

JORDAN RIVER COMMISSION

Board of Commissioners – Regular Meeting

Minutes of March 10, 2011

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Jordan River Commission, was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Corey Rushton, Commission Chair, at 9:00 am at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center, 1355 West 3100 South, West Valley City, Utah.

ATTENDANCE

Name	Position	Present
Councilman Corey Rushton	Board Chair, West Valley City	X
Councilman Chris McCandless	Board Vice-Chair, Sandy City	
Richard Bay	Board Member, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District	X By Alternate: Bart Forsyth
Councilman Bill Colbert	Board Member, Draper City	X
Mayor Peter Corroon	Board Member, Salt Lake County	X By alternate: Julie Peck-Dabbling
Commissioner Louenda Downs	Board Member, Davis County	X
Commissioner Larry Ellertson	Board Member, Utah County	
Councilman Irvin Jones	Board Member, City of South Salt Lake	X
Councilman Stan Porter	Board Member, City of North Salt Lake	
Councilman Tee Tyler	Board Member, Cottonwood Heights	X
Mayor Russ Wall	Board Member, Taylorsville	
Councilman David Wilde	Board Member, Salt Lake County	X
Jenny Wilson	Ex-Officio Member, Moran Eye Center	

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Matheson, Envision Utah
Councilwoman Aleta Taylor, South Jordan
Dan Dumiler, Salt Lake County Water
Eric McCulley, Legacy Nature Preserve
Gabe Epperson, Envision Utah
Joe Taylor, Envision Utah
John Whitehead, Utah DEQ, Division of Water Quality
Laura Hanson, Executive Director, Jordan River Commission
Mark Atencio, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
Randy Kaufman, Utah DNR, Forestry Fire and State Lands
Ryan Nesbitt, Utah DNR, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Wendy Fisher, Utah Open Lands

MINUTES

ITEM 1 – WELCOME

Commissioner Rushton, Board Chair, welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.

ITEM 2 – INTRODUCTIONS

All in attendance provided a self introduction.

ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the February 3, 2011 meeting were discussed and the following changes made:

Commissioner Wilde noted a typographical error in paragraph 1, sentence 4. The word “bride” should be changed to “bridge.”

Motion – Commissioner Louenda Downs made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2011 meeting, as updated with Commissioner Wilde’s changes.

Second – Commissioner David Wilde

Discussion - none

Vote – Unanimous in favor

ITEM 4 – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John Whitehead gave a summary of the hiring (executive director) process. Candidates were asked to give a 3-5 year vision for the river. After much discussion Laura Hanson was selected unanimously. Commissioner Cory Rushton and Julie Peck-Dabling offered their reasoning behind Hanson as the choice. Commissioners David Wilde and Louenda Downs expressed confidence in the hiring sub-committee. Councilwoman Louenda Downs prompted discussion about how to extend the offer to Laura without an existing contract.

Motion - Bart Forsyth made a motion to extend an offer contingent upon the approval of the contract.

Second – Commissioner David Wilde

Discussion – None

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

Commissioner Rushton invited Laura Hanson to the meeting as the Commission's Executive Director. Ms. Hanson thanked the Commission, provided a brief summary of her professional background, and expressed her excitement to get to work.

It was suggested that Utah Conservation Corps and AmeriCorps could provide possible administrative assistance through their year-long internship/volunteer programs.

ITEM 5 – REVIEW EX-OFFICIO APPLICATION PROCESS

Gabe Epperson noted that Commissioner McCandless has received 3 applications for Ex-Officio member so far. Commissioner Rushton reported that he sent out 8 applications, and that it was also posted in newspaper. He also noted that the Bylaws state that Ex-Officio members are limited in number (up to 1/3 of the Governing Board) and that the Technical Advisory Commission is unlimited in number.

A number of individuals and organizations were suggested as possible Ex-Officio members:

- Union Pacific
- Jordan Canal, SLC, West Jordan, Draper Canal companies. This could be a good collaboration to help connect people to the Jordan River Parkway.
- Eric McCulley noted they were contacted by someone associated with the railroad. The person asked who they should connect with in the event of an emergency. This might be a possible Ex-Officio member, or a technical committee member.
- Lynn Larson – Lynn is a regional county planner for the Jordan River Parkway, and has experience working with a broad group.
- Salt Lake County's Water Quality Dept. – Julie Peck-Dabling noted that they are working on County's WASP plan, and could be a source point with lots of contacts.
 - Dan Drumiler reported that they are in the fourth year of implementing the WASP plan, and would love a role in this effort. Current efforts include installing new gage sites, and there are many more activities that this division is already working on. He noted that they would like to be a technical advisory committee member.
- Rocky Mountain Power
- UTA
- Kennecott

It was suggested that some objective criteria be set for the evaluation of possible Ex-Officio members, but to ensure that the criteria is kept somewhat flexible to allow for broad representation.

Julie Peck-Dabling noted that the Interlocal Agreement and Bylaws could be updated to include a list of corporate partners to create a space for them without filling up the limited Ex-Officio slots.

Councilwoman Taylor suggested that the group consider a dot exercise to help narrow down the decision. She emphasized that we want to make sure that there are grassroots folks at these meetings and that their input is heard.

It was noted that each potential Ex-Officio member should be asked what projects they are doing on their own, and what they would do as part of the Jordan River Commission. It will be necessary to help facilitate and track where money is coming from and for what projects along the corridor.

Eric McCulley noted that he is working with flood control and will determine who is working on restoration projects. It was noted that some funding sources require that you are *not* matching with other funding sources, and an accountant would be helpful. In kind dollars should be tracked and determined which have not already been used as a match. For example, Tree Utah has many volunteer hours that have not been used as matching dollars. These will be used on another effort, but other organizations may have the same type of in kind donation possibility. He noted that it is not possible to use mitigation funds as matching dollars.

Commissioner Rushton noted that with current membership, the Commission can have up to six Ex-Officio members. Jenny Wilson has been approved as one of those members, leaving five slots to fill. Possible categories of people may include:

- Community
- Corporate
- Agency/Quasi-Agency
- Nonprofit
- Infrastructure (canal companies)
- River users

It was determined that Laura Hanson would develop a comprehensive list of possible individuals and organizations that could fill either Ex-Officio or Technical Committee positions. The Executive Committee will develop a draft set of criteria to help evaluate possible members for the Ex-Officio and Technical Committee lists. These would be reviewed at the next meeting.

General Consensus

ITEM 6 – DISCUSSION ON FORMATION OF A TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Julie Peck-Dabling noted that Laura Hanson's interview proposal included some thoughts about the Technical Committee, and included several different categories of experience to match up with the Blueprint Jordan River document's Action Plan.

This agenda item was not discussed further.

Gabe Epperson noted that there are a couple additional Commission members specified in the Bylaws that have not yet been filled:

1. Legislative Representative:

He noted that this is not an Ex-Officio member and needs to be filled. It was noted that Rep. Niederhouser has been considered for this position.

2. Governor's appointee:

This position also needs to be filled, and is not an Ex-Officio position.

John Whitehead noted that he approach DEQ about signing Interlocal Agreement, and that there is concern about whether they can sign this without legislative action. He explained that he was thinking they could serve as Ex-Officio members, but that it sounds like there may not be room there. He reassured the group that the Division of Water Quality will continue to attend as a stakeholder.

Ryan Nesbitt noted that DNR is in a similar situation.

Commissioner Rushton noted that the Commission will continue to work with the State entities to help pursue a legislative action.

Councilwoman Taylor noted that she had spoken with a couple of the legislators that participated at the beginning of this process. Luz Robles was very positive and suggested that this might be a unifying issue. Commissioner Rushton voiced concern that many legislators may express support, but may not actively attend and participate.

Commissioner Wilde noted that legislature looks less favorably on SLC and SL County, and that it might be wise to look at Utah or Davis Counties to ensure this Commission appears to have broad representation. It was decided that Councilwoman Taylor would work on providing a few names.

Executive Committee:

Gabe Epperson also noted that the Interlocal Agreement also says there will be an Executive Committee formed, and that some of these decisions can be made at this level, with a recommendation then taken back to the Board.

He read from the Bylaws that the Executive Committee should be not more than 7 members, and must include a representative of the State of Utah, the Commission Chair and Vice Chair. This potentially leaves four openings.

It was noted that the State of Utah was originally intended to be one of the state agencies to sign the Interlocal Agreement. None have signed yet, and may not be able to without legislative action.

Motion – John Whitehead made a motion recommending Commissioner Louenda Downs as a member of the Executive Committee.

Second – Councilwoman Taylor

Discussion – None

Vote – Unanimous in favor

Before adjourning the meeting, Commissioner Rushton noted that he would like to assign a member of the Commission a few minutes to talk about their projects and efforts along the river, with photos or a success story.

BUSINESS ITEMS

CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING:

April 7, 2011, 9:00 am, Utah Cultural Celebration Center in West Valley City.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Bart Forsyth will contact Dave Spalding at RM Power regarding participation as an Ex- Officio Member.
2. The Executive Committee will develop some draft criteria for evaluating ex officio members and technical committee to be reviewed at the next meeting.
3. Councilwoman Taylor will develop a list of possible legislative representatives for the Commission.
4. Commissioner Rushton will follow up with the Governor's office to appoint someone to the Commission. It was suggested that the Governor could also appoint representatives from the state agencies to allow their formal participation in absence of legislative approval to sign the interlocal agreement.
5. Commissioner Rushton will finalize some information for the full board about the executive director position.
6. Laura Hanson will develop a comprehensive list of possible Ex-Officio and/or Technical Committee members.
7. Randy Kaufman, Forestry Fire and State Lands will provide a presentation of their current efforts in the river corridor at the April Commission meeting.
8. Councilwoman Taylor will reserve space to host the May Commission meeting and will coordinate a presentation of South Jordan's recent efforts in the river corridor.