Steering Committee and Science Panel felt there was a need for more
5 specific goals and end points for the lake that the Science Panel could evaluate throughout the process. Scott
6 described the process of the development of the management goals document. Scott then displayed and
7 described the table of the goals and strategic research plan to fill those data gaps and walked the Technical
8 Committee briefly through the list of goals. He highlighted what the Science Panel decided they could provide
9 input on with already completed research, as well as the data gaps that needed to be filled. To wrap up, Scott
10 talked next steps. Assuming the Utah Lake Commission Governing Board supports the management goals, the
11 next steps are: incorporate the management goals into the study framework document, cross check the
12 measures and continue with the evaluation of data and information as described by the strategic research plan.
13 The hope is initiate some of the next steps in the work plan, ex. developing watershed models, management
14 scenarios, evaluation of costs, etc. The Committee requested Scott's slides and the documents. ULC staff will
15 send out after the meeting. Vice Chair Malkovich thanked Scott for his efforts to share the information with the
16 Committee.

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18 **4. ULC Director's updates on Utah Lake issues, projects, and priorities**

19 A. Eric Ellis:

- 20 i. Lake Level: water levels are down to about 3 feet below full. Water outlook doesn't look awesome. Mike
21 Rau from CUWCD added that the lake levels bottomed out in October, end of irrigation season at 3.2 ft
22 below full; it is now a little less than 3 ft below full. Deer Creek and Jordanelle are both around 70% full.
23 Ok position for reservoir levels, but snow will be needed this winter, so far it's almost the worst start to
24 the water year in a long time.
- 25 ii. Walkara Way Project: pilot study area fencing is being installed now along the edge of Sleepy Ridge golf
26 course. Funding secured for the majority of the fencing, hopefully springtime cattle will start grazing.
27 ULC staff took Commissioner-elect Tom Sakievich out to tour the project, and he is a big supporter of
28 the project and the lake as a whole. The Commission is working with Representative Brady Brammer on
29 a legislative request to finalize the remaining needed funding to complete the project. Phase 1 trails
30 were funded this year through MAG.
- 31 iii. Trail Funding, 2023 MAG: \$4 million grant to cover trailheads at the ends of the trail in Vineyard and
32 Orem, a bridge or two where needed, etc. Eric described those trail heads. There is another section that
33 was also funded in the 2023 funding cycle; from Timpanogos Special Service District all the way to the
34 west to where the existing lakeshore trail terminates at the North Shore Park in Lehi, close to 5 miles of
35 trail.
- 36 iv. Utah County Tourism Funding for Improvements: Eric summarized the Commission efforts to secure the
37 funding. At the most recent Utah County Commission meeting, all three projects were solidified and
38 contracts signed to roll out over the next three years. The Vineyard project will commence immediately,
39 the Saratoga Springs project will start about a year from now and American Fork will follow that in 2023.
40 This way, it spreads the projects out and makes consistent improvements to the lake.
- 41 v. Phragmites Work: Eric displayed the shoreline soils assessment story map, created this year, which
42 everyone can use. The map shows soil makeup around the entire shoreline. The Commission will use it
43 with the WRI application and shoreline restoration planning work, to reseed areas that will be most
44 effective and clear areas that should be beaches that aren't beneficial for wetland restoration. Link was
45 provided to the Committee.
- 46 vi. Safety on Utah Lake
- 47 i. Life jacket loaner program: kicked off earlier this year. 190 life jackets and \$1700 donated to
48 help start the program. Lots of news mentions and online on social media. Over the winter

1 months, the Commission is working on what the stations will look like with the families and the
2 marinas. The program should be implemented come spring.

- 3 vii. A Committee member inquired about cattle and manure in the lake from the Walkara Way project. Eric
4 provided more detail. First, no additional feed material will be brought onsite, so anything being eaten
5 will be from the shoreline, so no additional nutrients are brought in and will utilize the phosphorus being
6 taken up by the phragmites and then eaten by the cows, reducing amount entering lake. Second, there
7 will be a west fence line along the water line preventing the cows from entering the water.
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9 **5. Algae Treatment Pilot Study Report -- SePro (Ryan VanGoetham and Scott Shuler)**

- 10 A. Ryan and Scott presented on the treatments done at Lincoln Beach and Utah Lake State Park. They reported on
11 what they did, what they learned and what they recommend moving forward. They reported on what their
12 treatment regimen included, i.e. three treatments, utilizing SeClear, Pac 27 and Phoslock, etc. They successfully
13 controlled cyanobacteria with each treatment. They provided additional details on each treatment, i.e. time
14 frames, before/after photos, recorded measurements for improvement in water clarity, etc. What they learned:
15 they effectively reduced cyanobacteria levels inside the marinas, longevity will be variable but better at larger
16 scale, treatments will have a negligible risk to humans and the environment at Utah Lake. 1 pound of
17 phosphorus can support 500 pounds of algae growth in most systems. A lot of phosphorus creates a lot of
18 potential for algae growth. Utah Lake has high loading of nutrients, as well as historic nutrients trapped in the
19 lakebed.
20 B. Scott Shuler covered the recommendations moving forward. Algaecides are a viable short-term solution. They
21 are proven around the country and the world. Longer term, there needs to be improvements to the watershed
22 management and nutrient sources as well as efforts to mitigate the phosphorus in the sediments of the lake
23 bed. Large scale algaecide program could be implemented; treating 30-50% of the lake at times, during peak
24 bloom conditions, treated in bands, likely 3-5 treatments in a season, \$1-3 million a year to control the algae.
25 Another possibility could be intensive management with algaecides at marinas and public beaches. Phoslock
26 would be a good product for Utah Lake, binding with the phosphorus without impacting water quality; creates a
27 permanent bond with the phosphorus. Proposed in situ trials with phoslock sites around the lake, to test the
28 product further within Utah Lake. Utah Lake has a lot of potential and SePro has technology that could help in
29 the efforts to improve it. Board members asked a few questions to clarify the report and the technologies used.
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31 **6. Communications – Sam Braegger**

- 32 A. Website Improvements: Sam thanked CUWCD for providing access to live water level data that will be displayed
33 on UtahLakeCommission.org, check out the new water levels page. Lindon Marina now has a live camera feed to
34 add to the Utah Lake State Park feed so that residents can view lake conditions. MAG has updated the lake Trail
35 plan map to include the public access points, at the request of one of the ULC Technical Committee.
36 B. Update: The Adopt a Shoreline program in 2020 went from 27 adoptable access points, all 27 were adopted; to
37 now 45 areas are adoptable (public access points, sections of trail and a few city parks along the waterline) and
38 41 of those 45 are now adopted and being cared for. Sam also shared some statistics demonstrating the
39 accomplishments of the program. Eric added that the live data from CUWCD is also used on the Commission
40 website to have an updated water levels chart to show historic levels from 1884 to present for viewing.
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42 **7. JSRIP Update – Mike Mills**

- 43 A. Mike Mills had a few slides on updates. He summarized the carp removal efforts in recent years. In 2020, they
44 formed the Carp Task Force with all relevant organizations to plan out next approach for addressing carp, testing
45 new gear, changing areas, and researching new technologies and control strategies from across the world. In
46 2021, adult carp removal will continue. Mike also spoke about the Provo River Delta Restoration project. He
47 summarized the project for the committee. Project progress since the start in March 2020 has been really good,
48 accomplishing more, faster than anticipated, mostly due to dry conditions. Focus has been on excavation of
49 channels and ponds. Project website is a great location for regular updates. Mike displayed the timeline map

1 showing which areas are done and which are coming next. Revegetation work has also begun. Northern pike has
2 potential of impacting the fish community. In 2020, JSRIP and DWR completed a control strategy document to
3 address pike problem proactively, focus right now has been on telemetry tags on pike to track their movements
4 and develop a monitoring and control effort strategy. JSRIP is still anticipating the US Fish and Wildlife to
5 downlist the endangered June sucker to move it do threatened status. Should be hearing very soon on the
6 outcome, demonstrating the success of the program. Not much will change on the workload, because the goal is
7 to completely recover the species and get it fully removed from the protection under the Endangered Species
8 Act. Mike explained that Russ Franklin will be replacing him at CUWCD as the program coordinator for the JSRIP
9 and Mike will now work with the Mitigation Commission. Scott raised the possibility of the tour of the delta
10 project site in the spring for the Technical Committee.

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12 **8. General comments from the committee members and the public**

- 13 A. Sullivan Love, updated the committee that Vineyard City removed the tourism grant and is quickly moving
14 forward with plans to improve the shoreline in their area, get contracts implemented to start work, etc.
15 Vineyard Beach has cleanup of the weeds and sand ongoing.
16 B. Jeff DenBleyker, he is working with TSSD, they will be issuing an RFP for the in situ studies next year to look at
17 potential ideas for long-term restoration of the lake. They want to hire some researchers by next spring.

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19 **9. Confirm next meeting time**

20 The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

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22 **10. Adjourn.**

23 The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 AM.