

JORDAN RIVER COMMISSON
Governing Board – Regular Meeting

Minutes of November 17, 2011

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Jordan River Commission, was held on Thursday November 17, 2011 at 9:45 am at the West Valley City Hall, 3600 Constitution Boulevard, West Valley City, Utah 84119.

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Agency or Organization	Present
Councilman Corey Rushton	Board Chair, West Valley City	X
Councilman Chris McCandless	Board Vice-Chair, Sandy City	
Mr. Richard Bay	Board Member, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District	
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	
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
Councilman Tee Tyler	Board Member, Cottonwood Heights	
Mayor Russ Wall	Board Member, Taylorsville	
Councilman David Wilde	Board Member, Salt Lake County	
Mr. Mark Bedel	Ex-Officio Member, Jordan River Foundation	X By Alternate: Lynn Larsen
Ms. Alene Bentley	Ex-Officio Member, Rocky Mountain Power	
Mr. Jon Bronson	Ex-Officio Member, Zions Bank	
Ms. Amy Collins	Ex-Officio Member, TreeUtah	
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	

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Laura Hanson, Jordan River Commission
David Eckhoff, Technical Advisory Committee Chair
Dan Potts, Salt Lake County Fish and Game Association
Michael Spackman, Great Salt Lake Rowing
Marian Hubbard, Salt Lake County
Ty Harrison, Great Salt Lake Audubon
Eric McCulley, Legacy Nature Preserve
Ryan Nesbitt, Forestry Fire and State Lands
Tom Ward, Salt Lake City
Tracy Tran, Envision Utah
Chris Haller, Utah State Parks and Recreation

MINUTES

The meeting informally began with the lack of a quorum, Chair and Vice Chair. The Executive Director gave updates on all agenda items, and no action was taken. Councilman Corey Rushton, Board Chair, joined the meeting at 9:45 am and called the regular meeting of the Jordan River Commission Governing Board to order. At that time action was taken on all agenda items.

ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Laura Hanson noted that minutes for the September meeting were not included in the meeting materials, and that any motion should refer only the October 14-15 Special Meeting minutes.

Motion – Julie Peck-Dabling made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14-15, 2011 Special Meeting.

Second – Stan Porter

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.

Mr. Dan Potts spoke about how he felt he was put on trial through the Board's questions when his organization applied to become an ex-officio member of the Board. He noted that his organization expected an apology letter. He noted that he felt the current membership of the Board was not what was intended when the concept of Ex-Officio members were originally discussed. He felt that the Commission is headed in the wrong direction and that there is poor representation of community interests on the Board and that Board membership should be more diverse. He also noted that he was disappointed in

Commission's decision not to listen to presentations regarding the loss of habitat and species loss related to the Salt Lake City Athletic Complex.

Mr. Potts did however, note that he is excited to be involved in Technical Advisory Committee and felt that was a good fit for him and his organization. He expressed his hope that the Commission will be successful. To that end, he suggested that the Board pay close attention to following due process and rules of order to ensure its long-term success.

ITEM 3 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Executive Director Laura Hanson gave an overview of the tasks that the Commission has been working on over the last month, and announcements for the Commission. These include:

- America's Great Outdoors Fifty-State Report – Completing the Jordan River Parkway was listed as one of the top 100 projects in the nation that represent the best investments to support a healthy, active population, conserve wildlife and working lands, and create travel, tourism and outdoor-recreation jobs across the country. The recognition comes with a promise of support from the Department of the Interior (may include technical assistance, possible financial support).
- 9 Line/River District Community Celebration – Hosted an information booth at this event celebrating the grand opening of the 9 Line trail and the branding of the 9th South & 9th West neighborhood as the "River District".
- Utah Water Law Conference – Spoke at the CLE International's 19th Annual Utah Water Law Conference.
- Utah Chapter, American Planning Association Conference – Led a mobile workshop along the Jordan River parkway and introduced the Commission.
- Salt Lake County Cooperative Plan – Gave a presentation on Commission activities and goals at the quarterly meeting, attended by planning directors of all cities in county and other stakeholders.
- Hired an intern to assist with a variety of tasks. Maggie McCormick is a University of Utah student double majoring in Urban Planning and Environmental Studies. She will work 9-12 hours a week through the end of April 2012. Working on lining up an additional intern to start in May 2012.
- Working with partners on building support and fundraising for completing a tunnel under 9000 South and connecting a gap in the Jordan River Parkway trail.
- Working with partners to determine possible project opportunities and funding options.

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

Revenue received since last meeting	\$2,108.03
Expenses incurred since	\$207.26
Checking Account Balance	\$2,137.42
<u>Savings Account Balance</u>	<u>\$39,000.00</u>
Total	\$41,137.42

No action taken.

ITEM 4A – CONSIDER CREATING A FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

Ms. Laura Hanson noted that a suggestion was raised at the Strategic Planning retreat to establish a committee focused specifically on evaluating options for more consistent, long-term funding sources for the Commission. She noted that the Interlocal Agreement and Bylaws allow for the creation of such a committee provided that it not constitute a quorum of the Governing Board. She asked if there were Board members interested in serving on such a committee.

Councilman Corey Rushton suggested that this become an assignment item rather than an action item for this meeting. He asked that interested Board members contact the Executive Director, who would then prepare a proposal for approval of the full Board.

No action taken.

ITEM 4B – REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT DISCUSSIONS AND PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

The Executive Director gave an overview of the preliminary decisions made at the Strategic Planning retreat in October, and noted that she would like the Board to consider approval of each of the preliminary decisions in concept so that the Technical Advisory Committee can begin work on these ideas.

3-Pronged Guiding Approach

A concept for a general guiding approach to the Commission's activities was suggested at the retreat. Rather than a linear, one-item-at-a-time focus for the Commission, it was suggested that the Commission simultaneously focus on three areas of work:

- Education and Outreach
- Providing Technical Assistance to Local Governments
- Pursuing Capital Projects and Preservation as opportunities arise

The concept is that like a three-legged stool, without a strong foundation in each of these areas, the Commission will be unsustainable over the long-term.

Motion – Richard Bay made a motion to approve the concept of a 3-pronged approach to Commission activities.

Second – Michael Horrocks

Discussion – none

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

Proposed Jordan River Commission Priorities for 2012

The discussion at the retreat identified five proposed project focuses for the coming year:

- 1) Develop a long-term funding strategy for the Commission
- 2) Develop tools and a process for riparian corridor development reviews

- 3) Develop a public education campaign to share information about the Jordan River and educate the public and local officials on the importance of its protection
- 4) Develop an inventory of property along the Jordan River and a set of criteria for prioritizing preservation, restoration, and acquisition opportunities.
- 5) Develop an inventory of capital projects proposed along the Jordan River and a set of criteria for prioritizing project efforts.

Ms. Laura Hanson has drafted some proposed objective language to clarify the purpose and need for each of these projects. In addition, she has suggested a series of implementation action steps to being each of these projects.

Motion – John Bennett made a motion approving the five proposed Commission project priorities for 2012.

Second – Julie Peck-Dabling

Discussion – none

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

Two-Part River Corridor Development Review Process Concept

The Commission's interlocal agreement states that all Commission members will submit projects proposed within ½ mile of the Jordan River to the Commission for a technical review. At the retreat it was suggested that two approaches be taken for development reviews depending on whether a member government has an existing riparian corridor protection ordinances in place.

- 1) Cities/counties without an existing, adopted riparian corridor ordinance will submit projects to the Jordan River Commission for technical review against a set of objective criteria.
- 2) Cities/counties with an existing, adopted riparian corridor ordinance will submit their ordinance to the Jordan River Commission for evaluation against a set of objective criteria.
 - a. Ordinances that meet the intent and guidelines outlined in the Commission's evaluation criteria will become "certified" by the Commission, and the local government will carry out all development reviews
 - b. Recommendations for improvement will be suggested when ordinances do not meet the intent or guidelines outlined in the Commission's evaluation criteria. Until the ordinance meets the intent of the criteria, the local government will continue to submit development projects to the Jordan River Commission for technical review.

The Jordan River Commission recognizes that it has no regulatory authority over its member governments. It is understood that the Commission's members are free to determine the extent to which recommendations of a technical development review will be implemented.

Motion – John Bennett made a motion approving in concept the two-part approach to conducting development reviews within the river corridor.

Second – Richard Bay

Discussion – none
Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 4C – REVIEW PROPOSED RED BUTTE CREEK SETTLEMENT PROJECT PROPOSAL

Ms. Laura Hanson presented an overview of the funding that has become available as a result of the Red Butte Creek Oil Spill settlement agreement. She reported that she has been working with various partners to develop a project proposal for this funding source. Project proposals are due prior to the next Governing Board, so Ms. Hanson is requesting that the Board give its approval to apply for the funding. The first proposal submittal has fairly simple requirements and will be used for preliminary project selection. The Executive Director proposes to work with the Technical Advisory Committee to develop this pre-proposal submittal in time to meet the deadline. A second phase in the application process will require a more detailed project management plan, and will give the Board an opportunity to review and provide comments prior to its submission to the Division of Water Quality for final project evaluation and award.

The proposed project concept is to develop a set of best practices and a model ordinance for riparian corridor development. This project is the first step toward implementing one of the 2012 project priorities identified at the strategic planning retreat: to develop a process for riparian corridor development reviews. The proposed project would involve hiring a consultant team of experts to lead a collaborative, river-wide planning process to develop a set of standards and guidelines for river corridor development.

The guidelines would form the foundation of a model ordinance, and would serve as the criteria against which any developments are review by the Commission's Technical Advisory Committee.

A second phase of the project would be a broad educational campaign to share the guidelines and model ordinance with local governments along the river. Those local governments would be encouraged to adopt their own riparian corridor protection ordinances based on these guidelines. It is the hope that a collaborative planning process to develop these tools that involves all local governments and stakeholders along the river will lead to a sense of ownership and buy-in at the local government level.

In addition, Ms. Hanson noted that there is some potential for a possible partnership with Salt Lake City on an additional proposed project. However, she noted that communication about that project has been intermittent and that it is likely that it will not materialize.

Mr. John Bennett noted that he had concern about developing a model ordinance and felt that the focus should be on development standards and guidelines. He believes that local governments should be able to develop an ordinance that meets their needs based on the guidelines and that it is not necessary or advisable to develop model language. He did note, however, that he is supportive of the concept and developing a proposal for these funds.

Mr. Michael Horrocks noted that he had concern that this type of project did not meet the intent of these funds. He was under the impression that these funds

were to be directed towards on-the-ground restoration work and was concerned that the Commission's proposed best practices project was inappropriate.

Ms. Julie Peck-Dabling noted that it was her understanding that these funds are a penalty fee, and that there are additional significant funds that are being dedicated to the restoration and clean-up efforts.

Ms. Laura Hanson noted that in preliminary discussions with the Division of Water Quality, whom will be making the project selections, that she received indication that this type of project would be an appropriate use of the funds. She noted that the objective of this proposed project is on prevention of future occurrences, and that there is language in the agreement to which the Commission can tie this project back.

Motion – Richard Bay made a motion to apply for Red Butte Creek funding to develop a set of best practices for riparian corridor development.

Second – Stan Porter

Discussion – none

Vote –

x in favor, Corey Rushton, Richard Bay, Julie Peck-Dabling, Stan Porter, John Bennett,

1 opposed, Michael Horrocks

1 abstention, Greg Hardy

Motion approved

ITEM 4D – RATIFY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MATERNITY LEAVE PLAN

Ms. Laura Hanson announced that she is expecting a baby in early April and has prepared a proposed plan regarding a maternity leave. She noted that she has been working with the Executive Committee, as well as the West Valley City Human Resources department to ensure that it meets everyone's needs.

Councilman Corey Rushton noted that the Executive Committee met to discuss the proposed plan and felt that it was appropriate and ensured the Commission will be able to conduct business as usual during this the anticipated leave. The Executive Committee approved the proposed plan and it is before the Governing Board for ratification.

Motion – Julie Peck-Dabling made a motion to ratify the Executive Director's proposed maternity leave plan.

Second – John Bennett

Discussion – none

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 4E – UPDATE ON RIVERS AND TRAILS CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE GRANT

Ms. Laura Hanson gave an update that the Jordan River Commission has receive preliminary word that it has been awarded a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service, Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA). The proposal included three deliverables:

- 1) A trail map for the Jordan River Trail system
- 2) A signage plan for consistent branding and wayfinding along the Jordan River Trail
- 3) Safety signage for Jordan River boaters.

She noted that through a number of discussions with the RTCA staff, the Board Chair, and the Jordan River Foundation, it has been decided to drop the third element of the proposal on boater safety signage. The RTCA staff had concerns about their ability to provide service to all three proposal elements, and concerns were raised about potential overlap with the work of a local non-profit on the same effort. For these reasons, the Commission and RTCA will focus on the first two projects.

The grant is not a financial grant, but instead provides technical assistance to grant recipients and is the equivalent of having a free consultant available to the Commission. A formal award is expected this week, and work will begin immediately thereafter. Ms. Hanson will work with the Board Chair and grant partners to issue a press release announcing the award.

No action taken.

ITEM 5 – MEMBER PRESENTATION – MULTI-USE RIVER CENTER CONCEPT

Mr. Michael Horrocks gave a presentation proposing a multi-use riversports center along the Jordan River. He noted that there is a specific parcel that the Wasatch Rowing Foundation is interested in acquiring for this purpose. The property is currently owned by UTA and is located on the west side of the river and just south of highway 201.

The center could include a boat house for storage of competition rowing boats as well as potential recreational boat storage for other river users. Additional elements may include seating and concession areas. Mr. Horrocks listed the myriad benefits of such a facility along the river, including its potential ability to attract new interest and increase visitation to the river. He noted that the proximity of the proposed site to TRAX makes it the perfect location for collegiate rowing teams and with the University of Utah's recent admission into the PAC-10, university-level rowing is a real possibility.

Mr. Bruce Jones of UTA expressed willingness to help facilitate a discussion between the Wasatch Rowing Foundation and the Utah Transit Authority about the identified parcel of land.

No action taken.

ITEM 6 – OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Richard Bay commented that he appreciated the comments made by Dan Potts during the public comment period. He noted that while he felt the discussion at the previous Board meeting was appropriate and that an apology was not necessary, he thought it would be appropriate for the Commission to send a letter of thanks to the Salt Lake County Fish and Game Association for

their interest in the Commission and the Jordan River. The Board agreed and the Executive Director and Chair will draft a letter.

Ms. Julie Peck-Dabbling noted that the American Land Trust annual national conference will be held in Salt Lake City in 2012 at the Salt Palace. The dates of the conference will be September 29-October 2. The conference will include two days of field trips, and could be a good opportunity for the Jordan River Commission to take a group out. Registration will open on Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Lynn Larsen noted that the Technical Advisory Committee will be holding its first meeting on December 6, 2011. The TAC will determine a regular meeting schedule at that time.

No action taken.

ITEM 7 – CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Jordan River Commission Governing Board will be January 19, 2012.

Motion – John Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second – Richard Bay

Discussion – none

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ADJOURN