

Jordan River Commission Governing Board Meeting

August 3, 2023 | 10:00 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

Governing Board Members

Councilmember Sylvia Catten, Chair, Millcreek City
Councilmember Andy Pierucci, Riverton City
Councilmember Don Shelton, South Jordan City
Wendelin Knobloch, Midvale City
Mayor Karen Lang, West Valley City
Shazelle Terry, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
Eric McCulley, Utah Reclamation, Mitigation, & Conservation Committee
Councilmember Clarissa Williams, South Salt Lake City
Dina Blaes, Salt Lake County
Mayor Dirk Burton, West Jordan City
Councilmember Stan Porter, North Salt Lake City
Craig Walker, Jordan River Foundation
Liz Larsen, Utah's Hogle Zoo
Laura Briefer, Salt Lake City Public Utilities
Darren Parry, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation
Gina Grandpre, Saratoga Springs City
Kathryn Calderon, Salt Lake County
Mayor Kristie Overson, Taylorsville City
Nathan Lee, Utah Department of Transportation
Randy Elliot, Davis County
Rick Anton, Draper City
Councilmember Ryan Mecham, Sandy City
Ben Stireman, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
Representative Jeff Stenquist, Utah Legislature
Ken Brand, Jordan Basin Improvement District

Commission Staff

Soren Simonsen, Executive Director
Aimee Horman, Events & Volunteer Manager
Rae Robinson, Vegetation Management Coordinator, Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

Visitors and Guests

Todd Munger, Lehi City
Steve Van Maren, Sandy City Resident
Marissa Beckstrom, Tracy Aviary
Calah Worthen, Jacobs Engineering
Tim Brown, Tracy Aviary
Colby Hill, South Jordan City
Marian Rice, Technical Advisory Committee Chair, University of Utah
Cindy Kindred, Mighty Penguin Consulting
Dax Reid, Mighty Penguin Consulting
Cary Necaie, Riverton City
Betty Naylor, Gardner Heritage Farms
Todd Stonely, Division of Water Resources
Christian Simonsen, Internship Applicant

Meeting Minutes

Silvia Catten, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 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. Mayor Dirk Burton invited Board members to an event on September 23, 2023.

3. Presentations & Discussion

Get to the River Festival Preview: Cindy Kindred, Dax Reid, and Aimee Horman presented on the management of the 2023 10th Anniversary Get to the River Festival. They summarized fundraising efforts, sponsors, and upcoming Festival events.

Local Watershed Councils Updates & Discussion: Todd Stonely shared an overview of local watershed councils, updates regarding ongoing implementation efforts, and answered questions from the Governing Board. Todd and several Board members discussed the history of watershed councils in Utah and their roles in water management across the state, including their advisory capacity to Utah's elected officials.

Jordan River Watershed Council – Bylaws Amendment Overview and Discussion: As a follow up to the prior presentation and discussion, the Governing Board discussed the upcoming official designation as the Jordan River Watershed Council, secondary to H.B. 166: the Watershed Councils Act, passed in 2020. This conversation involved an outline of amendments and adjustments to Commission Bylaws to incorporate the Jordan River Watershed Council as part of the role and function of the Commission. Bylaws amendments will be formally presented for consideration at a future meeting.

4. Commission Business

[Action Item] Consider Governing Board Ex-Officio Member Appointment: Betty Naylor, who is also representing agricultural interests on the Jordan River Watershed Council,

introduced herself. She described her past experience and expertise to be considered for a two-year term.

Dirk Burton moved to appoint Betty Naylor to the Governing Board as an Ex-Officio Member. Eric McCulley seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion of the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by Board Members present.

[Action Item] **Governing Board Ex-Officio Member Re-Appointments:** The Board considered re-appointing the following, whose terms recently expired, for a subsequent two-year term:

- a) Jordan River Foundation, represented by Craig Walker, Board of Directors
- b) Tracy Aviary, represented by Tim Brown, Executive Director
- c) Utah's Hogle Zoo, represented by Liz Larsen, Director of Conservation
- d) Wasatch Rowing Foundation, represented by Michael Horrocks, President, Board of Directors

Don Shelton moved to re-appoint the listed Ex-Officio Members. Stan Porter seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion of the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by the Board Members present.

Postponed: Fiscal Year 2023 4th Quarter Financial Report

[Action Item] **Commission Staffing:** The Board considered a request from the Executive Director to offer a paid internship to Christian Simonsen, who is a related family member. This would be a temporary administrative assistant internship, which requires Governing Board approval under the Commission's Nepotism & Conflict of Interest Policy.

Ben Stireman moved to approve the internship for Christian Simonsen, on the conditions that the Executive Committee approves his contract and includes a sunset date for the internship. Clarissa Williams seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board Members present.

[Written Report for Information Only] **JRC Small Grant Program:** Attendees were given a report to review for the Hogle Hive Pollinator Initiative.

5. Director's Report

Soren Simonsen mentioned that he would be participating in advisory committees for the Utah Lake Management Plan and the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan. He noted that there are also several local governments working on master park plans. He also discussed upcoming legislation that House Representative Gay Lynn Bennion will be sponsoring, which would look at protections for riparian corridors. Soren also discussed a variety of upcoming grant opportunities, as well as upcoming Get to the River Festival events.

6. Adjourn

Ben Stireman moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

A meeting recording, presentation and handout materials, and meeting minutes are available at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/849477.html>.

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

Meeting Minutes Adopted December 5, 2024.