Jordan River Commission

Governing Board Meeting

April 2, 2026 | 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 Don Shelton, Chair, South Jordan
Councilmember Mackey Smith, Bluffdale
Councilmember Bryn Johnson, Draper
Councilmember Emily Lockhart, Lehi
Wendelin Knobloch, Midvale (Alternate)
Councilmember Silvia Catten, Past Chair, Millcreek
Bruce Holyoak, Murray (Alternate)
Councilmember Ted Knowlton, North Salt Lake
Councilmember Alexander Johnson, Riverton
Councilmember Aaron Dekeyzer, Sandy
David Jellen, Saratoga Springs (Alternate)
Councilmember Ray deWolfe, South Salt Lake
Mayor Kristie Overson, Taylorsville
Cory Fralick, West Jordan (Alternate)
Commissioner John Crofts, Davis County
Lisa Hartman, Salt Lake County (Alternate)
Commissioner Skyler Beltran, Utah County
Derek Shumway, Utah County (Alternate)
Ajla Hadzialijagic, Utah Governor's Office (Alternate)
Senator Lincoln Fillmore, Utah Legislature
Ben Stireman, Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Emma Whitaker, Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (Alternate)
Nathan Lee, Utah Department of Transportation
Joel Thompson, Jordan Basin Improvement District
Benn Buys, Utah Fairpark Area Investment & Restoration District
Nichol Bourdeaux, Utah Transit Authority
Betty Naylor, Gardener Heritage Farm
Scott Peters, Jordan River Foundation (Alternate)
Heidi Hoven, National Audubon Society
Michael Guymon, Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (Alternate)
Tim Brown, Tracy Aviary
Michael Horrocks, Wasatch Rowing Foundation

Commission Staff

Caroline Johnston, Event & Volunteer Coordinator
Jens Ammon, Jordan River Restoration Coordinator
Rachel Lyn, Communications & Outreach Manager

Soren Simonsen, Executive Director & Secretary
Rylee Babino, Commission Professional Project Intern/University of Utah Graduate Student
Macall Clapham, Commission Intern/University of Utah Student

Visitors and Guests

Andrea Nelson, Office of Congressman Burgess Owens
Emily Andrea, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Eric McCulley, McCulley Watershed
Gina Grandpre, Chair, Technical Advisory Committee/Saratoga Springs

Meeting Minutes

Silvia Catten, Past Chair, was designated to chair the meeting with Chair Shelton participating remotely and unable to conduct business. She called the Governing Board meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

1. Governing Board Welcome, Roll Call & Introductions

a. Welcome of Jordan River Commission Governing Board Members, and other meeting participants

Silvia Catten welcomed meeting participants and asked Governing Board members and others to note their attendance using the online form provided.

b. Introduction of New Governing Board Members & Representatives (*00:00:32 on audio recording*)

Councilmember Emily Lockhart, representing Lehi City, introduced herself. She is a newly appointed member of the Lehi City Council.

Councilmember Ray deWolfe, representing South Salt Lake, introduced himself. He previously served on and chaired the Governing Board, and is happy to return.

David Jellen, Senior Planner for Saratoga Springs, introduced himself. He is replacing Gina Grandpre as the new Alternate.

Silvia Catten introduced Nichol Bourdeaux, the Chief Planning and Engagement Officer, who will represent Utah Transit Authority, along with Jaron Robertson, Director of Planning, who will serve as the Alternate.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget Hearing & Adoption

a. Budget Presentation (*00:03:32 on audio recording*)

Soren Simonsen presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget for the Jordan River Commission. This included the proposed fee and contribution schedules for Interlocal Members and Partner organizations. He noted requests for funding from the Jordan River Recreation Area legislative appropriation through the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands, which includes $432,500 for Commission staff, volunteer programs, Puncturevine Bounty program, purchase of an additional Commission vehicle and two new trailers, as well as $250,000 for coordinated public safety improvements. The budget includes a larger amount of $150,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant for the final year of funding that includes partner engagement. The current fiscal year included several smaller grants from the Jordan River Foundation, which do not continue into the next year.

b. Budget Hearing (*00:28:15 on audio recording*)

Betty Naylor moved to open the Budget Hearing. John Crofts seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion of the motion.

Voting was unanimously in favor of the motion by Governing Board members present.

There were no additional comments.

Bryn Johnson moved to close the Budget Hearing. Michael Horrocks seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion of the motion.

Voting was unanimously in favor of the motion by Board members present.

c. Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget (*00:30:30 on audio recording*)

Betty Naylor asked to consider including in the budget some funding for the America 250 Fourth of July commemoration, such as lining the Jordan River Trail with American flags. Soren Simonsen indicated that staff is working on some ideas for commemoration highlighting serve and stewardship opportunities that may not require additional funds.

Michael Horrocks moved to adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget as presented. Cory Fralick seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion of the motion.

Ben Stireman voted Aye. Bruce Holyoak voted Aye. Wendelin Knobloch voted Aye. Kristie Overson voted Aye. John Crofts voted Aye. Skyler Beltran voted Aye. Silvia Catten voted Aye. Lincoln Fillmore voted Aye. Emily Lockhard voted Aye. Heidi Hoven voted Aye. Michael Horrocks voted Aye. Betty Naylor voted Aye. Aaron Dekeyser voted Aye. Cory Fralick voted Aye. Scott Peters voted Aye. Don Shelton voted Aye. Ted Knowlton voted Aye. David Jellen voted Aye. Tim Brown voted Aye. Benn Buys voted Aye. Ajla Hadzialijagic voted Aye. Lisa Hartman voted Aye. Voting was unanimously in favor of the motion.

d. Resolution #6 establishing an annual base budget increase of 2.5% for future fiscal years, subject to adjustment by the Governing Board as part of the annual budgeting process (*00:40:33 on audio recording*)

Members of the board discussed the resolution, with some speaking in favor and some opposed to the Resolution establishing an automatic annual increase as a base budget.

Scott Peters moved to not adopt the Resolution. John Crofts seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion of the motion.

Ben Stireman voted Aye. Bruce Holyoak voted Aye. Wendelin Knobloch voted Nay. Kristie Overson voted Aye. John Crofts voted Aye. Skyler Beltran voted Aye. Silvia Catten voted Aye. Lincoln Fillmore voted Nay. Emily Lockhard voted Aye. Michael Horrocks voted Aye. Betty Naylor voted Aye. Aaron Dekeyser voted Nay. Scott Peters voted Aye. Don Shelton voted Nay. Ted Knowlton voted Nay. Tim Brown voted Nay. Benn Buys voted Nay. Ajla Hadzialijagic voted Nay. Lisa Hartman voted Aye. Heidi Hoven, Cory Fralick and David Jellen abstained. The motion passed with 11 in favor, and 8 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

4. Presentations & Discussion

a. Riparian Toolkit for Local Governments (*01:10:54 on audio recording*)

Rylee Babino, a graduate student in the University of Utah Department of City & Metropolitan Planning presented her professional project to develop a toolkit for riparian preservation and restoration through local plans and development codes. She shared examples from her research of communities across the Jordan River that have already adopted plans and ordinances for riparian preservation, as well as case studies from other locations. She identified some of the opportunities and challenges, as well as a model ordinance based on the effective Jordan River Overlay Zone developed by Lehi City.

Governing Board members thanked Rylee for her work, and congratulated her accomplishment of completing her degree at the University of Utah.

b. Jordan River Restoration Updates (*01:25:35 on audio recording*)

Jens Ammon provided a brief update of recent and ongoing riparian habitat restoration and weed management programs that he manages on state and sovereign lands, and coordinates through grant programs. He is building community partnerships through the grants and other support efforts to address managing natural lands.

Soren Simonsen added that the Jordan River Commission has a $250,000 annual Cooperative Weed Management Fund appropriation that supports these riparian initiatives, grant programs, and Jens' position.

c. Jordan River Parkway Design & Public Safety Guidelines Overview (*01:37:52 on audio recording*)

Soren Simonsen provided a progress report of the ongoing development of design and public safety guidelines for the Jordan River Parkway. He asked the Governing Board to share feedback by the end of June. Commission staff will revise and update the document and present a final draft at a future Governing Board meeting.

d. State & Federal Legislative Updates (*01:55:50 on audio recording*)

Soren Simonsen provided a very brief legislative update due to time constraints, and encouraged Board members to review his written report of legislative items.

5. Commission Business

a. Technical Advisory Committee Report

Gina Grandpre, outgoing Chair of the Jordan River Commission Technical Advisory Committee, had to leave before reaching this item on the agenda, and was unable to provide a report. Soren Simonsen noted that Gine was moving out of state and this this would be her last week working with Saratoga Springs. He expressed appreciation for Gina's participation and leadership role with the Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee for many years. He indicated he would send out Gina's written report to all Board members if available.

b. Event Advisory Committee Report

The Chair and Vice Chair were both unavailable and this item was deferred to a future meeting.

c. Fiscal Year 2026 Third Quarter Financial Report (written report)

Soren Simonsen presented the financial report as a written report to review outside of the meeting, since much of this information had been covered during the earlier budget discussion.

d. Upcoming Meeting Schedule (*01:58:16 on audio recording*)

Chair Catten reviewed upcoming meetings. The Great Salt Lake Issues Forum is scheduled for May 6-8, and will conflict with the regular Jordan River Watershed Council meeting in May. Soren Simonsen shared a survey and asked Governing Board members to participate and determine whether to keep the existing meeting date or reschedule at a later date in May. The Jordan River Commission & Watershed Council Field Trip will take place Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve in South Jordan. This is a combined field trip with the Watershed Council and Technical Advisory Committee. The next regular Governing Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4.

e. Annual Utah Open and Public Meetings Act Training (*01:59:28 on audio recording*)

Soren Simonsen noted that any members who have not yet received Open and Public Meetings Act Training through their respective government agency can stay after the meeting adjourns to complete the Commission training.

6. Director's Report

This item was postponed due to time constraints.

7. Adjourn

Michael Horrocks moved to adjourn the meeting. Wendelin Knobloch seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 PM, followed by a brief Open and Public Meeting Act Training video presentation that concluded at 12:12 PM.

A meeting recording, presentation and handout materials, and meeting minutes are available at https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/1068443.html.

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

Meeting minutes adopted August 6, 2026.