

Jordan River Commission Technical Advisory Committee

October 17, 2024 | 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Location

This is a virtual meeting conducted via Zoom, with an anchor location at the Jordan River Commission office.

Meeting Attendees

Technical Advisory Committee Members

Marian Rice, Chair, Associate Director- Peak Water Sustainability Engine (University of Utah)
Michele Rehbein, Education Specialist- Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District
Laura Haskell, Jordan River Basin Area Specialist- Division of Water Resources
Matt Ryan, Connection Planner- Wasatch Front Regional Council
Dan Potts, Aquatic Ecologist- Salt Lake Fish and Game Foundation
Todd Taylor, Planner- Draper City
Todd Munger, Sustainability Director- Lehi City; Jordan River Foundation
Gina Grandpre, Senior Planner- Saratoga Springs City
Lynn Berni, Watershed Planning & Restoration Coordinator- Salt Lake County
Heidi Hoven, Gilmore Sanctuary Assistant Manager- National Audubon Society
Angelo Calacino, Park Development Project Manager- Salt Lake County
Tori Bird, Conservation Action Coordinator- Utah's Hogle Zoo
Travis Christensen, Engineer/Project Manager- Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
Nathan Page, Grant Administrator- Riverton City
Chris Cline, Past Chair
Suzy Lee, Utah Lake/Jordan River Lands Program Manager- Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Theron Miller, Jordan and Farmington Bay Water Quality Council
Shauna Mecham, Active Transportation Planner- Mountainland Association of Governments

Commission Staff

Soren Simonsen, Executive Director
Julie Williams, Event & Volunteer Manager
Ren Griffeth, Administration, Grant & Research Specialist

Visitors and Guests

Holly Lopez, Policy & Public Affairs Director- Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities
Rachel Lake, Grow the Flow
Ross Donahoo, Grow the Flow
Makaylah Mapongo, Public Lands Planner- Salt Lake City Public Lands
Julie Bjornstad, Wasatch Front Regional Council

Meeting Minutes

Marian Rice, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Identification of Event Advisory Committee members and other meeting participants in person and online.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Presentations & Discussion - Community Development

Great Salt Lake Shoreline Heritage Area & Jordan River Delta Restoration & Preservation : Holly Lopez and Heidi Hoven shared an update of preservation and restoration efforts for wetland and upland habitat areas around the Jordan River Delta region of the Great Salt Lake Shoreline Heritage Area.

Heidi discussed the development pressures currently facing the lands around Great Salt Lake. She explained that many of the areas outside of waterfowl management areas do not have protections in place, but contain extensive wetlands. She also mentioned the relevance of wetland protection to the strategies outlined in the 2015 Plan Salt Lake document. This plan also mentions potential tools such as transfer of development rights to achieve wetland protection.

Holly discussed the GSLWET application, which enabled her team to receive a \$2.2 million grant to purchase lands for conservation. Once the grant agreement is executed, they will move forward with their intended land purchase, which is near the Jordan River.

Soren Simonsen noted that projects like this help to determine the line at which human development stops and habitat preservation begins.

Rachel Lake mentioned that Grow the Flow would be interested in helping with education, outreach, and restoration in these efforts, and asked how to contact Holly about getting involved.

Lynn De Freitas recognized the merits of this work and expressed her appreciation.

Salt Lake City Emerald Ribbon Action Plan: Makaylah Maponga shared an overview of the recently completed draft Emerald Ribbon Action Plan (see emeraldribbonplan.com), which will guide the implementation of Jordan River and public land improvements funded by the 2022 Salt Lake City General Obligation Bond and other funding programs.

Makayla reported that the four focus areas of the Plan are nature, connectivity, culture, and care. She noted that their outreach efforts revealed that most residents and stakeholders want the Jordan River corridor to remain wild. As such, their plan seeks to balance cultural areas with large expanses of passive recreation areas. They have identified five areas that have high potential for transformation.

They have developed specific action steps for each of their goals, and aim to have projects completed within 10 years. They will combine restoration work and improved amenities at the sites. They have determined that their project areas will include at least 30% natural area, which

is twice as much as they currently contain. Once all projects are completed there will be a total of 234 acres of restored natural area.

Dan Potts asked about the five wetlands areas being included in restoration efforts.

Makaylah replied that they do have funding for some of these areas.

Marian Rice asked about providing feedback on the Plan.

Makaylah replied that they are accepting general feedback on the Plan.

Power District Transportation Study : Julie Bjornstad shared an overview and updates for the Power District Transportation Study, being conducted in relation to the recent creation of the Utah Fairpark Area Investment & Restoration District. She reported that their objectives include ensuring a high quality of life in the area, access to transportation, attractive and livable places, and improved access to opportunities. She also mentioned that connections to the Jordan River Parkway will be considered in this plan.

Soren Simonsen asked what the best way for the Commission to become involved in the process, and to help guide and provide input from the beginning.

Julie replied that it may be best to have the Commission on their technical advisory committee.

Soren mentioned that there are stormwater concerns with additional transportation developments, which are important to consider as the project moves forward.

4. Committee Business

[Action Item] Consider Adopting Meeting Minutes:

- a) February 15, 2024 Committee Meeting
- b) April 18, 2024 Committee Meeting
- c) June 20, 2024 Committee Meeting
- 4) August 15, 2024 Committee Meeting

Tori Bird moved to adopt the listed meeting minutes. Angelo Calacino seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Committee Members present.

[Action Item] Committee Officer Nominations & Appointments:

Tori Bird nominated Gina Grandpre for the Committee Vice Chair position. Chris Cline seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Committee Members present.

Upcoming Meetings

- a) November 20 - 21, 2024 – Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium (saltlakecounty.gov/watershed/get-involved/watershed-symposium)
- b) December 19, 2024 – regular meeting; Cooperative Weed Management & Restoration focus

Subcommittee Opportunities

a) Jordan River Parkway Design Standards Review & Update: Soren Simonsen noted that this is a good opportunity for minds across the watershed to participate in designing new signage along the Parkway and share their best practices for lighting, wildlife considerations, and safety.

5. Commission Staff Report(s)

Director's Report

Soren Simonsen mentioned their recently hired full-time staff, seasonal staff, and interns , who have helped with a variety of Commission tasks. He also described a number of upcoming grant opportunities. Soren recommended that Committee members attend the Watershed Symposium if they can, and mentioned that a film would be screened at the end of the event if people can stay for it.

He mentioned that the Utah Lake Authority has joined the Governing Board, which is the first addition in several years. The Provo Delta Restoration area will open the following week, and he encouraged attendees to visit the area if they can.

6. Adjourn

Laura Haskell moved to adjourn the meeting. Gina Grandpre seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

A meeting recording, presentation and handout materials, and meeting minutes are available at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/947381.html>.

Meeting minutes prepared by Ren Griffeth, Jordan River Commission Administrative, Grant & Research Specialist.