

THE UTAH LAKE AUTHORITY REGULARLY HELD MEETING

January 24, 2024, at 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

**Item 7 subpoints were misnumbered on the agenda, the minutes have been recorded to reflect the proper numbering.*

1. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER/INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Chair Julie Fulmer called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

2. CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS/DISCLOSURES/RECUSALS

Members had nothing to report.

3. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.1 Conservation and Restoration Efforts

Addy Valdez, a conservation biologist, provided an update on conservation efforts, noting the challenges posed by cold weather and the focus on planning for the upcoming seasons. She highlighted the completion of a water restoration initiative application with the Utah Department of Natural Resources for fiscal year 2025, aimed at addressing invasive species around Utah Lake and transitioning to a maintenance phase with significant funding support. Addy detailed the objectives of removing invasive species and restoring the shoreline with native plants, mentioning a collaborative effort with partners and the engagement of community volunteers in planting activities. She also spoke about the financial contributions from various partners totaling around \$600,000 for the project. She emphasized the opportunity for community involvement and the adaptability of the events to different groups. She explained the sourcing process, noting that the majority of the plugs come from a nursery in Idaho, with a smaller portion being grown by UVU students from locally collected seeds. She elaborated on future plans to increase the proportion of locally sourced plants through partnerships with local nurseries, highlighting the logistical challenges and efforts to balance commercial availability with local cultivation initiatives.

3.2 Communications and Outreach

Sam Braegger began by acknowledging the presence of Commissioner Sakovich and Hillary Hungerford, board members attending online, and welcomed their input during his presentation. He humorously noted his current workload, juggling three roles due to recent staff changes, including the departure of Jenna, the outreach coordinator. He introduced Anna Hall as the new hire who would be taking over outreach responsibilities, praising her background in public relations and marketing. He briefly highlighted two accomplishments Jenna had before her departure: the completion of the website overhaul for Utah Lake, making it more user-friendly, and her contribution to creating training materials for new staff, a significant step given the agency's infancy and lack of established onboarding processes.

3.3 Events and Engagement

Sam Braegger shared the success of the Winter Fish Fest, a unique 10-day fishing challenge designed to encourage participation and education about fishing at Utah Lake during winter. He noted a

significant increase in participation following the announcement of an attractive grand prize, an electric ice auger. He also previewed upcoming events, including fourth-grade field trips, Paddle with Care events, and the Utah Lake Festival, stressing the importance of these activities in promoting engagement with the lake.

3.4 Interim Executive Director Report

Sam Braegger summarized various administrative and operational tasks undertaken during his interim director period. These included submitting a Water Restoration Initiative (WRI) application, completing fiscal and transparency reporting, participating in the hiring process, finalizing the lake management plan, updating standards and criteria for lake management, and developing new policies and an onboarding process to better prepare new hires.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

- 4.1 Approval of the November 17 and December 20, 2023, ULA Board Meeting Minutes**
- 4.2 Approve November - December Monthly ULA Budget Reports**
- 4.3 Approve PTIF Public Entity Resolution**

Chris Carn motioned to approve the consent items. Michelle Kaufusi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

5.1 ULA Small Grants Program – Sam Braegger

Sam Braegger discussed the grants program designed to enhance recreation at Utah Lake by supporting initiatives that improve amenities, conserve the lake, and protect its ecosystem. The program aims to fund projects that enhance the recreational use and enjoyment of the lake and its public access areas, with a current budget of \$60,000. He detailed the types of projects eligible for funding, such as the construction of recreational amenities and ongoing programs like classes or leagues. He emphasized that the grants are not intended for large-scale infrastructure projects but rather for smaller-scale efforts and special events that are open to the public. He also clarified what the grants would not cover, such as projects in private access areas or those with a restricted audience, ensuring the initiatives remain accessible to the general public. The eligibility criteria include municipalities, Utah County, nonprofit organizations, and private businesses, with a match component required from applicants, which can be partly in-kind. He outlined the evaluation process for grant applications, mentioning that a committee would assess the proposals based on completeness, quality, and funding considerations. He also noted the flexibility in awarding funds, allowing for partial or full funding of projects based on their merit. Lastly, he mentioned the upcoming deadline for applications and the possibility of granting extensions to interested parties due to the short notice period for the program's launch. He expressed optimism about the program's potential to support various recreational initiatives at Utah Lake.

5.2 Utah Lake Management Plan Recap – Jacobs Engineering

Dave Epstein, representing Jacobs Engineering as the project manager, provided an overview of the Utah Lake Management Plan project. The project was initiated in response to the 2022 House Bill 232, which established the Utah Lake Authority and mandated the creation of a management plan for Utah Lake. Despite an aggressive timeline, the project kicked off in November 2022, with a goal to adopt a conceptual plan by April 1, 2023. The planning process involved convening a diverse planning team, developing a vision, mission, goals, and objectives, and conducting public surveys to gather input. The conceptual plan underwent a 30-day public comment period before being approved by the board. The next phase involved a draft plan, which detailed management actions, identified gaps, and recommended strategies for achieving the plan's goals. This draft also went through a public comment period. The final version of the plan was submitted to the board in December 2023. Throughout the process, the planning team, which included a broad range of stakeholders, played a

crucial role in shaping the plan's direction. Public surveys revealed strong support for focusing on ecosystem restoration and recreational improvements.

Kayla Worthen, the deputy project manager, demonstrated the Utah Lake Management Plan Hub, an online platform designed to make the management plan actionable and relevant. The hub includes various resources, such as the project inventory, draft management plan, implementation schedule, and a spatial data viewer. The project inventory serves as a living document detailing ongoing management activities around Utah Lake and provides a centralized source of information. The hub is intended to facilitate stakeholder and public engagement with the plan, offering detailed information on prioritized strategies and implementation projects. This digital approach aims to ensure the management plan remains accessible and useful for decision-makers, stakeholders, and the general public, promoting collaborative efforts to achieve the plan's vision for Utah Lake.

Michelle Kaufusi expressed gratitude for the comprehensive Utah Lake Management Plan, highlighting its value as a resource for addressing concerns from Provo residents, particularly about issues like carp in the lake. She noted the document's thoroughness and its usefulness in saving her time as mayor by providing a reliable source of information to direct residents' inquiries.

Chris Carn motioned to move the agenda Item 7.4 to this point. Carolyn Lundberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CLOSED SESSION

Chris Carn motioned to enter into a closed session. Ben Stireman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Approve Next Steps for Mitigation Bank

Determined in closed session that no action was needed on this agenda item, skipped.

7.2 Review and Approve ULA Utah Lake Management Plan

Vice-Chair Michelle Kaufusi took over the meeting chair from Chair Fullmer and moved the meeting forward with a focus on action items. The agenda proceeded to discuss the Utah Lake Management Plan, which required a motion for approval. Curtis Blair reviewed the plan over the holidays and recommended its approval due to its thoroughness and quality. A motion was made to approve the Utah Lake Management Plan, and a second was requested. The plan was commended for its comprehensive information and significant contribution to understanding and managing Utah Lake.

Curtis Blair motioned to approve the ULA Utah Lake Management Plan. Carolyn Lundberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7.3 End of Year Bonus for Sam Braegger

Hilary Hungerford stated that the bonus had been withheld due to Sam Bragger's interim role, creating a gray area. With the appointment of a new executive director, it was proposed to award Mr. Braegger his deserved bonus.

Carolyn Lundberg motioned to approve the bonus. Chris Carn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7.4 Resolution to Appoint an Executive Director and Set Pay

Chair Julie Fullmer discussed the hiring process for a new executive director, praising the thoroughness of the procedure led by Jenna and the quality of the candidates. The board selected Luke Peterson as the top candidate, and the meeting was to ratify his position and set his salary, which fell within the board's purview. Ms. Fullmer referenced a market study included in the board packet to aid in salary determination. The discussion clarified that the motion would encompass both the appointment and the salary setting, with a proposed salary range between \$145,000 and \$152,000 and a request for \$150,000. The resolution included in the board packet would guide the final decision, aiming to ratify Mr. Peterson's position and establish his salary at \$150,000, along with additional terms offered in the job offer.

Tom Sakievich motioned to hire the new executive director position and set the pay to \$150,000 with the additional benefits offered to the applicant in the job offer. Curtis Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Luke Peterson expressed his excitement about joining the ULA team, highlighting his deep connection to Utah County, his educational background, and his diverse professional experience. He emphasized that this new role is a significant and exciting step in his career, and he is eager to contribute to the team and the vision for Utah Lake's future.

Chair Jullie Fullmer thanked everyone involved in the executive director selection process, praising the interview process and expressing confidence in Luke Peterson's abilities and the positive feedback received about him.

7.5 Review and Approve ULA Grants Policy

Sam Braegger explained the Utah Lake Authority's broad grant administration policy, detailing its purpose and operational guidelines. The policy requires pre-approved budget amounts by the board, a review committee including staff and board members, a monitoring process with reporting and inspection requirements, a maximum term for grant use, and strategic alignment with the agency's vision and mission. The policy applies to all grants offered by the agency, ensuring compliance with established directives. During the discussion, it was clarified that the policy would govern the current small grants program, with \$60,000 allocated for the year, and that the program's guidelines were designed to be compliant with the new policy. The board was asked to review and approve the policy.

Kamron Dalton motioned to approve the ULA Grants Policy. Mark Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7.6 Discussion Regarding Membership in the Jordan River Commission

Sam Braegger discussed the Utah Lake Authority's (ULA) potential membership in the Jordan River Commission following Soren Simonson's presentation at the November 17th meeting. The documents provided included Simonson's offer letter and presentation slides. Braegger recommended considering ex officio membership, which wouldn't change the ULA staff's commitment to collaborating with the Commission and other partners. He clarified that ex officio membership would still allow for a strong relationship without the financial commitment of a paid membership, which is estimated between six and ten thousand dollars annually.

The discussion further clarified the difference between ex officio and paid membership, particularly regarding voting rights on Commission issues. It was noted that ex officio members, like business and nonprofit partners, often contribute financially as well, though government agencies typically follow a more formulaic pattern of membership.

The board debated the merits of joining as a paid member versus an ex officio member, considering financial implications and the nature of ULA's involvement with Jordan River matters. The discussion

highlighted the importance of maintaining a relationship with the Commission, regardless of the membership status, to support watershed-related initiatives.

The possibility of tabling the decision was suggested to allow for further discussion, especially with the new executive director, Luke, now on board.

Soren Simonson provided additional insights into the benefits of ULA joining as a full member, emphasizing the government nature of ULA and its alignment with the Commission's goals for the watershed.

The board considered tabling the discussion for a future meeting to explore further the implications and benefits of different types of membership.

Soren Simonson clarified that membership fees for the Jordan River Commission are established in the interlocal agreement, with fees for cities and water reclamation facilities set by a formula. Other memberships are negotiable, as indicated in the letter provided, with a target fee range of \$6,000 to \$10,000 for regional government entities. He mentioned that UDOT, by legislative act, became an interlocal member but is not currently contributing financially. Simonson suggested that if financial concerns exist regarding the membership fee, there could be room for negotiation to find a more agreeable amount for the Utah Lake Authority. He proposed a discussion between himself, Luke, and Sam to explore a feasible contribution level.

Mark Johnson motioned to table this item until the next board meeting, and some discussion can occur with the leadership and the board. Curtis Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7.7 ULA Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Sam Braegger initiated a discussion about the election process for chair and vice chair positions within the organization, outlining that the bylaws require elections to be conducted through written or digital votes. To facilitate this, he set up a simple Google form for each position and offered to provide a QR code for mobile access and an email link for those preferring to vote via computer. He emphasized the importance of transparency by stating that the results, including voter names and vote counts, would be displayed after voting.

Nominations for the chair included Michelle Kaufusi, nominated by Chris Carn, Ben Steerman, and Hillary Hungerford. For the vice chair position, nominations were received for Cameron Dalton by Ben Stirman and Carolyn Lundberg by Hillary Hungerford. Braegger stressed the need to include any additional nominations before voting to ensure they are added to the form.

Sam Braegger clarified that the board's votes were in, with Mayor Kaufusi being the sole candidate for chair, and expressed readiness to move on to the vice chair election, with nominations for Cameron Dalton and Carolyn Lundberg already in place.

Mayor Kaufusi added Chris Carn to the nominations.

Chris Carn and Carolyn Lundberg briefly spoke about their connection to and passion for the lake, emphasizing their readiness to serve in whatever capacity was needed.

In the second round of voting, Carolyn Lundberg won the vice chair position, as shown by the displayed vote percentages and confirmed by the board.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elliott Mott, a volunteer organizer from Salt Lake County, shared his experiences organizing outdoor events and emphasized the importance of making roads around Utah Lake bike-friendly. He also

discussed the need for improved access points for kayaking along the Jordan River and suggested improvements for the Spanish Fork River.

Hilary Hungerford thanked Mott for his active use of the water systems and recognized the challenges mentioned.

Sam Braegger confirmed that notes and action items from the comments were being recorded.

Kaye Nelson from Provo pledged support to Mayor Kaufusi and Mayor Lundberg, expressing gratitude for the collaborative efforts with the Utah Lake Authority.

Michelle Kaufusi relayed a message of thanks from Mayor Fuller, the former chair, expressing her gratitude for the trust placed in her. She announced the next meeting for March 20th, 2024, at the Provo Airport.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Michelle Kaufusi adjourned the meeting.