

APPROVED



Governing Board

Thursday, December 10, 2020, 7:30 A.M.

Electronic Meeting held via Zoom

ATTENDEES:

Brad Frost, Chair, American Fork
 Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission
 Erica Gaddis, DWQ
 Brian Cottam, FFSL
 Michelle Kaufusi, Provo
 Laurie Backus, State Parks and Recreation
 Kari Malkovich, Woodland Hills
 Chris Finlinson, CUWCD
 Lon Lott, Alpine
 Chris Condie, Lehi
 Denise Andersen, Cedar Hills
 Brittney Bills, Highland
 Jeff Lambson, Orem
 Craig Jensen, Vice-Chair, Springville
 Tyce Flake, Vineyard
 Brian Hulet, Payson
 Chris Carn, Saratoga Springs
 Keir Scoubes, Spanish Fork

INTERESTED PARTIES / VISITORS:

Sam Braegger, Utah Lake Commission
 Jamie Barnes, FFSL
 Cory Pierce, Spanish Fork
 Soren Simonsen, Jordan River Commission
 Rich Mickelson, TSSD
 Renn Lambert, Limnotech
 Todd Frye, Bonneville Sailing
 Scott Schuler, SePro
 Ryan VanGoetham, SePro
 Shellie Turnbow, Provo
 Scott Daly, DWQ
 John Mackey, DWQ
 Kim Struthers, Lehi
 Mike Mills, JSRIP
 Laverie Merritt
 Jodi Garberg, DWQ
 Todd Stonely

MEMBERS NOT EXPECTED TO ATTEND: Utah House of Representatives, Utah Senate

ABSENT: DNR, Lindon City, Salem City, Utah County,

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1. Welcome and Call to Order

A. Vice-Chair Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:38 A.M. and welcomed everyone. He did a roll call to confirm attendance.

2. Action Items **delayed until later in the meeting, to achieve a quorum.*

A. Review & Approve Previous Meeting Minutes: Vice-Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2020 Governing Board meeting. Denise Anderson made a motion to approve, and Kari Malkovich seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of approving the minutes.

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- 1 B. Review & Approve Monthly Budget Reports Sep – Nov 2020: Eric briefly summarized the reports. HE
- 2 mentioned the soils assessment and the algae treatments expenses. Vice-Chair Jensen asked for a
- 3 motion to approve the Monthly Budget Reports Sep – Nov 2020. Lon Lott made a motion to approve,
- 4 and Chris Carn seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of approving the minutes.
- 5 C. *ULWQS recommendation action item vote will be after the DWQ presentation, later in the meeting
- 6 D. Approve 2021 Meeting Schedule- Vice-Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the 2021 meeting
- 7 schedule. Keir Scoubes made a motion to approve, and Chris Condie seconded the motion. Voting was
- 8 unanimous in favor of approving the minutes.

9 **3. Executive Director’s Project Report- Eric Ellis**

- 10 A. Walkara Way Status- Fencing: the project got a bump in funding, fencing has started along the Sleepy
- 11 Ridge golf course. Eric described the fencing and boundaries. Commission staff met with
- 12 Commissioner-elect Tom Sakievich and discuss the project. He mentioned several times that Utah
- 13 Lake is a priority for him.
- 14 B. Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation- UORG Workshop: 2021 grant season is kicking off. Three different
- 15 grants available, Eric provided a summary of each. The lake has a couple planned projects that may fit
- 16 the regional grant offering. The Commission would love to work with any city’s that want to apply.
- 17 Application details will be sent out to the Board after the meeting.
- 18 C. Shoreline Soils Assessment: the story map has been created and will be available to anyone
- 19 interested. It has all 150 points around the lake that were tested for soil attributes. The data will be
- 20 used to guide restoration of the shoreline and enhance recreation access. Lake Restoration Solutions
- 21 plans to help with restoration work on the lake. They plan to purchase an additional Marsh Master
- 22 and chip in some funding for the shoreline restoration efforts of the Commission and County.
- 23 D. Utah County Tourism Funding for Utah Lake Projects: Eric recapped the status of the funding for the
- 24 three projects (Vineyard, American Fork and Saratoga Springs cities). The Commission has worked
- 25 with the County Commission to finalize the contracts on all three projects. Vineyard will be first, then
- 26 Saratoga Springs and then American Fork city, all over the next few years. *At this point in the
- 27 meeting, Vice-Chair Jensen returned to item 2 on the agenda, as a quorum was present for approval of
- 28 action items.

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30 **4. JSRIP Update – Mike Mills**

- 31 A. Mike started by providing background on the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program (JSRIP)
- 32 and its work to restore the June Sucker over the last few decades. June sucker recovery efforts are an
- 33 important step in progressing in the Central Utah Project to provide sufficient drinking water to
- 34 residents. Carp removal has been very successful, by removing carp in large quantities research
- 35 showed underwater vegetation could return to Utah Lake. Since 2010, over 30 million pounds have
- 36 been removed. JSRIP plans to continue removing adult carp, target the younger carp that have
- 37 avoided the commercial fishing efforts, stay involved in research of innovative ideas to further target
- 38 carp, etc.
- 39 B. The Provo River Delta Restoration Project began construction in 2020, designed to restore Provo River
- 40 connection with Utah Lake, providing habitat for the endangered June sucker and other fish species to
- 41 mature. Mike summarized the project for the Board. Project has made good progress in 2020. Mike
- 42 displayed a map and explained the work that has been completed and planned next steps. The hope is
- 43 for excavation of the delta to wrap up by end of 2022.
- 44 C. Downlisting ruling – the June sucker is under consideration to be downlisted by US Fish and Wildlife,
- 45 moving the status from endangered to threatened. In the history of the Endangered Species Act, there
- 46 have only been 4 species of fish that have been downlisted, June sucker would be the 5th. The program
- 47 doesn’t want to stop there, but continue towards full recovery of the species.
- 48 D. Mike added that he has accepted a position with the Utah Reclamation and Mitigation and
- 49 Conservation Commission and Russ Franklin will take over with the JSRIP. A question about how the
- 50 Provo River Delta would help with the recovery of the JSRIP. Mike explained that it is key. Their efforts

1 so far have stocked population well, but the population doesn't survive reproducing in the wild. The
2 delta project provides the habitat that is currently lacking to provide a safe location for natural
3 recruitment of the species.
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5 **5. DWQ Report – Erica Gaddis**

6 A. Utah Lake Water Quality Study – Management Goals Framework

- 7 a. Erica explained that the presentation is a summary of the water quality management goals
8 that the study Steering Committee has been preparing for the last several months. It sets the
9 direction of the water quality study to provide answers for the priority questions and goals of
10 the study. It focuses on the three primary uses of the lake: aquatic life, recreation and
11 agricultural water. She outlined the process of developing these management goals up to this
12 point. She explained in further detail how the various goals matched up with the three
13 primary water uses. They will ensure that the study outcomes are protective of the water
14 downstream in the Jordan River.
- 15 b. She then displayed a table showing a few examples of the goals and how they are structured,
16 i.e. goal, target, the measures, where the target is sourced from (EPA guidance, existing water
17 quality standards, etc.). She reviewed the factors contributing to algae blooms: nutrient loads,
18 temperatures and water clarity/levels. Nutrient loading is the factor that can be most directly
19 controlled. The outcomes of the study will have a range of scenarios from the Science Panel,
20 that will consider costs, time and level of desired improvement. The study will evaluate
21 tradeoffs, evaluating the costs of the various implementation scenarios and the benefits
22 associated with each one as well.
- 23 c. She highlighted some of the ways that DWQ works with the POTWs (Publicly Operated
24 Treatment Works), i.e. granting additional time for compliance, low-interest loans for plant
25 upgrades, etc. She explained that the scientific process takes time. Lots of comments have
26 been made that are conflicting in nature about how long remediation would take or its
27 associated costs. She advised that good science takes time and that study should be given the
28 needed time to arrive at the scientific answers. She showed the diagram showing the causal
29 model of how they hope to move from the goals to making that a reality, based on science to
30 fill needed gaps in research to inform those decision. She described the scientists who make
31 up the Science Panel involved in these decisions. She summarized the study process and
32 discussed the benefits of that process.
- 33 d. The Board asked how long will the study take to complete the needed research. Eric said the
34 target is 2023 for completing the study. Many studies to fill data gaps need time for
35 completion to include essential information for decision making. As the data is completed,
36 how is the Commission Governing Board involved in deciding what to do? The study will bring
37 back several options: considering costs, benefits and uncertainty and the Commission can
38 weigh in on which option would be best. Funding any needed changes to reduce nutrient
39 inflow was discussed as a concern and what options are available. Erica also described some
40 of the upcoming research efforts as part of the project and their importance to the study
41 outcomes. A few additional questions from the board were answered as well.

42 B. *Action Item: Vote To Recommend the use of ULWQS Management Goals Document

- 43 a. Mayor Frost asked for a motion to approve the use of the Utah Lake Management Goals,
44 Assessment Endpoints, Measures and Targets document to guide the Utah Lake Water Quality
45 Study efforts. Craig Jensen made a motion to approve the use of the document, Kari
46 Malkovich seconded the motion. A clarifying question about if this motion tied the Board to
47 any future commitment. Erica explained that the motion committed the board to accepting
48 the measures that would be used to provide the Board with the outcomes of the study in
49 order to make a decision on those outcomes. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.
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1 **6. SePro – Summer Algae Treatment Pilot Project Report – Ryan Van Goethem and Scott Shuler**

- 2 A. Ryan and Scott introduced themselves. They reported on SePros algae treatments this summer in
3 Utah Lake State Park marina and Lindon Marina. They described the technologies used, the treatment
4 schedule, and the results of those efforts. *Full presentation available on Utah Lake Commission
5 YouTube channel. They were able to treat during a few actual blooms that occurred at the lake. Ryan
6 reported on the impacts on water quality and clarity, based off their sampling after treatments. They
7 also covered what they learned and demonstrated through these pilot tests. Scott discussed the
8 recommendations from the technologies SePro used and how it could benefit Utah Lake. The Board
9 asked a few questions about costs and implementation of the implementations suggested.

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11 **7. Communication & Public Relations– Sam Braegger**

- 12 A. Life Jacket Drive Report – The life jacket drive ran after Labor Day. 190 used life jackets and \$1700
13 donated, 11 news media mentions and over 20,000 people reached on social media. The Commission
14 is working on the program guidelines, designing the loaner stations, and agreements with marinas.
15 B. Photo Contest- Sam displayed the winning photos. Board members may select one photo for the
16 Commission to print to display in Board members agency offices for public display to aid in community
17 outreach and improving public perceptions.
18 C. Website Improvements- the water levels page on UtahLakecommission.org now has live water data
19 embedded and improved, interactive historic water level graphs. MAG helped improve the trails plan
20 map on the website. Lindon Marina has made their camera feed available to the Commission for
21 public viewing. Thanks to CUWCD, MAG and Lindon marina for improvements
22 D. Intern Team Report- the interns conducted a survey on what events residents would be interested in,
23 they also analyzed event success at lakes across the US.
24 E. Adopt a Shoreline- the program has seen a lot of growth. 18 areas were added to expand the program,
25 there are now 41 out of 45 areas adopted. In FY21 YTD, 72 cleanups, 282 hours of service, a value of
26 \$7,670.40 in volunteer time. A board member inquired how adoption occurs. Sam explained where
27 they can find info online, and they can contact Commission staff.

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29 **8. Governing Board Meeting schedule for the year**

- 30 A. March 18, 2021
31 B. June 17, 2021 (Budget Hearing)
32 C. September 16, 2021
33 D. December 9, 2021
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35 **9. General comments from board members and the public**

- 36 A. Eric told the Board that the Commission is making a legislative request for the Walkara Way project.
37 Last year's legislative request was retracted because of the pandemic. MAG approved some funding.
38 Brady Brammer is helping to secure that legislative appropriation for this year. Eric requested that the
39 Board express support for that appropriation to their legislators.
40 B. Soren Simonsen, Exec. Director of Jordan River Commission, introduced himself. He expressed interest
41 in the water quality work that is being done on Utah Lake, and appreciation for that work and the
42 work to improve the recreation opportunities, as everything done at Utah Lake impacts the Jordan
43 River as well.

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45 **10. Next Governing Board Meeting**

46 Chair Frost reminded the board that the next Governing Board Meeting will be on December 10, 2020 at
47 7:30 AM in the Utah County Health and Justice Building, Room 2500.

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49 **11. Adjourn**

50 The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 A.M.