

JORDAN RIVER COMMISSON
Governing Board – Regular Meeting

Minutes of January 19, 2012

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Jordan River Commission, was held on Thursday January 19, 2012 at 9:00 am at the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, 8215 South 1300 West, West Jordan, UT 84088.

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Agency or Organization	Present
Councilman Corey Rushton	Board Chair, West Valley City	X
Councilman Chris McCandless	Board Vice-Chair, Sandy City	X
Mr. Richard Bay	Board Member, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District	X
Mr. John Bennett	Board Member, Office of the Governor	X
Councilman Bill Colbert	Board Member, Draper City	
Mayor Peter Corroon	Board Member, Salt Lake County	X By Alternate: Julie Peck-Dabbling
Commissioner Louenda Downs	Board Member, Davis County	
Commissioner Larry Ellertson	Board Member, Utah County	
Mr. Bruce Jones	Board Member, Utah Transit Authority	X
Councilman Irvin Jones	Board Member, City of South Salt Lake	X By Alternate: Michael Florence
Mr. Jim McNulty	Board Member, City of Saratoga Springs	X
Senator Aaron Osmond	Board Member, Utah Senate	
Councilman Stan Porter	Board Member, City of North Salt Lake	X By Alternate: Ken Leetham
Councilman Tee Tyler	Board Member, Cottonwood Heights	X
Mayor Russ Wall	Board Member, Taylorsville	
Councilman David Wilde	Board Member, Salt Lake County	
Mr. Mark Bedel	Ex-Officio Member, Jordan River Foundation	X
Ms. Alene Bentley	Ex-Officio Member, Rocky Mountain Power	X
Mr. Jon Bronson	Ex-Officio Member, Zions Bank	X
Ms. Amy Collins	Ex-Officio Member, TreeUtah	X
Mr. Greg Hardy	Ex-Officio Member, Chevron	X
Mr. Michael Horrocks	Ex-Officio Member, Wasatch Rowing Foundation	X
Ms. Jenny Wilson	Ex-Officio Member, Community at Large	
Ms. Andree' Walker Bravo	Ex-Officio Member, Utah Society for Environ. Ed	X

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Laura Hanson, Jordan River Commission
David Eckhoff, Technical Advisory Committee Chair
John Whitehead, Division of Water Quality
Ryan Nesbitt, Forestry Fire and State Lands
Tracy Tran, Envision Utah
Eric McCulley, SWCA
Andree' Walker Bravo, Utah Society for Environmental Education
Jessi Rawlins, NeighborWorks Salt Lake
Scott Stoddard, US Army Corps of Engineers

MINUTES

Councilman Corey Rushton, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. He welcomed the Board and audience and thanked Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District for hosting the meeting.

ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Corey Rushton asked if there were any changes to the agenda or minutes. No changes made.

Motion – Councilman Chris McCandless made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2011 meeting.

Second – Mr. John Bennett

Discussion – none

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Councilman Corey Rushton asked if there was any member of the public wishing to address the Board. No one from the audience was present to speak during the public comment portion of the agenda.

ITEM 3 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Councilman Corey Rushton asked the Executive Director to give and update on Commission activities. Ms. Laura Hanson gave an overview of the tasks that the Commission has been working on over the last month. These include:

- A press release was issued regarding the RTCA grant that was received, and several news outlets picked up the story.
- The Chair and Executive Committee have been meeting and making contacts to new incoming city council members encouraging their cities' participation in the Commission.

- The Commission sent its first email newsletter out this month to just over 200 addresses. The open rate was 42%, which is well above the 22% industry average for governmental organizations.
- The Commission has been working closely with the cities of Sandy and West Jordan, and Salt Lake County to help find funding for the 9000 South trail gap and tunnel. A fundraising booklet has been prepared that outlines the case for funding a pedestrian tunnel and will be shared with state legislators during the 2012 General Session. The Commission thanked the National Park Service RTCA staff for assistance with the mapping; ASWN for donating the preliminary concept drawings, rendering, and utility surveying; and Salt Lake County, Sandy, and West Jordan for helping with the cost estimate and letters of support.
- The Commission has been working with the National Park Service's RTCA program and Salt Lake County on a the first draft of a trail map for the Jordan River Parkway Trail

Ms. Hanson also reviewed a financial report of Commission revenue and expenses since the last Board meeting

Revenue received since last meeting	\$3,583.04
Expenses incurred since	\$1,057.12
Checking Account Balance	\$2,545.26
<u>Savings Account Balance</u>	<u>\$54,014.62</u>
Total	\$56,559.88

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 4 – TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Dave Eckhoff gave a report on the activities of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC has meet four times now. The past two meetings have been focused on creating a series of subcommittees based on the action plan categories in the Blueprint Jordan River, and helping to develop a proposal for the Red Butte Creek oil spill settlement funding opportunity and the EPA Urban Waters Small Grant program. In addition, the TAC has been talking about ways to collect and organize all the technical data available about the Jordan River corridor, and is exploring the use of UDOT's UPLAN GIS viewer.

Councilman Chris McCandless suggested that the TAC review the plans for the 9000 South trail connection as they are refined.

Mr. Mark Bedel suggested that the Commission invite the City of West Jordan to appoint an ad hoc member of the TAC to facilitate collaboration between the two groups until the City decides to formally join the Commission.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 5A – CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Councilman Corey Rushton asked The Executive Director to introduce this item. Ms. Laura Hanson presented a proposed annual meeting schedule for the Governing Board for 2012.

Motion – Councilman Chris McCandless made a motion to adopt the proposed 2012 annual meeting schedule with two changes:

- 1) **Moving the November meeting to Thursday November 29, 2012**
- 2) **Adding the Land Trust Alliance Rally to the calendar for September 29 - October 2**

Second – Mr. Mark Bedel

Discussion – none

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 5B – CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NEW EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Councilman Corey Rushton asked The Executive Director to introduce this item. Ms. Laura Hanson explained that with the Utah Transit Authority and Saratoga Springs joining the Commission, that a new ex-officio space on the Governing Board has been opened. She noted that at the Strategic Planning Retreat in October, the Board identified the need to bring an education-oriented partner to the Commission. In response, the Utah Society for Environmental Education was contacted and Ms. Andree' Walker-Bravo has applied to become an Ex-officio member representing her organization.

Ms. Walker-Bravo introduced herself and her organization. The Utah Society for Environmental Education (USEE), a 501(c)3 nonprofit, has been a statewide leader in promoting high quality environmental education in Utah since 1981. USEE aims to encourage environmental literacy by teaching Utahans how to think, not what to think about the environment. To achieve this goal, USEE serves as an umbrella organization and information resource for environmental educators, K-12 teachers, higher education and the Utah community at large. These efforts will help ensure economic, social, and environmental sustainability for Utah.

Motion – Mr. Mark Bedel made a motion to approve the Utah Society for Environmental Education as an Ex-Officio member of the Board.

Second – Councilman Chris McCandless

Discussion – none

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 5C – CONSIDER PURSING 2012 GENERAL SESSION LEGISLATION ALLOWING STATE AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN THE JORDAN RIVER COMMISSION

Councilman Corey Rushton asked The Executive Director to introduce this item. Ms. Laura Hanson explained that when the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement creating the Jordan River Commission was drafted that it was always envisioned that the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) would participate as full voting members of the Governing Board. However, the legal counsel for both agencies has recommended that the agencies not sign the Interlocal Agreement until they receive permission from the Utah State Legislature. A similar situation existed for the Utah Lake Commission

as that organization was forming. To address it, the Utah Lake Commission proposed a legislative resolution allowing state agency participation, and authorizing a financial contribution to the Commission from the agencies' annual budgets.

The financial contribution has been problematic for the state agencies participating in the Utah Lake Commission and has resulted in the Department of Environmental Quality actually withdrawing from that interlocal cooperation.

The Executive Director has been meeting with the state agency representatives to discuss this, and they have developed some draft resolution language that is closely based on the Utah Lake Commission's resolution, but does not require a financial contribution from the state agencies. It does however, require an in-kind contribution, but leaves flexibility in determining the extent and nature of that contribution.

Mr. Mark Bedel suggested adding the words "financial or" in-kind contributions to line 54 of the proposed resolution to allow future flexibility.

Ms. Julie Peck-Dabling asked if by listing all the current members of the Commission if the resolution would become invalid if a partner decided to withdraw at some point in the future. Mr. Karl Hendrickson explained that the Whereas clauses are not binding, and that the only paragraph of the resolution that really matters is the Resolution at the end.

Mr. Bruce Jones asked if the Utah Transit Authority should be included in this as well. UTA was added to lines 71-74 of the proposed resolution.

Mr. John Bennett suggested that the Commission reach out to the Department of Agriculture as well to determine if they would be interested in participating.

Motion – Mr. Jon Bronson made a motion to pursue the proposed legislative resolution allowing state agencies to participate in the Jordan River Commission, allowing flexibility for the Chair, Executive Director, and legal counsel to work with Senator Osmond and the state agency representatives on final wording.

Second – Ms. Julie Peck-Dabling

Discussion – none

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 5D – CONSIDER APPROVING MATCHING CONTRIBUTION FOR UTAH CONSERVATION CORPS FULL-TIME INTERN

Councilman Corey Rushton asked The Executive Director to introduce this item. Ms. Laura Hanson explained that in an effort to expand the capacity and resources of the Commission, she has been exploring a potential staff position through the Utah Conservation Corps (UCC). She explained that these students and recent graduates work through the UCC to be placed in positions around the state where they can gain real-world experience in conservation-oriented work.

The UCC offers these individuals health insurance, a cost of living allowance, and covers all workers compensation and unemployment requirements of the

state. They ask their sponsor organizations to help cover the cost of living allowance. A full-time, 1700 hour, position would require a \$10,500 contribution from the Jordan River Commission, which equals approximately a \$6/hr wage, with no insurance or tax responsibilities for the Commission. She noted that there was a January 9 deadline for submitting applications for full-time positions, and that the Commission may have missed this. She is hopeful that if that is the case, that a part-time position could be a possibility.

Ms. Hanson noted that two of the Commission's board members currently use UCC volunteers on their own staffs, TreeUtah and the Utah Society for Environmental Education, and could offer their own experiences. Both Ms. Andree' Walker-Bravo and Ms. Amy Collins suggested that it has been an effective, cost-effective, and beneficial way to expand the capacity of their organizations.

Ms. Andree' Walker-Bravo noted that an additional benefit is that the sponsor organization posts a job description and is allowed to interview and select the individual best suited their organization's needs. This allows the organization more control over the hiring. She did note that she understood that all the positions had been filled at this time, so that we may have missed the deadline.

Motion – Mr. Richard Bay made a motion to approve applying for a Utah Conservation Corps volunteer and to modify the budget to include the \$10,500 sponsor match.

Second – Mr. John Bennett

Discussion – none

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 5E – CONSIDER SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL FOR THE EPA URBAN WATERS SMALL GRANT PROGRAM

Councilman Corey Rushton asked The Executive Director to introduce this item. Ms. Laura Hanson explained that the Technical Advisory Committee met to discuss this grant opportunity and came up with an idea of developing an educational signage program along the river corridor that uses digital QR codes to link trail users to educational website content.

A subcommittee of the TAC was created, and the idea expanded into developing a signage program in addition to the development of a smartphone application that incorporates a QR code scanner as well as a digital trail map, an educational library, and a mechanism for reporting problems along the corridor. The smartphone application has a cost of approximately \$20-30,000 to develop, which would be covered by the grant, but there would be an annual maintenance fee of up to \$1,000 that would need to be covered by the Commission to ensure its continued availability and use.

Ms. Hanson noted, that since the meeting materials were sent out to the Governing Board, she was contacted by the Center for Documentary Arts about collaborating on this grant. She did not yet know the details of their project ideas, but understand that they are interested in expanding their Jordan River exhibit, Reawakened Beauty, into local schools through a resident ecologist program. She will continue to meet with them, but felt this collaboration had strong possibilities.

Ms. Andree' Walker-Bravo said that she liked the idea, but suggested that the grant proposal could be strengthened a bit to better meet the EPA's requirements for addressing environmental concerns specifically affecting lower-income and under-served populations. She suggested perhaps coordinating with the Center for Documentary Arts and purchasing iPads that bring the technology to local schools and expanding access to the new tools. Another idea was to mark the location of the Reawakened Beauty exhibit photos along the trail with QR codes, and to include a function in the smartphone application allows students to upload their own photos.

Ms. Hanson thanked the Board for their suggestions and said that she would continue to work with the project partners to incorporate these ideas. She asked for the Board's support in applying for the grant, understanding that there may be a long-term financial commitment on the Commission's part to maintain the technology.

Motion – Mr. John Bennett made a motion to apply for the EPA's Urban Waters Small Grant program as proposed.

Second – Councilman Chris McCandless

Discussion – none

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 6 – MEMBER PRESENTATION

Mr. Karl Hendrickson gave a presentation to the Governing Board about the options for creating a local district to provide a possible revenue stream to help fund the implementation of Blueprint Jordan River projects.

Board discussion included concern that the Commission's members were not interested in this at the time of the formation of the Commission and that perhaps now is not the right time to take this on. Others suggested that while the Commission is doing well, that this kind of revenue stream could dramatically change the capacity of the organization to implement projects along the river and that it should be seriously considered. It was noted that this tool is essentially a coalition of the willing, and that members not interested in participating would not be required to. Timing was discussed, and how a public vote for this may appear to duplicate the proposed Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Bond being considered for 2012. It was suggested that perhaps this be a longer-term goal, and that the Commission keep it as an available option and consider working towards the 2014 election as a goal.

Councilman Chris McCandless asked that the Executive Director email the presentation slides to the Governing Board for their reference.

Discussion only. No action taken.

ITEM 7 – OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Julie Peck-Dabling reminded the Board of the Land Trust Alliance Rally call for presentations. The Rally will be held in Salt Lake City this coming fall, and proposals for presentations are due on February 27, 2012. She encouraged the Commission to

submit a proposal. Ms. Laura Hanson will think about a presentation topic and will submit a proposal.

ITEM 8 – CONFIRM NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN

The next meeting of the Jordan River Commission Governing Board will be February 16, 2012.

Motion – Mr. Jon Bronson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second – Mr. John Bennett

Discussion – none

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

The meeting was adjourned.