

JORDAN RIVER COMMISSON
Governing Board – Regular Meeting

Minutes of September 18, 2014

Name	Agency or Organization	Present
Corey Rushton	Board Past-Chair, West Valley City	X
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: Emy Maloutas
John Bennett	Office of the Governor	
Bill Colbert	Draper City	By Alternate: Jennifer Jastremsky
Ben McAdams	Salt Lake County	By Alternate: Julie Peck-Dabling
Commissioner Louenda Downs	Davis County	By Alternate: Barry Burton
Commissioner Larry Ellertson	Utah County	
Bruce Jones	Utah Transit Authority	
Debbie Snow	City of South Salt Lake	X
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
Justin Stoker	City of West Jordan	X
Tee Tyler	Cottonwood Heights	X
Dan Armstrong	Taylorsville	X
Hilary Arens	Division of Water Quality	
Aimee Newton	Salt Lake County Council	X
Scott Peters	Ex-Officio, Jordan River Foundation	X
Alene Bentley	Ex-Officio, Rocky Mountain Power	X
Jon Bronson	Ex-Officio, Zions Bank	X
Amy Collins	Ex-Officio, TreeUtah	X
Greg Hardy	Ex-Officio, Chevron	X
Michael Horrocks	Ex-Officio, Wasatch Rowing Foundation	X
Soren Simonsen	Ex-Officio, At Large	
Michael Steele	Ex-Officio, Utah State Fairpark	X
Ray Pickup	Ex-Officio, Workers Compensation Fund	By Alternate: Kris McFarland
Tim Brown	Ex-Officio, Tracy Aviary	

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Laura Hanson, Jordan River Commission
Lynn Larsen, Jordan River Foundation, Salt Lake County
Elliott Mott, Wasatch Mountain Club
Mike Meldrum, Taylorsville

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Jordan River Commission, was held on Thursday September 18, 2014 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.

ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

Motion – Jon Bronson made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes.
Second – Mike Horrocks
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:

Community Relations & Outreach

- Outreach to current and potential members:
 - Presentation to the South Jordan City Council on September 2, 2014 was postponed
 - Presentation to Riverton City Council is scheduled for September 30, 2014
 - Presenting to the JWCD Board on October 8, 2014
- The JRC was recognized at the local Active Health and Transportation Summit for our contributions to the river corridor and parkway trail to date.

Projects, Grants, and Fundraising Efforts

- **New Grants Received:**
 - No new grants received since last Board meeting
 - We were not invited to submit a full proposal for the Conoco Phillips SPIRIT of Conservation grant, which would have funded restoration work along the Utah County section of parkway.
- **New Grants Submitted:**
 - Pulling Together Initiative – full proposal
 - \$44,000 for an incentive-based weed management strategy in partnership with Salt Lake County Weed Control, Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands, and Red Butte Garden

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- The project includes invasive weed management at the Bend-in-the-River site along the Jordan River as well as a site within the Red Butte Garden natural area.
- The Incentive-based approach will be within existing programs such as Salt Lake City's Adopt-a-spot and Jordan River Ambassadors programs, Utah State University's Master Naturalist program. Participants will be rewarded for their contributions with plaques, awards, or other meaningful incentives to provide recognition to participants.
- Hard goods will be solicited from local companies, and compiled into a goody bags for private landowners and volunteers as rewards for those that participate in weed control efforts. We will focus on engaging youth through organizations such as Youth City and the Sorenson Unity Center. If applicable, scholarships will be made available for those that would like to participate in the program but are financially limited.
- Lastly, an award ceremony for all the participants that completed the project will be presented at the Salt Lake County Watershed symposium in the early winter of 2015 and 2016. In addition, a presentation on the Weed Model will be presented at the Utah Weed Awareness Conference, highlighting the successes and challenges of the project.
- **Upcoming Grant Deadlines:**
 - 2015 Brownfields Area-Wide Planning (BF AWP) Grant
 - <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>
 - May apply for up to \$200,000 for Brownfields Area planning and clean-up
 - The proposal submission deadline is September 22, 2014.
 - Transportation Alternatives Program, Congestion and Air Quality Mitigation Funding
 - This federal funding Wasatch Front Regional Council is requesting Letters of Intent by October 30th. Additional Information should be available soon.
- **Best Practices for Riverfront Communities**
 - Planning the third workshop in the Best Practices for Riverfront Communities Training Series
 - Rooftop to River: Tools for Restoring Watersheds
 - November 21, 2014
 - Topics: retrofit of existing sites in urban areas and stream restoration as a stormwater management technique
 - Instructors: David Hirshman and Bill Stack, Center for Watershed Protection
 - Registration opens October 1, 2014 and rates range from \$75 for JRC members and partners to \$125 for private companies and individuals.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 3 – Consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding creating an organizational structure for the annual Get Into The River Festival

Chris McCandess asked Laura Hanson to introduce this topic.

Laura Hanson explained that the 2014 Get Into the River event was a great success, and that all the partners look forward to holding the event again in 2015. To help establish a solid foundation for this event to continue into the future, a Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted by the event Oversight Committee. This MOU outlines the roles and responsibilities of each of the partners, and clarifies how any funds raised by the event are to be managed. This MOU is now before the Board for consideration.

Mike Horrocks asked about the planning committee taking on all permitting responsibilities for community partners hosting activities as part of the overall event. She replied that permits were handled for the in-river clean up, but that they had not considered taking on that roll for all community partners. However it may be possible to get one permit that covers all events occurring that day, and that she would coordination with the State about that.

Scott Peters suggested a change that clarifies that the Fiscal Sponsor retain control of the money to ensure that it retains its tax deductible status. He also noted that it would be good to clarify that the committee is not required to hire an event coordinator if one is not needed.

Julie Peck-Dabling shared her thoughts that this event really needs an event coordinator to ensure that all the moving parts are coordinated, and that she wasn't sure it would have happened without that role.

Laura Hanson mentioned that there is a separate document that accompanies this MOU, and that Splore will be signing a Fiscal Sponsor Agreement. She suggested that the MOU be changed as follows (additions are underlined):

I.B. Responsibilities. *The Oversight Committee shall be responsible for managing the strategic direction of the event from year to year, extending invitations to organizations and governmental agencies to serve on the planning committee, hiring and contracting an event coordinator, as needed, and providing oversight on financial matters. The annual meeting agenda will include the following items:*

I.B.2. Current Year Event

- Negotiate and approve any contracts for hiring an Event Coordinator, as needed.*

V. A.1 *Splore will be the fiscal sponsor for the GITR event. Splore shall sign a Fiscal Sponsor Agreement and follow all procedures necessary to ensure that donations maintain their tax deductible status.*

Motion – Julie Peck-Dabling made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding creating an organizational structure for the Get Into the River Festival, with the changes discussed.

Second – Ken Leetham

Vote – Unanimous in favor.

ITEM 4 – Discuss and consider adoption of a Development Review Assistance Process and Checklist.

Chris McCandless asked Laura Hanson to present this item.

Laura Hanson reported that the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement forming the Jordan River Commission lists the following as one of the Commission's core purposes:

2.5 *Monitor and Promote Responsible Economic Development.*

The Commission shall monitor and promote responsible economic activity along the river and in areas affecting the river to promote efficient and orderly development that harmonizes with the aforementioned purposes of the Commission and is in accordance generally with the principles outlined by the Jordan River Blueprint.

Further, the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement also outlines the Commission's role in reviewing development proposals and government agency actions affecting the river corridor:

8.3 *Review of Private Development Proposals.*

Upon approval by the Board of processes for the review of private development plans, programs and proposals, including residential, commercial, and recreational developments, ("private submissions"), the Commission will review all such private submissions for lands within one-half mile from the River. The Commission shall provide timely comments regarding Jordan River Blueprint consistency on the proposed development to the local jurisdiction and the proponent of the development...

8.4 *Review of Proposed Governmental Agency Actions.*

In addition, Salt Lake County recently adopted some policy language stating that any project located within the river corridor that proposes to use tax increment financing, would need to meet the principles of the Blueprint Jordan River in order to receive County support as a taxing entity.

In the absence of a formal process to guide these reviews, the review processes to date have been a bit complicated and unclear. In order to be able to fulfil the responsibilities outlined in the Interlocal Agreement and as assigned by Salt Lake County, and in light of past review outcomes it is apparent that the Commission should adopt a formal process to ensure consistency, predictability, and to ensure that recommendations and comments are objective and evenly applied. A draft approach has been drafted, which incorporates an incentive and recognition program for exemplary communities and development projects.

Jenifer Jastremsky asked about the Commission Board and TAC's meeting schedule, noting that not holding meetings at certain times of the year could be problematic if the Commission participates in this role. Laura Hanson noted that yes, the Board and TAC would both have to meet monthly, but could cancel meetings if there was no business to discuss.

Ken Leetham noted that time is always the issue and that it should be a goal to ensure the process would not slow things down. Laura Hanson suggested that it might be possible to change when the TAC meets, to reduce the time between the two meetings.

Jon Bronson suggested that an electronic meeting policy could allow for email votes as well. Laura noted that this is actually already in place.

Julie Peck-Dabling expressed her hope that communities and developers would want to aim for a River Friendly recognition award, and that this could be a good incentive to raise the bar.

Debbie Snow said that she was inclined to speak in favor of this, noting a somewhat bumpy review process when South Salt Lake brought a project to the Commission for review. She noted that the City got a bit of a mixed message between the Board and conversations with staff. She noted that if this is delivered to the developers at the very first of a process, that it will make any issues easier to address.

Rebecca Call noted that the Interlocal Agreement includes this as a purpose and role of the Commission, so that all Commission members have already agreed to do this. She asked about the threshold for earning a River Friendly recognition, and noted that it's possible someone could meet all the criteria for recognition but pave over the river.

Ken Leetham suggested weighting some of the criteria. He suggested that the cities should all review this as well and offer feedback.

Rebecca Call suggested a points system, with a scale for partial compliance. She also suggested that developers may work to time their projects around this review schedule like they do other city review deadlines.

Jen Jastremsky asked about what if the City has a lot of changes they would like to see, and the version before the JRC is not the best version. It was suggested that a city or developer would have the option to resubmit their project if desired.

Justin Stoker noted that some cities may not allow some of these recommendations by ordinance. Laura Hanson noted that there will probably be situations like that, but the hope is that perhaps ordinance changes would take place to raise the standard for developments within the river corridor. She also reminded the Board that all recommendations are advisory in nature.

Jon Bronson asked if a developer could come directly to the JRC without going through a city first. It was suggested that the TAC address this question, and come back to the Board with a refined proposal.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 5 – Public Comment

Chris McCandless asked if any members of the public were present that wished to address the Board.

Elliott Mott from the Wasatch Mountain Club mentioned that he would very much like to see the Commission focus more efforts on addressing the navigational hazards along the river for boaters. He demonstrated the challenges with boating along the river using pieces of colored licorice. He noted that some sections are just too costly to address the hazards, but that there are sections that could be made easier to use with less expensive approaches.

He provided a handout that explained the various sections that he would like the board to consider addressing.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 7 – OTHER BUSINESS

Chris McCandless asked if any Board members had anything else to share or report.

Rebecca Call mentioned that the JRC Small Grant project offered to the City of Saratoga Springs is nearing completion and that the City would provide a report back to the Board on this project in a future meeting.

No action taken. Discussion only.

ITEM 10 – CONFIRM NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN

The next meeting of the Jordan River Commission Governing Board will be October 16, 2014, 9:00-11:00, Taylorsville City Hall.

On motion and second, the meeting was adjourned.