

Jordan River Commission Technical Advisory Committee

January 16, 2025 | 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)*
Gina Grandpre, Vice Chair, *Senior Planner- Saratoga Springs City*
Ali Avery, *Long Range Planner- North Salt Lake City*
Angelo Calacino, *Park Development Project Manager- Salt Lake County*
Cory Fralick, *Director of Public Services-West Jordan City*
Dan Potts, *Aquatic Ecologist- Salt Lake Fish and Game Foundation*
Heidi Hoven, *Gilmore Sanctuary Assistant Manager- National Audubon Society*
Jason Erekson, *Assistant Director- West Valley City Parks and Recreation*
Kiani Ellingson, *Environmental Advisor- Kennecott/Rio Tinto*
Laura Haskell, *Jordan River Basin Area Specialist- Division of Water Resources*
Lynn Berni, *Watershed Planning & Restoration Coordinator- Salt Lake County*
Matt Ryan, *Community Planner- Wasatch Front Regional Council*
Michele Rehbein, *Education Specialist- Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District*
Sandy Wingert, *Environmental Scientist- Utah Division of Water Quality*
Todd Munger, *Sustainability Director- Lehi City*
Tom Beesley, *Stormwater Manager- Riverton City*

Commission Staff

Soren Simonsen, *Executive Director*
Rachel Turk, *Communications & Outreach Manager*
Julie Williams, *Event & Volunteer Manager*
Ren Griffeth, *Administration, Grant & Research Specialist*

Visitors and Guests

Shelby Strickler, *Commission Intern*
Jacob Moser, *Engineer- South Salt Lake*

Meeting Minutes

Marian Rice, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

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

a) Jordan River Parkway Design Guidelines

Roundtable discussion toward establishing general design standards for the Jordan River Parkway, including trails, features, signage and amenities. Soren provided some background on the purpose of this project. The Commission has received requests from different municipalities for guidance on both lighting design guidelines and fishing access guidelines for developments that occur along or adjacent to the Parkway.

Soren reviewed the Vision outlined in the Blueprint Jordan River document as well as relevant sections regarding fishing and lighting that provide the framework for the design guidelines project.

Ren Griffeth provided an update on the progress of the Dark Sky lighting work group. The current draft reviews important general lighting considerations, Dark Sky Principles, and a graphic that demonstrates acceptable versus unacceptable lighting fixtures for Dark Sky compliance. The draft will be updated to include background information on the importance of having wildlife- friendly lighting, include reference ordinances, existing examples, and special considerations for areas with different habitats or levels of development.

Ali Avery mentioned that a group of students at the University of Utah will need to do a class project related to Dark Sky materials, and asked if there was a way for them to be involved.

Ren replied that she did believe there would be opportunities for students to assist with this project.

Marian asked if David Pearson from Salt Lake City Public Utilities had been involved with this work group, as he has relevant experience.

Ren replied that he did attend the first group meeting, but was not at the second meeting.

Soren summarized some information about the history of the design guidelines project, areas that have seen improved consistency over the years, and areas that still lack consistency in signage and wayfinding along the Parkway. He asked Committee members how detailed they thought the recommendations should be in the final design guidelines.

Ali replied that she agrees with providing general guidelines, but would anticipate pushback from city officials if the guidelines go so far as to recommend or require certain manufacturers.

Rachel Turk mentioned that it may be an option for the Jordan River Foundation to help fund a program to upgrade lighting along the Parkway, but she understands that may pose challenges for cities who have to maintain, repair, or replace infrastructure within their jurisdictions.

Todd Munger replied that he agrees with adopting design guidelines so far as it contributes to the predictability of signage and other aspects along the Parkway.

Tom Beesley replied that he agrees with adopting general design guidelines. He added that while procurement poses its own problem, maintenance is also another consideration for the various municipalities along the river. Additionally, some jurisdictions prefer a standard aesthetic. He anticipates some difficulty with getting everyone on the same page, but added that he believes it is worth pursuing.

Heidi Hoven replied that while some manufacturers produce Dark Sky-friendly products, they typically have only a few options that meet this criteria among many products that do not meet criteria. She suggested caution as people look at different products. She also suggested that putting together a specific product list could be a good project for the student group mentioned earlier.

Tod Munger added that he likes the idea of putting together baseline recommendations for design guidelines that could be easily utilized by planning teams.

Dan Potts mentioned that he is excited to see the Jordan River Foundation shift their focus.

Jason Erickson added that the way the guidelines are worded will be important, and that it would be beneficial to refrain from establishing mandates and instead make suggestions.

Heidi added that it can be difficult to find appropriate lighting. A resource list could help entities find what they need as part of the suggestions provided in the guidelines.

Matt Ryan replied that the WFRC has a program that could potentially fund work for the Commission to continue work on the design guidelines project.

Ali Avery added that she doesn't think that the Commission should not mandate design standards for aesthetics, but that providing technical recommendations, educational materials, and product suggestions would be highly beneficial.

Marian added that she agrees with some of the points that had been made, and that it is important to make sure that the correct people are consulted to provide balanced perspectives.

Dan added that the theft of copper wire out of street lights has greatly increased recently and should be considered by those looking to install additional lighting.

Ren provided a summary of the fishing access work group's first meeting. Dan Potts had created a document that provided an excellent framework for evaluating fishing access along the river. The work group had determined that creating a scorecard to evaluate existing fishing access areas would be the best next step so that infrastructure and other needs can be better understood. A draft of this scorecard will be reviewed at the next work group meeting.

Soren summarized some recent boat ramp and fishing access developments that have occurred recently. He also suggested adding piers and bank stabilization measures that can also provide fishing access.

Dan replied that he can update the document, and that the section on “docks” also is meant to incorporate piers. He also suggested marking some of the better fishing spots along the river and incorporating that information into the map on the mobile app.

Ren added that the group will meet again in approximately two weeks. She mentioned that the work group had also discussed the need to preserve restoration and revegetation areas, address litter, and address invasive species issues.

Dan added that his document also includes information about water quality and the safety of fish consumption. He also mentioned that Utah has trophy-sized common carp that can be very attractive to sport fishers.

Soren asked if cleaning stations should be added to fishing access locations along the river.

Dan mentioned that cleaning stations are welcome additions, and that it’s important that they are maintained properly. He also added that many fisheries have youth programs that could provide additional opportunities for partnership with the Commission. He also offered to provide a presentation on the different fish species in the Jordan River drainage.

Soren mentioned that a new cycle of Division of Outdoor Recreation grant programs is opening. He sees these grants as a way to improve recreational access and help more people discover new ways of interacting with the Jordan River, which can help to generate more advocacy for water quality and habitat conservation or restoration. He briefly summarized some of these opportunities, and offered for the Commission to assist if any partners would like assistance applying. He also asked for Committee members to let him know if they hear of any relevant grants.

Dan announced that Jeff, the previous Great Salt Lake keeper, is now associated with the Utah Boating Council and could be a potential resource.

b) Upcoming Grants & Funding Programs

Soren mentioned that a new cycle of Division of Outdoor Recreation grant programs is opening, including a new grant program for boating access. He briefly summarized some of these opportunities, such as one for outdoor classroom development, and offered for the Commission to assist if any partners would like assistance applying. He also asked for Committee members to let him know if they hear of any relevant grants.

c) Other Roundtable Discussion Items

Soren asked for feedback on what Committee members would like to see or discuss at future meetings.

4. Committee Business

a) [Action Item] Consider Adopting December 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Angelo Calacino moved to adopt the December 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Ali Avery seconded the motion.

Soren mentioned that a verbal vote of aye or nay is needed to be aligned with Robert’s Rules.

The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee Members present.

b) Confirm Upcoming Meetings

- 1) Thursday, February 20, 2025, 2:00 PM, Water & Watershed focus
- 2) Thursday, March 20, 2025, 2:00 PM, Weed Management & Restoration focus

5. Commission Staff Report(s)

Soren Simonsen provided a brief staffing update. Jens Ammon, the new Restoration Coordinator, started last week. He will be instrumental in the upcoming restoration programs, such as the one facilitated by the award from the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant. Shelby Strickler and Gillian Chapman are also returning as interns for the Spring semester.

Soren summarized some upcoming legislation and current projects and initiatives going on around the Jordan River. He provided a document that contains this information. He asked Committee members to share any projects they are working on in their own jurisdictions.

Soren also mentioned the upcoming legislative session and several bills that have been announced. He also discussed some state initiatives, pending grant applications, and grants awarded in 2024. This information is summarized in the Legislation, Projects & Initiatives reference document.

Soren mentioned some recent updates to the State Homelessness Plan and stated that he expects more information and funding requests to be put forward during the legislative session. A large temporary shelter will likely be established in Salt Lake City.

Soren also mentioned the US Department of Defense's Great Salt Lake Sentinel Landscape program. He is exploring whether funding is associated with this designation, and is working to obtain additional information about the potential implications for the Jordan River. He is hopeful that this could lead to improved recreational access in certain areas that are currently inaccessible.

7. Adjourn

Dan Potts moved to adjourn the meeting. Angelo Calacino seconded the motion.

There was no additional discussion to the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee Members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

A meeting recording, presentation and handout materials, and meeting minutes are available at <https://www.utah.gov/pmnr/sitemap/notice/967441.html>.

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