

Jordan River Watershed Council Meeting

October 3, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Location

Education Center at Conservation Garden Park
Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
8275 South 1300 West, West Jordan, UT 84088

And remotely via Zoom.

Meeting Attendees

Watershed Council Members

Councilmember Bryn Johnson, Draper City
Wendelin Knobloch, Midvale City
Councilmember Sylvia Catten, Millcreek City
Councilmember Ted Knowlton, North Salt Lake
Councilmember Marci Houseman, Sandy City
Gina Grandpre, Saratoga Springs City
Mayor Kristie Overson, Taylorsville City
Cory Fralick, West Jordan City
Mayor Karen Lang, West Valley City
Kathryn Calderon, Salt Lake County
Jodi Goldberg, Division of Water Quality
Ben Stireman, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
Nathan Lee, Utah Department of Transportation
Shazelle Terry, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
Sam Braegger, Utah Lake Authority
Russell Fox, Utah Transit Authority
Betty Naylor, Gardner Heritage Farms
Heidi Hoven, National Audubon Society
Laura Briefer, Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities
Tim Brown, Tracy Aviary
Eric McCulley, Utah Reclamation, Mitigation, & Conservation Committee
Liz Larsen, Utah's Hogle Zoo

Commission Staff

Soren Simonsen, Executive Director
Rachel Turk, Communications & Outreach Manager,
Julie Williams, Event & Volunteer Manager
Ren Griffeth, Administration, Grant, & Research Specialist
Gillian Chapman, Intern
Caroline Johnston, Intern

Visitors and Guests

Carly Payne, Division of Water Resources
Candice Hasenyager, Division of Water Resources
Derek Anderson, Office of Senator Mike Lee
Dustin Wiberg, Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation
Jon Glenn, Jordan River Commission Event Advisory Committee
Keith Lawrence, Division of Wildlife Resources
Doug Lund, Utah's Hogle Zoo

The Watershed Council first convened as the Governing Board, then adjourned and reconvened as the Watershed Council.

Meeting Minutes

Eric McCulley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Identification of Governing Board members and other meeting participants in person and online.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments provided. Eric McCulley asked attendees to consider how the public can be more involved going forward.

3. Presentations & Discussion

Eric McCulley introduced Candice Hasenyager, Director of the Utah Division of Water Resources in the Department of Natural Resources. He noted that the Watershed Council will be providing information to the State Water Plan and asked attendees to think about what information they can provide.

State Water Plan Overview: Candice is an engineer who has worked for the Division of Water Resources for 17 years. She works on planning, hydrology, and modeling. Candice shared an overview and updates of the State Water Plan that was initiated and funded through HB 280 (<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/static/HB0280.html>). This bill was sponsored by Rep. Casey Snider during the 2024 general session of the Utah Legislature.

Candice reported that about \$60 billion is needed for different water infrastructure projects throughout the state over the coming years. HB 280 requires different entities to work with the Division of Water Resources and requires the Division to complete its plan by the end of 2026. The Plan must be consistent with State water policy and requires cooperation between many entities. In addition, it must foster communities and businesses, facilitate agriculture, address outdoor recreation, and provide for a healthy environment.

Candice reported that the Division utilizes various tools and models to understand elements such as inflows, outflows, impacts of diversion points, and projected future water demands. She noted that information from the Watershed Council will be important to this plan going forward.

Laura Briefer noted that a Water Plan was recently published and asked if this was an update to an existing plan.

Candice replied that there was a recent plan published in 2021, but the current water situation is dynamic. She noted that this warrants new revisions to take a more collaborative approach and create a more holistic Plan.

Betty Naylor asked if public hearings would be a part of this plan.

Candice replied that there is a robust plan for public outreach throughout the planning process.

Soren Simonsen asked how the Division sees the role of the Council unfolding as a part of this plan. He asked what they should be thinking about, and what information they should be gathering to assist with this plan.

Candice stated that HB 280 incorporates two plans, the overarching State Water Plan and the Unified Water Infrastructure Plan. This second piece is housed within the Water Plan and focuses on how the State will prioritize and fund water infrastructure projects. She noted that the process for this will be different going forward. She stated that the Watershed Council can assist by looking at their local data to see what their needs are and evaluate what does and does not make sense with water usage in their localities.

Watershed Council Goals & Priorities: Eric McCulley continued the discussion of goals and strategies from the last Council meeting. He stressed the importance of establishing priorities and action items for the Council members and constituencies.

Eric asked for every attendee to send him a personal email by the following Tuesday detailing their most significant contribution to the watershed this calendar year. He emphasized the need to capture all the work being done so that the Council can better understand where the needle is being moved, and where more attention is needed. He noted that agriculture often is underrepresented in project planning. He noted that State and Federal agencies will review their work, and it is important to demonstrate progress and show what other State Watershed Councils can accomplish.

4. Council Business

Meeting Minutes from recent Watershed Council meetings:

Sylvia Catten moved to postpone the meeting minute adoption until the next meeting, which was seconded by Wendelin Knobloch. This was unanimously approved by the Council Members present.

Information & Announcements: Soren Simonsen mentioned that environmental remediation is needed as part of the revitalization project in the Fairpark area and Power District due to contamination from past industrial activities. Arsenic and other heavy metals were found embedded in the riverbed in that area. There is a possibility to apply for EPA grants to assist in

this matter. He asked attendees to consider if they have any projects in mind that are related to watershed health as they learn more about these grant opportunities.

Soren noted that the Utah Watershed Council is considering making changes to the Watershed Council Act. He asked attendees to consider what, if any, changes they would suggest to the Act. He mentioned that recreation and municipal uses may be beneficial considerations to add.

Eric McCulley stated that the Council would consider creating a summary of the Watershed Act. He noted that capacity building may be a beneficial aspect to consider. He mentioned workshops and best practice training could be beneficial topics to include in separate meetings. He also noted the Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium, which will take place on November 20-21, 2024.

The next Governing Board meeting will be December 5, 2024.

5. Adjourn

Heidi Hoven moved to adjourn the meeting. Wendelin Knobloch seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

A meeting recording, presentation and handout materials, and meeting minutes are available at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/943537.html>.

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