

JORDAN RIVER COMMISSON
Governing Board – Regular Meeting

Minutes of March 19, 2015

Name	Agency or Organization	Present
Corey Rushton	Board Past-Chair, West Valley City	
Chris McCandless	Board Chair, Sandy City	X
Rebecca Call	Board Vice-Chair, Saratoga Springs	X
Richard Bay	Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District	
Ralph Becker	Salt Lake City	By Alternate: Lewis Kogan
John Bennett	Office of the Governor	X
Bill Colbert	Draper City	
Ben McAdams	Salt Lake County	
Commissioner Jim Smith	Davis County	X
Commissioner Larry Ellertson	Utah County	
Bruce Jones	Utah Transit Authority	
Debbie Snow	City of South Salt Lake	By Alternate: Michael Florence
Brian Cottam	Division of Forestry Fire State Lands	X
Rep. Rich Cunningham	Utah House of Representatives	
Stan Porter	City of North Salt Lake	By Alternate: Ken Leetham
Trent Staggs	Riverton City	
Justin Stoker	City of West Jordan	
Tee Tyler	Cottonwood Heights	X
Dan Armstrong	Taylorsville	
Eric Gaddis	Division of Water Quality	By Alternate: Nick Von Stackelberg
Aimee Newton	Salt Lake County Council	X
Scott Peters	Ex-Officio, Jordan River Foundation	X
Alene Bentley	Ex-Officio, Rocky Mountain Power	
Jon Bronson	Ex-Officio, Zions Bank	
Amy Collins	Ex-Officio, TreeUtah	
Greg Hardy	Ex-Officio, Chevron	X
Michael Horrocks	Ex-Officio, Wasatch Rowing Foundation	X
Soren Simonsen	Ex-Officio, At Large	X
Michael Steele	Ex-Officio, Utah State Fairpark	X
Ray Pickup	Ex-Officio, Workers Compensation Fund	
Tim Brown	Ex-Officio, Tracy Aviary	X

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Laura Hanson, Jordan River Commission
 Brian Nichols, SWCA
 Dennis Pay, South Salt Lake, JRC TAC
 Chair

Laura Ault, Utah Division of Forestry Fire
 and State Lands
 Barry Burton, Davis County
 Barry McLerran, Office of Congresswoman
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MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Jordan River Commission, was held on Thursday March 19, 2015 at 9:00 am at the Taylorsville City Hall, 2600 West Taylorsville Boulevard, Taylorsville, Utah 84128

Chris McCandless, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. He welcomed the Board and thanked everyone for attending. Each Board member then introduced themselves.

ITEM 1 – REMARKS BY BARRY MCLERRAN, OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN MIA LOVE

Chris McCandless welcomed Barry McLerran to address the Board.

Mr. McLerran thanked the Board and mentioned that he had recently met with Robert Grow from Envision Utah and learned about the Jordan River Commission and the collaborative approach that Utah is taking to address regional issues.

He noted that the Congresswoman is very impressed that an effort like this is happening in her district and is very supportive of this unique approach of working together across municipal lines. She recognizes that the goals of this group are to work together to improve the community, and is not about political parties. She is hopeful that the work that is happening here can be a model for work in other parts of the state.

He noted that the Congresswoman is very committed to pushing decision making down to the local level and to get government out of the way to help the local officials do what they do best. She sends her thanks.

Rebecca Call thanked Mr. McLerran and noted that the Commission is under good leadership and asked Laura Hanson to share some information about a recent invitation that she received to visit the Puerto Rico.

Laura Hanson shared that she was contacted by the City of San Juan, Puerto Rico and has been invited to travel there in May to speak to the City and other stakeholders about the collaborative governance structure that has been established for the Jordan River. They have an urban river restoration project as well, and have identified four projects that could be useful to their purposes, including the Jordan River Commission.

Chris McCandless thanked Mr. McLerran for attending and for his and the Congresswoman's work.

ITEM 2 – CONSENT AGENDA

Chris McCandless asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes made

Motion – Tim Brown made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes.

Second – Aimee Newton

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 3 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to give the Director's Report.

Laura Hanson thanked the Board and gave an overview of work progress and updates since the last Board meeting:

Administration

- **South Jordan City** is expected to vote to join the Jordan River Commission on March 17, 2015, bringing membership up to 12 cities, three counties, two districts, and several other state and community partners. Still not members: Murray, Midvale, Bluffdale, Lehi.

Projects, Grants, and Fundraising Efforts

▪ **New Grants Received:**

- National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Grant
 - This grant provides technical assistance rather than funding. We are working on developing a plan and model interpretive and wayfinding signs at two model sites along the Jordan River Parkway: the Redwood Natural Area, and the Big Bend Habitat Restoration Area.

▪ **New Grants Submitted:**

- Urban Waters Grant
 - Located at 1300 South and the Jordan River in Salt Lake City, this proposed project focuses on the site of the confluence of Red Butte, Parleys and Emigration Creeks and the Jordan River.
 - The proposed project has four programmatic elements:
 - Get Into the River Festival Activities –
 - A community designed and created art installation symbolizing the significance of this space.
 - A BioBlitz (ecological inventory of the site) conducted by community members and JRC TAC members.
 - Three Creeks Park Planning –
 - A community engagement and visioning process around a proposed Three Creeks Park at this site.
 - Afterschool Curriculum –
 - Development of an 8-week afterschool curriculum for youth in elementary and middle school.
 - Creation of 10 Educational Kits – tablets, cases, and on-call data plans for www.myjordanriver.org; water quality testing kits, binoculars, magnifying glasses and printed field guides.

- **Upcoming Grant Deadlines:**
 - Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Invasive Species Management Grant
 - Due May 1, 2015.
 - State Parks, Recreational Trails Program Grants
 - Due May 1, 2015
 - Zoo Arts and Parks
 - Proposals due in June or July 2015
 - Utah Division of Water Quality, Non-Point Source Pollution Funds
 - Applications accepted April 1 – May 15, 2015

- **Projects: West Valley City Stormwater Detention Pond Restoration**
 - Work has kicked off on this 2-acre parcel adjacent to the river. This pond is fed by stormwater, which filters through the pond before it enters the Jordan River. The area is overgrown with invasive vegetation and has been a target for illegal dumping and homeless camps. Project elements include:
 - **Hunter High School Residency** – This is a continuation of the partnership we have built with the Center for Documentary Expression and Art. Students held their first field trip to the site on March 11, 2015.
 - **Site Work** – The Utah Conservation Corps worked on the site for one week in March to help open up the area and prepare it for the student and volunteer groups.
 - **Engineering** – University of Utah Civil and Environmental Engineering students will develop a plan for reengineering of the pond to further enhance water quality improvements, and create new opportunities for habitat enhancement. Their design will be implemented by West Valley City's Public Works Department.

- **Projects: Best Practices for Riverfront Communities**
 - Education
 - The fourth training in the Best Practices for Riverfront Communities Training Series will be held on May 1, 2015, and will be titled, *Integrating People and Wildlife in an Urban Setting*. The training will help highlight the balance needed to protect wildlife and people as we plan and implement recreation and restoration projects.

- **Projects: Lower Jordan Restoration, Clean-up and Community Education Project**
 - Work is starting up again on this three-year effort to clean up the garbage from the lower reaches of the Jordan River and engage students and community in restoring the native vegetation along the river.
 - Utah Conservation Corps members have started to remove invasive vegetation and plant new native habitat patches. Salt Lake City and the Legacy Nature Preserve in North Salt Lake are all key partners in this effort.
 - The next volunteer event is scheduled for April 11, 2015, on the Legacy Nature Preserve and volunteers will be planting hundreds of native trees and shrubs.

Finally, Laura mentioned again the invitation from the city of San Juan in Puerto Rico and shared an image of the Rio Piedras.

Chris McCandless suggested that perhaps the Commission should explore creating a sister river program, similar to the Sister City program.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 4 – Technical Advisory Committee Report

Chris McCandless welcomed Dennis Pay, Chair of the Jordan River Commission Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide a report to the Governing Board.

Dennis Pay expressed his enthusiasm to be the new chair of the TAC, and thanked the Board. He noted that the TAC met last in February and discussed a few ongoing projects. The TAC also discussed the role and potential contributions of the TAC to the river corridor.

He explained that the TAC is very effective when given a specific task, or has a big project in which to participate. However, when there aren't large projects underway, the TAC loses a bit of focus. He explained his goals for the TAC is to develop a clear mission statement that defines the role and objectives of the TAC to give the group some direction.

Dennis expressed his interest in working with the TAC over the next few months to define this mission statement and to continue to assist the Board with technical questions.

ITEM 5a - Discuss and consider approval of a Riverfront Communities Development Review Assistance Checklist.

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to introduce this topic.

Laura Hanson explained that

Motion – Lewis Kogan made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan and public comment period.

Second – Rebecca Call

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 6 – Discuss and consider adoption of a Development Review Assistance Process and Checklist.

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to present this item.

Laura Hanson reminded the Board of past discussions about this topic and reported that the Technical Advisory Committee and the JRC staff have been working on refining this checklist tool. Based on Board member feedback a number of updates have been made to the checklist to include a series of pre-requisite criteria questions and then listing a series of additional point based questions to help distinguish more innovative projects. She also

noted that this checklist is intended to be broad enough to apply to a wide range of project types – ranging from brick and mortar developments, to restoration projects, parks or recreational facilities, to neighborhood master plans.

Chris McCandless pointed out a typographical error on item 4.10 in the Stormwater section. He said that he liked the River Friendly recognition certificates and suggested that the Commission explore creating plaques or signs based on these certificates that could be presented to developers or cities, similar to the LEED certification plaques.

Soren Simonsen noted that from his experience on the architectural side of development projects, that each change can result in significant costs for the developer. He recommended that the Board rely heavily on the TAC to provide a thorough review of projects, and for the Board to be cautious not to make too many changes when it arrives at their level.

Rebecca Call shared her thoughts that this is an important new tool for the Commission and the river corridor. She said that there are a few new projects that have come through the City of Saratoga Springs recently, and although they are already approved, she has asked the City's planning staff to perform an internal review of the projects against this checklist to see how it works. She promised to share the results of those internal reviews with the Board to help refine and improve the checklist over time.

Aimee Winder Newton recognized that it is important to not slow down local review processes and appear to be adding a cumbersome new layer of decision-making. She asked if the TAC's findings could be emailed out to the Board as quickly as possible to ensure timely response.

Laura Hanson responded that the TAC's monthly meeting date has been adjusted to minimize the amount of time between TAC and Board reviews, now just two days. However, she said that it is definitely possible to email the Board as soon as the TAC completes its review.

Motion – Aimee Winder Newton made a motion approve the Riverfront Communities Development Review Assistance program and River Friendly recognition program.

Second – Soren Simonsen

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 5b– Consider approval of JRC Small Grant to Tracy Aviary

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to introduce this item.

Laura Hanson noted that the Jordan River Commission authorized the creation of the JRC Small Grants Program at its May 16, 2013 Governing Board meeting. The purpose of this grant program was to create a method for assisting and encouraging Jordan River stakeholders to undertake projects that help implement the goals and recommendations of the Blueprint Jordan River. This grant program is available to all JRC member governments, Technical Advisory Committee member organizations, or other community organizations partnering with the JRC to improve the Jordan River corridor. It is not a benefit open to non-JRC member governments at this time.

She noted an error in the meeting packet notes, and clarified that the JRC has a policy to reserve \$50,000 in savings for project contingencies or unexpected expenses, and that there is currently a balance of approximately \$23,000 available for use by the JRC Small Grants Program.

She shared a summary of the Tracy Aviary grant request, which is for \$2,500 to support the continuation of the Aviary's citizen science bird monitoring program, and recommended approval of the request to the Board.

Tim Brown expanded the project description to include partnerships with Salt Lake City, and two new monitoring sites along the Jordan River.

Lewis Kogan expressed Salt Lake City's appreciation and excitement about this partnership.

Rebecca Call pointed out that the request also comes with significant matching contributions.

Motion – Scott Peters made a motion to approve the granting of \$2,500 to Tracy Aviary for the proposed project.

Second – Rebecca Call

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 5c – Discuss Jordan River Parkway Improvement Project List

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to introduce this item.

Laura Hanson noted that there are some potential funding opportunities coming up, including the Zoo Arts and Parks program that could potentially fund Jordan River related projects. She mentioned that it would be incredibly helpful to have a master list of all possible projects for the Jordan River corridor, so that funding opportunities can be strategically sought out for specific projects. She noted that the list presented is a draft document and listing of all projects that have been mentioned to her, but that it is not exhaustive and likely does not include all potential projects envisioned by the local governments.

Aimee Winder Newton noted that the ZAP funding available is not as much as previously thought, but that the County is considering an open space bond in 2016.

Chris McCandless noted that all grants and funding request are more successful when they show strong partnerships and significant matching contributions, and that the JRC members would be smart to collaborate on proposed project requests. He suggested that the TAC look at this list and attempt to prioritize proposed projects, noting that this would help take the politics out of the discussion.

Aimee Winder Newton noted that this list could be given to the County's D.C. lobbyist as well to help identify federal funding opportunities.

Rebecca suggested that the list be structured to include a list of "willing participants" on any corridor-wide project, so that Laura can contact specific cities on the list when funding opportunities arise. She noted that Saratoga Springs just acquired 40 acres of open space along the Jordan River, and that she could think of six projects right there.

Laura Hanson suggested that the Board take the next week or two to add to, or edit this project list. She will then take the list to the TAC to try to prioritize the list to the extent they can.

Scott Peters expressed that the Jordan River Foundation is very interested in being a funding partner on projects.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 7 – Presentation: FFSL Five-Year Strategic Plan and Legislative Updates

Chris McCandless welcomed Brian Cottam, Director of the Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands.

Brian Cottam noted that he loved seeing the Division listed as a possible funding source for Jordan River projects and shared his enthusiasm for helping to realizing the Blueprint Jordan River vision. He noted that the Division is very interested in hearing local government input on how they should spend the funds they have available for the Jordan River.

He provided an overview of the process the Division goes through to get funding approved from their restricted account, and the timing for submitting such requests. He noted that the restricted account receives approximately \$10-11 million each year, but that the legislature controls what can be spent of those funds.

Lewis Kogan asked what the best way was for the cities to communicate their priorities to the Division for inclusion in the budget requests.

Brian mentioned that the Division is committed to being a participating member of the JRC and will be at each meeting listening to what is happening along the river, and what the cities' needs are.

Rebecca Call asked Brian to clarify the geographic scope in which the Division can expend funds.

Brian explained that the boundaries of the Sovereign Lands are limited to lands under the river's ordinary high water mark. He noted that they would like to see some nexus with a proposed project and Sovereign lands, but that he would consider a variety of projects that may not be directly within or adjacent to the state's lands. He noted that, it does not mean that his department administration will consider the same projects, but that the Division would be supportive.

Chris McCandless asked if matching funds make a difference in the Division's prioritization of projects.

Brian noted that he believed that DNR would like to see matching contributions, but that his philosophy was that the State should have the first dollar in. He sees the Division as being a partner to help secure that seed money, which can later be leveraged into more money.

Chris McCandless asked if, for example, a bridge completing the Jordan River Parkway trail might be a possible project to be supported with Division funding.

Brian said that it would be a project worth considering from his perspective.

Brian then gave a summary of the funding approved by the legislature this year, which included:

- \$150,000 in one-time for navigational hazard mitigation
- \$50,000 in ongoing funding for invasive species management
- \$30,000 in ongoing funding to support the JRC staff and operational expenses
- \$1,000,000 for Jordan River and Utah Lake improvements

Laura Ault then presented the Division's Five Year Strategic Plan, which she said is really a wish list of projects they would like to undertake. Projects on the Jordan River included:

- Comprehensive Management Plan
- Navigational Hazard Mitigation
- Streambank Stabilization

Laura Ault also noted that the Division has a critical lands fund, that is intended to help acquire conservation easements on properties along the Great Salt Lake, Jordan River and Utah Lake. She said that the fund is only \$100,000, which often isn't enough to acquire property in the Salt Lake Valley, but that it is a resource available and one that the City of North Salt Lake has utilized.

Chris McCandless thanked Brian and Laura for their presentation.

ITEM 8 – Public Comment Period

Chris McCandless asked if any members of the public would like to address the Board.

Seeing none, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 9 – Other Business

Chris McCandless asked if any members of the Board had additional business to discuss.

Rebecca Call noted that the LDS church owns a significant property along the Jordan River, which is approximately 3,000 acres. She noted that 25 acres of the land near the river will be dedicated to active recreational uses, and that she welcomed JRC input as they start to refine the plans for this property.

Chris McCandless shared a thank you letter that the JRC plans to send to the state legislators that helped advocate for the Jordan River in the 2015 General Session. He suggested that similar letters be sent to UTA as a thank you for the donated van, and to the Division of Forestry Fire and State lands as well.

ITEM 10 – CONFIRM NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN

The next meeting of the Jordan River Commission Governing Board will be April 16, 2015, 9:00-11:00, Taylorsville City Hall.

On motion and second, the meeting was adjourned.