

JORDAN RIVER COMMISSON
Governing Board – Regular Meeting

Minutes of May 21, 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	Participated Electronically
Steve Barnes	City of South Jordan	By Alternate: Colby Hill
Richard Bay	Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District	X
Ralph Becker	Salt Lake City	By Alternate: Lewis Kogan
John Bennett	Office of the Governor	X
Bill Colbert	Draper City	By Alternate: Jennifer Jastremsky
Ben McAdams	Salt Lake County	
Commissioner Jim Smith	Davis County	
Commissioner Larry Ellertson	Utah County	
Hal Johnson	Utah Transit Authority	
Debbie Snow	City of South Salt Lake	By Alternate: Mike Florence
Laura Ault	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	X
Aimee Newton	Salt Lake County Council	By Alternate: Adam Gardiner
Scott Peters	Ex-Officio, Jordan River Foundation	By Alternate: Lynn Larsen
Alene Bentley	Ex-Officio, Rocky Mountain Power	X
Jon Bronson	Ex-Officio, Zions Bank	
Amy Collins	Ex-Officio, TreeUtah	
Greg Hardy	Ex-Officio, Chevron	
Michael Horrocks	Ex-Officio, Wasatch Rowing Foundation	X
Soren Simonsen	Ex-Officio, At Large	X
Michael Steele	Ex-Officio, Utah State Fairpark	
Ray Pickup	Ex-Officio, Workers Compensation Fund	
Tim Brown	Ex-Officio, Tracy Aviary	

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Laura Hanson, Jordan River Commission
Brian Nichols, SWCA
Kelly Gillman, CRSA
Dan Bergenthal, Salt Lake City Transportation
Todd Reese, Salt Lake City Parks
Ray Wheeler, public

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Jordan River Commission, was held on Thursday May 21, 2015 at 9:00 am at the Sandy City Hall, 10000 South Centennial Boulevard, Sandy, Utah 84070

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

ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

Motion – Alene Bentley made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes.

Second – John Bennett

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 2 – 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 voted to join the Jordan River Commission on April 21, 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.

Community Relations & Outreach

Laura Hanson traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico on May 15, 2015 to present to a group of 70 stakeholders working to plan for and manage flooding along the Rio Piedras river. She presented a brief summary of the project there and the experience presenting to the City.

New Grants Submitted

Three Invasive Species Management Grants were submitted:

- Puncturevine Management - \$14,000
- Riverton Phragmites Management - \$20,000
- Pioneer Crossing Park - \$20,000

Projects

- Best Practices Training Series – the fourth workshop was held and well attended. The feedback from the workshop was positive.
- Get Into the River – The Conservation Day portion of the Festival was a success and plans are underway for the Festival Day. All Board members are encouraged to come out to enjoy the events.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 3 – FINANCIAL REPORT

Laura Hanson presented an overview of the Commission's financials over the last quarter. She pointed out two personal purchases accidentally put on the Jordna River Commission debit card. She noted that both charges were refunded as soon as they were discovered.

The Governing Board had no additional questions.

ITEM 4 – TEchnical Advisory Committee Report

Laura Hanson noted that the TAC did not meet this last month.

ITEM 5a – JRC Small Grant Proposal - Sorenson Unity Center

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to introduce this item.

Laura Hanson presented an overview of the JRC Small Grant Program and its intent to expand the base of organizations working towards implementation of the Blueprint Jordan River. She also described the Sorenson Unity Center's proposal for funding to purchase a set of canoes and paddles to allow their afterschool program youth to engage in outdoor activities and clean up and restoration of the Jordan River.

Mike Horrocks asked about the timing of the grant proposal. Laura Hanson noted that they just missed the deadline for the last Board meeting and had hoped to purchase the canoes prior to this meeting. However, they are excited about the opportunity of having boats available for their students and are willing to work with an adjusted schedule.

Lewis Kogan noted that many of the children in this neighborhood are not even aware that the river is there and that this offers a unique opportunity for these kids to experience the outdoors and a new aspect of their own neighborhood.

Chris McCandless suggested that this might even be an opportunity to get kids out on the river corridor year round. He told a story about an older gentleman that carried with him a negative perception of the river and how he probably gained that perspective as a child. He noted that now is the perfect time to get these kids out and engaged in the river and its restoration possibilities.

Motion – John Bennett made a motion to approve a \$2,500 grant to the Sorenson Unity Center.

Second – Richard Bay

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 5b - Discuss and consider approval of a consulting agreement for the West Valley City Pond Restoration Project

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to introduce this topic.

Laura Hanson explained that through a five star restoration grant that the JRC had a small budget, \$5,000 available to hire a consultant to assist in guiding the restoration of a 2.6 acre pond site in West Valley City. She reported that a Request for Bids was sent to three potential firms and three bids received. The consultant selection committee was comprised of West Valley City, CDEA and the Jordan River Commission. They recommended the selection of RiverRestoration.Org, which was the bid in the middle of the other two, but under the \$5,000 allocated to the project.

Ken Leetham asked if there was risk in not selecting the low bid, recognizing that this particular project was a relatively low dollar contract. Laura Hanson explained that the JRC Procurement Policy does not require the Commission to select the low bid, but instead allows the Commission to select the most qualified for the specific job. She also noted that she had follow conversations with both other firms and they are both still excited by the prospect of working with the Commission in the future and did not seem concerned about this particular project.

Motion – Soren Simonsen made a motion to approve the consulting contract with RiverRestoration.org.

Second – Ken Leetham

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 6 – Review Tentative FY 2016 Budget and Set Date for Public Hearing and Adoption

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to present this item.

Laura Hanson gave an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget and changes from last year's budget to note. She also described the accountant's decision to amortize the Commission's Best Practices document and MyJordanRiver.org as Intangible Assets over the length of their useful life to the Commission. She noted that when asked what this technique does for the Commission, the accountant noted that it is simply good accounting practice.

Ken Leetham noted that the amortization is actually a new requirement under GASB. He expressed his thoughts that the requirement makes little sense for an organization like the Jordan River Commission and especially for assets that do not generate revenue.

Rebecca Call noted that she would need to sign off the conference call line, but asked Laura to mention their conversation with Rep. Eric Hutchings regarding the legislative appropriation and the matching requirement. Laura Hanson explained that she, Rebecca Call and Chris McCandless met with Rep. Hutchings to get some insight on what his intent was for the legislative appropriation. She noted that he as a more traditional bricks and mortar view of what constitutes improvements in the river corridor and he emphasized the need for signage, trail completion, boating enhancements, etc. She also shared that the 3:1 matching requirement in the intent language was not intended to be there according to Rep. Hutchings.

Chris McCandless asked if it would be helpful to go back to our legislative allies and ask that the matching requirement be removed.

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Richard Bay suggested that asking for the change might jeopardize the funding and that if it is possible to meet the matching requirements that it might be wise to leave it alone.

John Bennett suggested that meeting the matching requirements would demonstrate strong community buy-in and perhaps encourage future legislative support.

Mike Horrocks suggested that the upcoming bonds and ZAP funding opportunities could help make up the matching requirements.

Erica Gaddis asked if the Lower Jordan Flow experiments should be increased in the FY 2016 budget from the amount shown to better reflect the actual work that is likely to occur next year. Laura Hanson explained that that project was accidentally left off the budget and that the project listed was a different DEQ grant funded effort. She said that she would be sure to add that.

Motion – Soren Simonsen made a motion set the date of the next Board Meeting, Jun 18, 2015 as the date for a public hearing and adoption of the FY 2016 Budget.

Second – Mike Horrocks

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 5d– Jordan River Comprehensive Management Plan

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to introduce this item.

Laura Hanson introduced Brian Nicholson and Kelly Gillman from the SWCA consulting team working with the Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands on the development of a Comprehensive Management Plan for the Jordan River.

Brian Nicholson and Kelly Gillman presented an overview of the project objectives, process, and upcoming public input opportunities. They shared a project website: www.jordanrivercmp.com on which the public can submit comments electronically on a GIS map.

Motion – Richard Bay made a motion to support the Comprehensive Management Plan process and to authorize the Executive Director to participate and put time towards the project as appropriate.

Second – John Bennett.

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 6a – Presentation: Nature in the City

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to introduce this item.

Laura Hanson introduced Soren Simonsen and Ray Wheeler to present an overview of the Nature In the City Proposal that has been developed and is gaining public support. She noted that there was a request to make this presentation an action item, and for the Governing Board to consider providing it's official endorsement of support to this proposal.

Soren Simonsen gave a presentation of the Nature in the City proposal, an ambitious plan to maximize the amount of natural open space, developed park space, urban food production and more in the Salt Lake City portion of the Jordan River corridor. Soren noted that this proposal is intended to help inform and inspire Salt Lake City to think

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bigger about the possibilities for the Jordan River corridor as it considers a general obligation bond in large part to plan for the future of the Jordan River Par 3 and the Glendale Golf Courses.

Mike Horrocks asked about how this proposal is working within the extensive public outreach and input gathering process currently being led by the City. He suggested that a formal motion to support this one proposal might be a bit premature and may exclude other great ideas for the river corridor.

Chris McCandless noted that because of the amount of time left in the meeting that perhaps the Board could continue this discussion into the next meeting.

Motion – John Bennet made a motion to continue the discussion at the next Board meeting.

Second – Alene Bentley

Vote – Lewis Kogan and Mike Horrocks abstained. All other Board members voted in favor of the motion.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 6b – Presentation: North Temple Jordan River Parkway Trail Gap

Chris McCandless welcomed Dan Bergenthal from Salt Lake City to give a presentation on efforts to close the North Temple trail gap in the Jordan River Parkway Trail.

Dan Bergenthal shared a series of renderings showing the possible designs for the new North Temple bridge. He explained that he City and County both worked very hard to try to have an at grade crossing approved by the railroad companies, but that they were unsuccessful and that the current plan is to build a bridge spanning all three active freight rail lines.

He shared three different options for the bridge, each with a different price tag ranging from around \$4 million to \$7.6 million. Dan mentioned that the City would welcome any funding support that the Jordan River Commission might be able to provide.

Laura Ault noted that the Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands might be able to support this effort through a building block request. Chris McCandless suggested that this project should be a primary focus for legislative lobbying during the next session.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 7 – 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. Seeing none, he called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ITEM 10 – CONFIRM NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN

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The next meeting of the Jordan River Commission Governing Board will be June 18, 2015, 9:00-11:00, Taylorsville City Hall.

On motion and second, the meeting was adjourned.