Jordan River Commission
Governing Board Meeting

August 1, 2024 | 11:17 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

Governing Board Members

Councilmember Andy Pierucci, Riverton City
Ben Stireman, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Betty Naylor, Gardner Heritage Farm
Brad Knoles, Rocky Mountain Power
Councilmember Bryn Heather Johnson, Draper City
Mayor Dirk Burton, West Jordan City
Councilmember Donald Shelton, South Jordan City
Eric McCulley, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission
Gina Grandpre, Saratoga Springs City
Heidi Hoven, Audubon Rockies
Ken Brand, Jordan Basin Improvement District
Mayor Karen Lang, West Valley City
Mayor Kristie Overson, Taylorsville City
Luke Peterson, Utah Lake Authority
Councilmember Marci Houseman, Sandy City
Councilmember Paige Albrecht, Lehi City
Sandy Wingert, Division of Water Quality
Councilmember Silvia Catten, Millcreek City
Councilmember Ted Knowlton, North Salt Lake City
Wendelin Knobloch, Midvale City

Commission Staff

Soren Simonsen, Executive Director
Rachel Turk, Communications & Outreach Manager,
Julie Williams, Event & Volunteer Manager

Visitors and Guests

Councilmember Todd Draper, Draper City
Todd Munger, Lehi City
Colby Hill, South Jordan City Public Works
Ajla Hadzialijagic, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

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Anna Habben, Consultant at Mighty Penguin
Leanna Littler-Woolf, Division of Water Quality
Kaerlek Janislampi, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
India Nielsen Barfuss, Division of Outdoor Recreation
Laura Haskell, Division of Water Resources
Cindy Kindred, Senior Consultant at Mighty Penguin
Marian Rice, University of Utah & Jordan River Commission Technical Advisory Committee
Jon Glenn, Jordan River Commission Event Advisory Committee

The Governing Board meeting reconvened immediately following the Jordan River Watershed Council meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Silvia Catten, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:17 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.

3. Presentations & Discussion

Technical Advisory Committee Update: Marian Rice, Committee Chair, provided a summary of the quarterly report. In collaboration with GREENbike, a successful field trip was organized along a portion of the Jordan River trail in May 2024. She expressed excitement for the increased accessibility to trails that GREENbike installments enable.

In June 2024, the committee focused on community development, including discussions on the impacts of homelessness, drug use, and crime along the Jordan River Parkway. They discussed the ongoing implementation efforts of the Utah Homelessness Strategic Plan and legislative funding updates with Wayne Niederhauser, Director of the Utah Office of Homeless Services. Lastly, the committee discussed current projects and future opportunities in the Fairpark Area Revitalization District.

In the upcoming quarter, the committee will focus on Cooperative Weed Management Areas and organize the Jordan River Commission Technical Advisory Committee field trip. Marian commended the collaborative efforts of various entities to improve the Jordan River and surrounding areas.

Event Advisory Committee Update: Jon Glenn, Committee Chair, introduced himself and provided a summary of his background, including an extensive history of personal participation in Jordan River-related activities. He reported that he graduated from the University of Utah with a bachelor's in political science and went on to get a master's degree in library science. He spent most of his career at Salt Lake Community College, where he recently retired as the Director of Library Services. After his retirement, he was looking for ways to get involved in the community. He stated that he has always appreciated the Jordan River, which provides a strip of nature that runs through the urban environment.

2024 Get to the River Festival Preview: Anna Habben and Cindy Kindred provided an overview of the Get to the River Festival. Cindy reported that fundraising for the 2024 Get to the River Festival exceeded the amount procured for the festival in 2023. Marathon Petroleum returned as a presenting sponsor. The Celebration & Recognition Event will take place on October 3rd at the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, which has generously donated the space for the event.

Anna Habben reported the status of the festival budget. Cindy summarized some sponsorship and event details. She reports that they have raised $71,000, but there are still a few sponsors pending. Nineteen total sponsors are included in this year's sponsorships, including the Jordan River Commission and the Jordan River Foundation, who are the backbone of the Get to the River Festival. The only sponsor from last year who did not return was Maverick because they changed their priorities to focus on food insecurity. Anna added that they are already looking ahead to secure 2025 sponsorships.

Soren Simonsen added a few thoughts on the upcoming Celebration & Recognition Event. He expressed gratitude for the additional temporary support staff available to the Commission, which was made possible by the fundraising work of Mighty Penguin. The Festival Kick-off Event is scheduled to take place at the Big Bend Nature Park and Preserve on August 30, 2024, where the work being done with the recently awarded America the Beautiful Challenge grant will be announced. Eric McCulley invited attendees to think about projects that could potentially be funded with future America the Beautiful Challenge grants.

Soren asked for input on additional community calendars, newsletters, etc. that can be used to share information about the Festival and specific events. Anna reported that the theme for the Celebration & Recognition Event will be “Connections” and will highlight the Jordan River’s important role in connecting Utah Lake to Great Salt Lake, and in connecting communities and individuals to each other.

4. Introduction of New Interlocal Member Agency

Sylvia Catten briefly introduced the new Interlocal Member agency and mentioned that a more formal introduction, with time for an agency presentation and an update, will be scheduled at a future meeting. The new members from the Utah Lake Authority include Luke Peterson, Director; Sam Braegger, Deputy Director (Alternate); Mayor Michelle Kaufusi, Chair (City of Provo); Mayor Carolyn Lundberg, Vice-Chair (City of Lindon).

5. Commission Business

[**Action Item**] Event Advisory Committee Appointments:

a) India Nielsen Barfuss, Deputy Director of the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, introduced herself. She expressed gratitude for being able to participate in activities related to outdoor recreation as part of her professional life, oftentimes on the river. She has worked with the Jordan River Commission on events in the past and spends a lot of time along the Jordan River Parkway.

b) Todd Munger, Board Member of the Jordan River Foundation & Sustainability Director at Lehi City, introduced himself. He mentioned that he appreciates the opportunity to highlight, introduce, redefine, and help people understand what a beautiful amenity the whole corridor of the Jordan River is. He reported that he is looking forward to the Get to the River Festival and is grateful to be a part of the work being done.

Dirk Burton moved to appoint India Nielsen Barfuss and Todd Munger to the Event Advisory Committee, which was seconded by Donald Shelton. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board Members present.

Fiscal Year 2024 4th Quarter Financial Report: Soren Simonsen reported that this written report will be submitted separately and posted online within the next few days.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

a) September 5, 10:00 AM: Commission & Watershed Council Field Trip (tentative) – Jordan Basin Water Reclamation Facility, South Jordan Reclaimed Water Reuse Pilot Program

b) October 3, 10:00 AM: Jordan River Commission Governing Board and Jordan River Watershed Council meeting

5. Director's Report

Brief Staffing & Activity Updates: Soren Simonsen reported that new interns will be hired with funds from the America the Beautiful Challenge grant. One intern is in the onboarding process. Shortly, a job description for a new administrative assistant will be posted. The Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands has recently hired a new individual as a Restoration Coordinator, who will tentatively be introduced at the next Governing Board meeting.

6. Adjourn

Don Shelton moved to adjourn the meeting. Wendelin Knobloch seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

A meeting recording, presentation and handout materials, and meeting minutes are available at https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/930089.html.

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

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