

Jordan River Commission Technical Advisory Committee

August 15, 2024 | 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Location

This was 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)*
Chris Cline, *Past Chair*
Ali Avery, *Long Range Planner, North Salt Lake City*
Anthony Baimont, *Parks Project Manager, South Salt Lake*
Blake Bingham, *Deputy Water Engineer, Division of Water Rights*
Bruce Holyoak, *Park Superintendent, Murray City*
Cary Necaise, *Public Works Deputy Director, Riverton City*
Cory Fralick, *Director of Public Services, West Jordan City*
Eric McCulley, *Project Coordinator, Utah Reclamation Mitigation Conservation Commission*
Heidi Hoven, *Gilmore Sanctuary Assistant Manager, National Audubon Society*
Isaac Gomez, *Engineer, South Salt Lake City*
Ken Brand, *Facility Manager, Jordan Basin Improvement District*
Laura Haskell, *Jordan River Basin Area Specialist- Division of Water Resources*
Matt Ryan, *Connection Planner, Wasatch Front Regional Council*
Michele Rehbein, *Education Specialist, Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District*
Nathan Page, *Grant Administrator, Riverton City*
Sandy Wingert, *Environmental Scientist, Utah Division of Water Quality*
Todd Taylor, *Planner, Draper City*
Tori Bird, *Conservation Action Coordinator, Utah's Hogle Zoo*

Commission Staff

Gillian Chapman, *Communications & Outreach Intern*
Julie Williams, *Event & Volunteer Manager*
Rachel Turk, *Communications & Outreach Manager*
Soren Simonsen, *Executive Director*

Visitors and Guests

Paul Burnett, *Non-point Source Program Coordinator, Division of Water Quality*
Rae Robinson, *Restoration Coordinator, Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands*
Kendal Black, *Planner, Saratoga Springs City*

Meeting Minutes

Marian Rice, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Introductions and roll call of Technical Advisory Committee members and other meeting participants.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Presentations & Discussion - Cooperative Weed Management & Restoration

America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Project Overview: Partners of the Jordan River Commission, led by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality/Division of Water Quality as the grant recipient and administrator, have received a nearly \$5 million federal grant through the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. This was awarded for a comprehensive restoration project along Jordan River riparian areas and related restoration sites. Several key project partners shared information and overviews of distinct project elements. They are funded by the grant and matching funds, with a total project impact of over \$6 million.

Grant Overview: Paul Burnett and Sandy Wingert from the Division of Water Quality introduced and described the overarching goals of the grant. Paul described the process of preparing for this grant application and provided a brief overview of the projects involved. Sandy reported that many impaired waters across the state do not meet water quality standards. She also provided a review of the Big Bend Project's history.

Big Bend Nature Park & Preserve: Cory Fralick from West Jordan City described projects related to the realignment of the river through the Big Bend area, floodplain management, and restoration. He reported that they are working on establishing access to the property in question.

Gillmor Sanctuary: Heidi Hoven from Audubon Rockies described a restoration project for Gillmor Sanctuary. She reported that the Sanctuary needs invasive species control measures and reseeded with native plants. Tamarisk control is of special importance to help strengthen habitat and improve biodiversity.

Eric noted tamarisk is also a concern near the Jordan River Migratory Bird Refuge and Big Bend Park. He reported that fields of tamarisk are growing where phragmites have been removed and asked if Heidi had any advice for preventing this issue.

Heidi replied that pulling the taproot out of moist soil is an effective method but pulling them from dry soil will cause the top part of the plant to break off and leave its roots behind.

Soren Simonsen added that the high flows seen recently may be contributing to the seed dispersal of tamarisk and other plants.

Heidi Hoven noted that this was a contributing factor at the Sanctuary.

Jordan River Riparian Restoration: Rae Robinson from the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands described Jordan River riparian weed management and restoration projects. Rae reported that the funds awarded will cover a large amount of labor and materials costs. She described plans for this fall, which mostly center around invasive species control and proactive seeding with native plants at various sites.

Jordan River Partner Engagement & Monitoring: Soren Simonsen from the Commission described projects related to the Jordan River community and partner engagement, volunteer conservation and stewardship, and water quality activity and monitoring. He also described the history of the grant application process.

Eric McCulley noted that it will be important to track progress and engage the public as projects move along.

Marian Rice asked if the dashboard would track water releases from Utah Lake to Great Salt Lake.

Soren replied that the dashboard is intended to be comprehensive and should include this information.

Cory asked Soren about coordinating logistical needs for the August 30 event to kick off the Get to the River Festival and announce the large federal grant award.

Soren replied that invitations would be sent out shortly, and briefly described the plan for the event.

ATBC Announcement & Kickoff Event: Friday, August 30, 2024, at 10:00 AM, at the Big Bend Project Site in West Jordan. Partners and elected officials, including Mayor Dirk Burton of West Jordan, and Congressman Burgess Owens, representing Utah's Fourth Congressional District will announce the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant award and other project details and benefits.

4. Committee Business

Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2024, Committee meeting minutes were postponed.

Committee Officer Nominations & Appointments

The Committee's Vice Chair position is currently open for nominations; none were received at this time.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

September 19, 2024 – possible field trip (Get to the River Festival focus)

October 17, 2024 – regular meeting; Community Development focus

5. Commission Staff Report

Commission Staffing Updates: *Soren Simonsen reported that there are interns in the onboarding process and an additional full-time staff position open. He noted they will be introduced at the October meeting.*

Meetings, Events & Activities of Interest: *Soren described a few of the upcoming Get to the River Festival activities and mentioned that will help with public engagement and highlight some recent work.*

6. Adjourn

Ali Avery moved to adjourn the meeting. Eric McCulley seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

A meeting recording, presentation and handout materials, and meeting minutes are available at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/933824.html>.

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

Meeting Minutes adopted 10/17/2024.