

Jordan River Commission Event Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 12, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Location

The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom, with an anchor location at the Jordan River Commission office.

Meeting Attendees

Event Advisory Committee Members

India Nielsen, Vice Chair, Parkway user & nearby resident (Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation)
Ali Avery, North Salt Lake Planning
Lauren Brady, Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation
Councilmember Silvia Catten, Millcreek City Council
Kyle Fuchshuber, Salt Lake City Sustainability
Todd Munger, Jordan River Foundation (Lehi Environmental Sustainability & Recovery)

Commission Staff

Rachel Lyn, Communications & Outreach Manager
Macall Clapham, Event & Volunteer Intern
Frances Schneider, Education Program Intern
Soren Simonsen, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

Visitors and Guests

Cindy Kindred, Mighty Penguin – Get to the River Festival Consultant

Meeting Minutes

India Nielsen, Vice Chair, chaired the meeting in the absence of Jon Glenn, Chair. India called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM, after .

1. Welcome & Introductions (00:00:09 on audio recording)

The meeting proceeded with a roll call of Event Advisory Committee members and introduction of other meeting participants in person and online.

2. Public Comment (00:02:05 on audio recording)

There were no public comments.

3. Committee Project & Program Updates (00:02:13 on audio recording)

a) Commission Website Review and Input (00:02:13 on audio recording)

Rachel Lyn provided an update on the progress of the Commission Website update. She emphasized how the Blueprint Jordan River is integral to the new website's structure. She reviewed various functions and features of the site with the Committee, including the new events and volunteer activities pages, and the new backend

functions for finding information and engaging with website visitors. Rachel indicated she would provide a link for committee members to provide feedback before the site's official launch.

b) Education Partnership Program (00:22:10 on audio recording)

Soren Simonsen discussed the Education Partnership Program, and thanked the many staff members involved with this new initiative. He gave an overview of the Love Your Watershed campaign, which promotes Jordan River water quality through community action to keep litter, organic materials and chemicals out of storm drains. The Commission promotes self-directed "First Friday" cleanups by individuals around their homes and businesses and places they spend time, and organizes "Second Saturday" Commission volunteer activities to clean up litter around highways, streets and trailheads.

Soren shared a recent and ongoing initiative to create a pilot program to engage elementary school students through education and community action around Day of Service activities connected to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday in January, Earth Day in April, and the 9/11 Day of Remembrance in September. The first program took place over three weeks in January, with the two sixth grade classes at Lehi Elementary, and included four activities — a classroom learning session led by Rita Stevenson, an educator with Davis County, a field trip to Willow Park to explore stormwater infrastructure and its impact on the Jordan River, a day of service around the school to clean up litter and leaves, and a final classroom activities where students created posters to promote community action.

Soren shared that the pilot project would continue with additional schools in the Alpine School District for Earth Day, with a goal of coordinating and expanding curriculum that will be shared with all seven school districts that encompass the Jordan River to get involved in a watershed wide community action for the 9/11 Day of Remembrance in September, as part of the Get to the River Festival.

Frances Schneider, a Commission intern who has been developing and organizing this initiative added that this was a very positive experience for the students.

4. Commission Business

a. **[Action Item]** Adopt Meeting Minutes from December 11, 2025 (00:43:08 on audio recording)

Ali Avery moved to adopt the December 11, 2025 meeting minutes. Kyle Fuchshuber seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion of the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee members present.

b. **[Action Item]** Appoint Committee Officers (00:43:52 on audio recording)

India Nielsen noted that Jon Glenn's two-year term as Chair has ended, and the Committee needs to appoint new officers.

Soren summarized the process for nominations and appointments in the Commission Bylaws. The nominations for Chair and Vice Chair are both open to any nominees from among Committee members, though the current Vice Chair is automatically nominated as Chair per the Bylaws.

Ali Avery moved to accept the nomination of Vice Chair India Nielsen to be appointed as Chair of the Committee, and nominated Kyle Fuchshuber to be appointed as Vice Chair. Lauren Brady seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion of the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee members present.

5. Commission Events

a) City Nature Challenge (00:48:18 on audio recording)

Soren Simonsen highlighted the City Nature Challenge event scheduled for April. Caroline Johnston is the primary organizer for this event, but was not available to join the Committee meeting. This event is a series of daily activities from Friday through Monday on the weekend following Earth Day. Participants use the iNaturalist App to photograph and identify plants and animals, which becomes part of a public database for education and scientific research. The Commission works with partners for large activities like the City Nature Festival with Tracy Aviary and Hogle Zoo, and organizes “bio blitzes” with other partners. Soren asked the Committee for feedback and ideas for how the Commission could further enhance the overall effort, and identify some ways to measure success.

b) Golden Spoke (00:56:43 on audio recording)

Soren Simonsen announced that the 2026 Golden Spoke bike ride has been rescheduled to Saturday, May 16th, to prevent conflicts with other community events and boost registration. He confirmed the ride logistics, including the north and south starting points, and the availability of intermediate ride options.

c) Get to the River Festival (01:01:22 on audio recording)

Cindy Kindred shared an update on fundraising efforts, and the goal to raise \$120,000 for this year’s Festival. Soren Simonsen and Cindy presented and reviewed the Get to the River Festival budget proposal, which is organized into “lean” and “full” budget priorities, depending on the success with fundraising. Cindy stated that with many new and returning sponsors already committed, they have already met the lean budget threshold. Soren compared the current budget proposal with the final financial report for last year’s Festival.

Lauren Brady moved to adopt the proposed 2026 Get to the River Festival budget. Kyle Fuchshuber seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion of the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee members present.

Soren also provided an update of the planning for the upcoming Festival. The first planning committee meeting of Festival partners will convene later in the month. He noted that while many of these meetings had been in hybrid in-person and virtual meetings in recent years, that most of the planning committee meetings this year will be virtual only, with the exception of the meetings just before and after the Festival in August and October, where materials will be distributed and feedback gathered.

6. Other Events & Resources

a) Upcoming Symposia (01:14:50 on audio recording)

- 1) Great Salt Lake Issues Forum – May 6-8
- 2) Utah Lake Symposium – late October or early November
- 3) Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium – November 18-19

Soren Simonsen highlighted several upcoming watershed wide symposia. The Commission is often invited to participate in these events, both with presentations, tours and other activities, tabling and sponsorships. Soren presented to the Governing Board the idea of including these as “Signature Events” of the Commission, and has asked to include funding for sponsor contributions in the proposed Commission budget.

b) Upcoming 2026 Day of Service Opportunities (01:18:14 on audio recording)

- 1) Earth Day – Day of Service, Wednesday, April 22, 2026
- 2) 9/11 Remembrance Day – Day of Service, Friday, September 11, 2026

Soren Simonsen provided an additional update on the upcoming community Day of Service opportunities, specifically for Earth Day on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, and the 9/11 Remembrance Day on Friday, September 11, 2026. For Earth Day, the Commission is supporting a cleanup with the Department of Environmental Quality, which has become an annual activity. This year, the Commission is interested in organizing a “waste stream audit” of litter and debris removed from the trail and the river during this activity, which may provide useful data for future education and outreach activities. He asked Kyle Fuchshuber if he and his colleagues with Salt Lake City sustainability and waste management could provide support, which Kyle agreed to explore.

Soren also highlighted that in addition to the elementary education program discussed earlier in the meeting, the Commission is also working to engage with other audiences and pursuing some funding for greater engagement with the business community for the 9/11 Remembrance Day. This is the 25th anniversary of that tragic event, and may bring with that additional recognition some greater awareness and focus on community building through service opportunities.

7. Communications, Engagement & Outreach (01:21:00 on audio recording)

- a) Recent Media Opportunities, Engagement & Coverage

This item was postponed due to time constraints.

- b) Commission Annual Report

Rachel Lyn briefly discussed the Commission Annual Report that was presented as a draft at the recent Governing Board meeting. She indicated that the Commission staff is working to create a printed version of the annual report to send out to stakeholders this year. In the past, it has been distributed only electronically, and a printed version might bring greater focus and awareness.

8. Adjourn

Ali Avery moved to adjourn. Lauren Brady seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

A meeting recording, minutes, and other information will be available following the meeting at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/1049163.html>

Meeting minutes prepared by Amelia Miller, and Soren Simonsen, Commission Secretary.