

**THE UTAH LAKE AUTHORITY
REGULARLY HELD MEETING
April 3, 2024, at 9:00 AM-11:00 AM**

APPROVED MINUTES

Board Members Roll					
Wednesday, April 03, 2024					
Seat	Organization	Name	Initials	Alternate	Initials
Chambers of Comm	Utah Valley Chamber	Curtis Blair	X		
Utah DEQ	Utah DEQ	John Mackey	X	Jodi Garberg	
Utah DNR	Utah DNR	Joel Ferry		Ben Stireman	
Genola	Genola	Marty Larson	X		
Governor's Office	GO UTAH	Kamron Dalton	X		
Governor's Office	UVU	Hilary Hungerford			
Lehi	Lehi	Mark Johnson	X		
Lindon	Lindon	Carolyn Lundberg	X		
Orem	Orem	LaNae Millett	X		
Provo	Provo	Michelle Kaufusi	X	Isaac Paxman	
Saratoga Springs	Saratoga Springs	Chris Carn	X		
Utah County	Utah County	Tom Sakievich	X	Lisa Shepherd	X
Utah House	Utah House	Brady Brammer	X		
Utah Senate	Utah Senate	Mike McKell	X		
Vineyard	Vineyard	Julie Fullmer			
Visitors					
Jake Holdaway					

1. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER/INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Chair Michelle Kaufusi called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

LaNae Millett shared an inspirational thought. She shared her experience of sailing on Utah Lake, where she learned about its unique beauty and various perspectives for its future. She emphasized the importance of managing the lake with dignity, kindness, and respect, even during disagreements. By upholding dignity, she believed the community could find winning solutions to strengthen and protect Utah Lake, connecting communities positively.

2. CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS/DISCLOSURES/RECUSALS

Members had nothing to report.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jake Holdaway expressed excitement for the new beginnings and the changes within the wildlife initiative over the past few years. He thanked those involved in recent efforts and highlighted the

positive signs of wildlife returning to the area. Despite past disagreements, he called for collaboration to solve any remaining issues, extending a welcome to all interested parties to work together towards a solution.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

4.1 Approval of the January 24, 2024 ULA Board Meeting Minutes

4.2 Approve January and February, 2024 Monthly ULA Budget Reports

Marty Larson motioned to approve the consent items. Tom Sakievich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Conservation and Restoration Efforts

Addie Valdez updated the group on recent projects and plans. She highlighted the upcoming planning party series with a mix of events involving various community groups. She mentioned reapplying for the Job Corps Contact program and seeking eco-funding to support community projects like planting parties and greenhouse development in partnership with UPU. Additionally, she discussed installing nesting platforms for ducks in collaboration with Provo Delta Water Poll, aiming to improve habitat and population. Educational initiatives included stormwater seminars with partners like ID WQ and participation in the City Nature Challenge with iNaturalist for citizen science data collection. She also mentioned hiring a GIS intern to enhance mapping capabilities and upcoming car tours. She concluded by offering to share event details with the board.

5.2 Communications and Outreach

Anna Hall introduced herself as the new outreach coordinator at ULA, focusing on social media, field trips, and content design. She expressed excitement for upcoming events and shared highlights of recent activities, including wildlife sightings on a lake tour.

Chair Michelle Kaufusi commended Anna's work on social media and encouraged everyone to follow ULA's social media accounts.

5.3 Events, Engagement Operations

Sam Braegger introduced Heather McEwen as the newest hire, expanding the staff's capacity and allowing him to focus more on operations and recreation.

Heather McEwen, the new events and programs coordinator, shared upcoming events like the Paddle With Care and Utah Lake Festival, along with efforts to set up sponsorship programs. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity and welcomed any questions.

Sam Braegger expressed gratitude to the staff, particularly Anna and Heather, for their hard work. He highlighted the Access Points Enhancement Project aimed at improving access to various spots around the lake. Sam also mentioned ongoing efforts to develop new policies, enhance the employee handbook, and establish committees. Additionally, he discussed sponsoring a carp bow fishing tournament aimed at managing the carp population in Utah Lake. The event, organized by the Utah Bowfishing Association, was set for April 27th and 28th at Lincoln Beach. He explained the logistics of the tournament, including fish disposal, and mentioned various sponsors contributing prizes.

The discussion then touched on the disposing of harvested carp and the excitement surrounding the upcoming tournament.

Chair Michelle Kaufusi shared her personal experience with bowfishing and expressed enthusiasm for the event.

5.4 Executive Director Report

Luke Peterson provided an update on his activities since assuming his role, focusing on conducting a listening tour to understand various perspectives about the lake. He detailed meetings with state government representatives, nonprofits, independent experts, and scientists from different academic institutions. He also highlighted engagements with federal agencies and the Utah congressional delegation, emphasizing collaboration and partnerships. He discussed goals for the coming year, including infrastructure improvements, advancing the Nature Center project, and enhancing transparency. He mentioned plans for a public calendar to facilitate communication with the community.

The discussion touched on the funding status of the Lindon Center project, its regional significance, and the collaboration between Lindon City and UVU. Board members appreciated Mr. Peterson's outreach efforts and offered support. They emphasized the importance of board engagement and collaboration in achieving the organization's goals.

6. WORK SESSION

6.1 Updates to ULA Bylaws

6.2 Updates to Existing Policies and New Policies

6.3 First ULA Employee Handbook

Sam Braegger provided an overview of the work session, focusing on the review of policy documents. He explained that the session aims to highlight updates and changes to existing documents and introduce new ones. He emphasized the importance of clarity and compliance with state standards in the revisions. He discussed specific changes to the bylaws, including the appointment of a Chief Financial Officer and updates to the audit process. He also addressed concerns about oversight for commitments made by ULA staff or the executive director without sufficient approval. He outlined the transparency policy, which aims to ensure compliance with Utah transparency laws and regulations, delegation of authority, and communication with board members. He clarified the process for setting board meeting schedules and agendas, emphasizing input from board members and adherence to bylaws.

Chair Michelle Kaufusi highlighted the process of reviewing the agenda with board members before meetings.

Chris Carn inquired about the process for adding items to the agenda.

Sam Braegger mentioned sending requests to the executive director, although he suggested confirming this with the bylaws. He then discussed the transparency policy, emphasizing the need for board approval for various types of documents and their review durations.

A member raised a question about legal advice, prompting clarification from Luke Peterson regarding the board's interaction with legal counsel.

Mike McKell provided insights on legislative oversight and the need for compliance with state standards, urging the board to stay attentive and referencing a toolkit developed by the legislative auditor's office.

Chair Kaufusi expressed gratitude for the funding and emphasized the importance of being good stewards of the money.

Sam Braegger discussed additional policies, including education assistance and surplus equipment disposal policies, outlining their purposes and procedures.

Chair Michelle Kaufusi expressed gratitude for the opportunity to provide input on the policies and procedures, emphasizing the importance of establishing best practices.

Sam Braegger then discussed the employee handbook, highlighting standard sections and custom additions. He explained the overtime compensation election agreement and clarified that the compensatory time accrual process requires approval from the executive director.

Chris Carn raised concerns about potential loopholes in the policy, prompting discussion about mediation procedures.

Sam Braegger agreed to consider adding clarification about dispute resolution channels. Other policies discussed included driving safety and the education assistance plan funded by the ULA budget. He concluded by inviting questions from board members and expressing appreciation for their input.

Chair Kaufusi emphasized the ability to revise policies as needed and the plan for regular reviews.

6.4 Walk Through Airtable Access for Board Members

Sam Braegger introduced a project management tool called Airtable that the staff is using to enhance efficiency and track various aspects like grant opportunities, funding, and projects. He explained that board members would receive an email with a link and password to access a draft document screen, emphasizing that these are protected draft documents not meant for public consumption. The Airtable interface functions like an Excel spreadsheet, listing documents, their types, review periods, notes, and URLs. He detailed how board members can make redline edits or comments on documents through the interface. He also mentioned that the system notifies board members of any new documents added and discussed the process for finalizing and archiving documents on the website. He clarified that the tool is for working drafts and not an archive of finalized policies. Board members can access the tool via a simplified login link and password, and the interface is accessible on mobile devices.

Chris Carn inquired about the availability of an app for the tool.

Sam Braegger confirmed that the app for the tool exists.

6.5 Mitigation Bank Discussion

Luke Peterson discussed the challenge of mitigation, explaining the process of acquiring mitigation credits from the Army Corps of Engineers through wetland development. He outlined several options for the board to consider, including building a mitigation bank, hiring staff dedicated to mitigation, forming partnerships with nonprofits specializing in similar work, and exploring the fee-in-lieu option proposed in previous legislative discussions. He emphasized the need for a strategic vision rather than ad hoc decisions, prompting a discussion about the role of the Utah Lake Authority in mitigation efforts and the involvement of municipalities and counties around the lake.

Chris Carn raised a question about partnerships with local entities, highlighting previous collaboration efforts but noting the absence of mitigation project funding directly from the Utah Lake Authority.

Sam Braegger clarified that previous projects involving ULA were funded through other sources like tourism tax dollars and legislative appropriations, with the ULA's small grants program potentially opening opportunities for future partnerships in mitigation projects.

Chris Carn expressed confusion about the role of the Utah Lake Authority in funding projects around the lake, noting that while ULC and ULA use these projects to showcase their efforts, they do not directly fund them.

Luke Peterson clarified that ULA often partners with other entities and acts as a facilitator rather than a direct funder. He discussed various partnership models for mitigation efforts, including working with private landholders to expand mitigation areas. The possibility of ULA becoming a fee-in-lieu organization for the county was also mentioned, although it would require significant resources.

Chair Michelle Kaufusi suggested leveraging existing partnerships and assets rather than creating additional costs within ULA.

Luke Peterson acknowledged the feedback and expressed intent to pursue further conversations based on the direction received.

6.6 Committees and Workgroups Proposal and Discussion

Sam Braegger presented an overview of proposed committees and workgroups for the board's approval. The purpose of these committees is to advise the board on various topics related to Utah Lake management, with membership consisting of natural resource managers, experts, and citizens. The proposed committees cover areas such as advisory, vegetation, wildlife, water quality, and water levels. He mentioned that the first four committees will be launched this month, with others following in the future as needs arise.

There was a discussion about the deadline for submitting nominations for committee membership.

Sam Braegger stated that he planned to email the board to clarify the process.

Chris Carn inquired about the inclusion of agricultural producers on the committees.

Sam Braegger explained that specific membership details would be determined in future discussions.

Chair Michelle Kaufusi suggested continuing the discussion next time due to time constraints.

7. PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE FY2025 BUDGET

7.1 Tentative Budget Presentation and Discussion

Luke Peterson presented the draft budget for the upcoming year, emphasizing a focus on planning tasks and data collection.

Chair Michelle Kaufusi expressed satisfaction after discussing the budget with Mr. Peterson and encouraged others to email any questions or concerns.

Sam Braegger clarified that the budget was tentative and subject to further adjustments before final approval in May.

8. ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Approve Tentative Budget for FY2025

8.2 Approve Updates to ULA Bylaws

8.3 Approve Updates to Existing Policies and New Policies

8.4 Approve ULA Employee Handbook

8.5 Approve Committees

Chris Carn moved to approve the action items with edits suggested in the board meeting. Marty Larson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. CLOSED SESSION

10. ADJOURNMENT

Marty Larson motioned to adjourn. Carolyn Lundberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Michele Kaufusi adjourned the meeting.