

Jordan River Commission Technical Advisory Committee

February 19, 2026 | 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Location

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

Meeting Attendees

Technical Advisory Committee Members

Gina Grandpre, Chair, Senior Planner – Saratoga Springs
Cory Fralick, Vice Chair, Director of Public Services - West Jordan
Tom Beesley, Stormwater Manager – Riverton
Lynn Berni, Watershed Planner – Salt Lake County
Tori Bird, Community Impact Specialist – Utah's Hogle Zoo
Tim Brown, President & CEO – Tracy Aviary
Tyler Fonarow, Division Director of Trails and Natural Lands – Salt Lake City
Laura Haskell, Jordan River Basin Area Specialist – Utah Division of Water Resources
Bruce Holyoak, Park Superintendent – Murray
Heidi Hoven, Vice Chair, Jordan River Watershed Council, Director of Gilmore Sanctuary – Audubon Rockies
David Jellen, Senior Planner – Saratoga Springs
Shauna Mecham, Active Transportation Planner – Mountainland Association of Governments
Todd Munger, Sustainability & Recovery Director – Lehi
Nathan Page, Grant Administrator – Riverton
Ronnie Pessetto, Executive Director – Seven Canyons Trust
Dan Potts, Aquatic Ecologist – Salt Lake Fish & Game Foundation
Danny Rhodes, Public Works Operations Manager – Woods Cross
Todd Taylor, Planner – Draper
Mike West, Planning Division Manager – Lehi
Sandy Wingert, Watershed Scientist, Jordan River Coordinator – Utah Division of Water Quality

Commission Staff

Jens Ammon, Jordan River Restoration Coordinator
Rylee Babino, Professional Project Intern, University of Utah Graduate Student
Macall Clapman, Communications & Outreach Intern, University of Utah Student
Caroline Johnston, Event & Volunteer Coordinator
Rachel Lyn, Communications & Outreach Manager
Soren Simonsen, Executive Director & Secretary

Visitors and Guests

Laura Briefer, Chair, Jordan River Watershed Council, Executive Director – Salt Lake City Public Utilities
Lynn de Freitas, Executive Director – Friends of Great Salt Lake
Heather McEwen, Events and Programs Coordinator – Utah Lake Authority
Paul Burnett, Nonpoint Source Program Coordinator – Utah Division of Water Quality
Seth Anderson, Stormwater Coordinator – Woods Cross

Meeting Minutes

Gina Grandpre called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

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

a) Committee Roll Call & Other Introductions

2. Public Comments (*00:09:57 on audio recording*)

There were no public comments.

3. Presentations & Discussion – Water, River & Watershed Focus

a. Jordan River Watershed Council Coordination (*00:11:02 on audio recording*)

Laura Briefer addressed the committee to explore collaboration opportunities with the Jordan River Watershed Council. The Watershed Council was established in 2020 to coordinate efforts on water related matters, such as water quality, resource management, and conservation. Briefer detailed the Council's geographical scope, inflows, and diverse 36-member composition, which includes cities, counties, and various water related interests. Her goal was to leverage the Technical Advisory Committee's broad representation to discuss how its members could engage or collaborate with the Jordan River Watershed Council on its strategic initiatives.

Soren Simonsen discussed how the Technical Advisory Committee can contribute diverse perspectives to the Watershed Council, emphasizing communications between the Committee and the Watershed Council. Laura shared how the statewide watershed council meetings gather informed perspectives from a wide array of stakeholders and better align resources for watershed protection, noting her role on the Statewide Watersheds Council. She feels that the Jordan River Watershed Council would be better informed about the Jordan River's status and opportunities through engagement with the Committee, including on legislative matters.

Soren shared information about House Bill 348 and House Bill 410, which concern the methods for tracking and measuring the water flow, and expediting water leases, to benefit the Great Salt Lake. House Bill 489 proposes to eliminate the use of retention basins, which raised concerns about water quality and stormwater management. The elimination of retention basins also raises concerns regarding flood control.

b. Education Program Updates & Discussion (*00:55:35 on audio recording*)

- 1) Great Salt Lake Issues Forum – May 6-8, 2026
- 2) Utah Lake Symposium – Fall 2026
- 3) Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium – November 18-19, 2026

Lynn de Freitas, Executive Director of Friends of Great Salt Lake, shared information regarding the Great Salt Lake Issues Forum scheduled for May 6 - 8, 2026. This event informs the public, community members, and stakeholders about the actions being undertaken to preserve the lake and to facilitate dialogue concerning conservation efforts. Registration for the event is available on their website. Friends of Great Salt Lake has hosted this long-standing annual event since 1996, and Lynn invited Committee members to participate and expressed hope for broad participation. Information and registration is at <https://fogsl.org/issues-forum>. The Jordan River Commission is an event sponsor.

Heather McEwen, representing Utah Lake Authority, presented information about the upcoming 4th Annual Utah Lake Symposium. This event serves as an opportunity for partners to convene and showcase ongoing research and work in and around Utah Lake to the community. The event is scheduled for two days in the fall, on November 6-7. The first day will provide a general overview for the community, while the second day will focus more intently on the scientific aspects of the lake and facilitate detailed discussions that are more technical in nature. The second day will also include a gala intended for fundraising and other purposes.

Lynn Berni, Salt Lake County Watershed Planner, reviewed the upcoming Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium, which is slated for November 18th and 19th, 2026. This is an annual event that has been held

since 2007. Its primary goal is to engage the public and stakeholders on matters of watershed health, encompassing community members, partners, non-profit organizations, and governmental entities. While the specific details are still being finalized, there is an intention to host an additional event in conjunction with the symposium. More information is at <https://www.saltlakecounty.gov/watershed/get-involved/watershed-symposium>.

c. Grant Funding Program Updates (01:03:55 on audio recording)

- 1) Nonpoint Source Water Quality State and Federal Grants (see additional information at <https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/funding-for-nonpoint-source-related-projects>)
- 2) Weed Management & Restoration Grant
- 3) Other Grants & Funding Programs (written report only)

Paul Burnett, Nonpoint Source Program Coordinator with Utah Division of Water Quality, presented an overview of the Nonpoint Source water quality state and federal grant programs. He indicated that annual grants are available. Federal grant applications typically open around October, and are awarded early the following year. State grant applications are currently open through the end of March, and awarded later in the spring. These funding opportunities support various initiatives, from stream restoration to community engagement. The link to the current state grant application is <https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/funding-for-nonpoint-source-related-projects>.

Jens Ammon, Jordan River Restoration Coordinator, discussed the current Weed Management and Restoration Grant solicitation, which is currently open for proposals. This grant encompasses riparian restoration and invasive species removal. Awards will be made this spring, and funding is available at the start of the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. Proposals for this grant are due on March 20. Interested parties should contact him directly with any inquiries.

Soren Simonsen also shared information about upcoming grant and funding opportunities.

4. Committee Business

a. December 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes (01:11:00 on audio recording)

Tom Beesley moved to adopt the December 18, 2025, meeting minutes. Laura Haskell seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion of the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by Committee members present.

b. January 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes (01:11:59 on audio recording)

Todd Munger moved to adopt the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Cory Fralick seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion of the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by Committee members present.

c. Legislative Updates (1:13:13 on audio recording)

Soren Simonsen provided an overview of Senate Bill 130, sponsored by Senator Lincoln Fillmore modifies the Jordan River Recreation Area ongoing funding program initially enacted by the Utah Legislature in 2018. The bill consolidates different funding programs and geographic areas across the Jordan River. The bill also introduces a new \$2 million one-time funding program for river access, such as boating, fishing and swimming, as well as river related public safety improvements. Soren noted that monitoring a total of over 120 pieces of legislation and appropriations this session, with about dozen that were higher priority bills.

d. Upcoming Committee Meetings (01:21:15 on audio recording)

- 1) Thursday, March 19, 2026, 2:00 PM – Regular Committee Meeting, Restoration & Weed Management Focus
- 2) Thursday, May 21, 2026 – Committee/Commission/Watershed Council Field Trip

Gina Grandpre discussed upcoming Committee meetings. The next one is scheduled for March 19. At that meeting, Rylee Babino will present her riparian preservation tools research. Rylee provided a brief overview of her master's degree professional project. She is researching and developing a riparian preservation tool kit through the University of Utah in partnership with the Jordan River Commission.

The Committee's May meeting will be a field trip. Committee members were asked to share ideas, focusing on potential locations and activities of interest to the Committee, Governing Board and Watershed Council.

e. Committee Member Announcements & Updates

There were no Committee announcements.

5. Commission Staff Reports (01:31:50 on audio recording)

- a. Commission Updates – Soren Simonsen, Executive Director
 - 1) Commission Staff Updates
 - 2) Day of Service Pilot Projects
 - a. Earth Day
 - b. 9/11 Memorial Day : 25th Anniversary Commemoration
- b. Communications & Outreach Updates – Rachel Lyn, Communications & Outreach Manager
 - 1) Draft Annual Report
 - 2) Website
 - 3) My Jordan River/Watershed Mobile App

Soren Simonsen noted recent staffing changes. Macall Clapman joined the team as an intern. Lauren Griffeth has departed the Commission.

Soren also highlighted a draft of the Commission's Annual Report included for Committee members to review.

The remainder of items 5a and 5b were postponed until the next meeting due to time constraints.

6. Adjourn

Cory Fralick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Potts seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 PM.

A meeting recording, presentation, handout materials, and meeting minutes are available at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/1049159.html>

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