

Jordan River Commission
Governing Board Meeting
Thursday, October 7, 2021 | 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Location

Meeting held remotely via Zoom

Meeting Participants

Governing Board Members

Councilmember Ray DeWolfe, South Salt Lake, Chair
Councilmember Tish Buroker, Past Chair, Riverton City
Councilmember Fred Lowry, Draper City
Shazelle Terry, Jordan Valley Conservancy District
Councilmember Silvia Catten, Millcreek City
Kim Sorensen, Murray City
Councilmember Stan Porter, North Salt Lake
Gina Grandpre, Saratoga Springs City
Don Tingey, South Jordan City
Ashley Cleveland, Salt Lake City
Sam Klemm, Salt Lake County
Ken Brandt, South Valley Sewer District
Mayor Kristie Overson, Taylorsville City
Jason Curry, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Laura Hanson, Utah Governor's Office
Jaron Robertson, Utah Transit Authority
Isaac Astill, West Jordan City
Mayor Ron Bigelow, West Valley City
Liz Larsen, Hogle Zoo
Daniela Larsen, Hutchings Museum
Craig Walker, Jordan River Foundation
Brad Knoles, Rocky Mountain Power
Tim Brown, Tracy Aviary
Larry Mullenax, Utah State Fairpark
Michael Horrocks, Wasatch Rowing Foundation

Commission Staff

Soren Simonsen, Executive Director/Secretary
Aimee Horman, Outreach and Education Manager
Moriah Jackson Ivory, Project and Program Manager

Visitors and Guests

Joel Thompson, South Valley Sewer District
Morgan Faulkner, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
Desert Mulford, Hutchings Museum
Michael Lange, Rocky Mountain Power

Anne Terry, Tracy Aviary
Troy Adair
Jeremy Lapin, Saratoga Springs
Angelo Calacino, Salt Lake County
Eric McCulley, TAC Chair/River Restoration
Michael Mills, Utah Reclamation, Mitigation, and Conservation Commission
Rhonda Perkes, Office of Representative Chris Stewart
Travis Kartchner, Salt Lake Community College
Renn Lambert

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Ray DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

a) Identification of Governing Board Members and Other Meeting Participants.

Those present who do not typically attend Board meetings were asked to introduce themselves.

- Sam Klemm was present from the Salt Lake County Council.
- Shazelle Terry, from the Jordan Valley Conservancy District, was filling in for Bart Forsyth.
- Laura Hanson was present from the Utah Governor's Office.
- Jaron Robertson was present from the Utah Transit Authority ("UTA").
- Jason Curry was present from the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands.
- Angelo Calacino was present from Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation.
- Desert Mulford was filling in for Daniella Larsen from the Hutchings Museum Institute.
- Ken Brandt was present representing the South Valley Sewer District.
- Stan Porter was present on behalf of North Salt Lake City.

2. Public Comments

Troy Adair expressed support for the Jordan River paved and water trail. He considered it a blessing to be able to use it both for biking and kayaking. He appreciated all that has been done as it helps him stay physically fit, make friends, and build relationships with his family. He has enjoyed the water trail infrastructure that has been put in this year. He appreciated the Salt Lake City and Saratoga Springs ramps and thanked the Board for their efforts.

There were no further public comments.

3. **Presentations and Discussion**

- a) **Jeremy Lapin, Public Works Director, and Gina Grandpre, Planner, for Saratoga Springs, will share a presentation about the recent and ongoing development of the Jordan River Water Trail improvements in Saratoga Springs and other planned improvements to the Hot Springs at Inlet Park, near the headwater inlet of the Jordan River at Utah Lake.**

Jeremy Lapin identified himself as the Public Works Director and City Engineer for the City of Saratoga Springs and made a presentation on recent and ongoing development of the Jordan River Water Trail improvements in Saratoga Springs. He reported that Saratoga Springs, like many communities on the lake, require developers to install a lakeshore trail in and around the lake. There is a vision that one day there will be a continuous trail that will allow users to circumnavigate the lake. The City of Saratoga Springs was pleased to work with the Mountainland Association of Governments several years ago to obtain funding. It has been a very long process. They were optimistic that they will be able to finish the two segments shown in red on the map displayed, which are the only two missing in the developed areas.

Mr. Lapin stated that the trails are currently not paved but the hope was to pave them later as part of a future project to make them more accessible to a larger variety of users. A short boardwalk section had proven to be a challenge where there is an existing wetland mitigation site, and no trail can be constructed. Two issues they were dealing with involved access and being forced to change the design. Once the issues are resolved, the hope was that the contractor can finish the work. The current contract completion date is October 15, which will not be met. Mr. Lapin stated that the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) is holding the contract on the project.

Mr. Lapin reported that they partnered with DR Horton Development to the north. They have a project east of the Jordan River in Saratoga Springs called North Shore. When they acquired the property, a large property owner sold to DR Horton along with 20 acres on what was a private marina. The developer deeded the property to the City as part of a negotiation to meet the open space requirements for the project. The City has not yet made any improvements to the property. They are in the process of obtaining funding to facilitate a concept for another marina. Mr. Lapin stated that Saratoga currently has the only marina on the west side of the lake on the south end of the City and is very popular. This would be a second marina site on the north end of the lake near their border with Lehi. They hoped to leverage local funding in addition to \$500,000 set aside by the Council. The proposed marina is to be located near the mouth of the Jordan River and will be a great secondary trailhead location.

They are also working on a concept hot springs facility. The Inlet Park Master Plan was next addressed with the location identified on a rendering displayed. Mr. Lapin stated that the City is trying to create it as the future City Center. Their vision is to have over 100 acres of contiguous open space connecting multiple facilities and trails. A local resident is a professional in designing hot spring facilities and assisting with the effort. The goal is to create a world-class regional destination. The timing was not

yet known. The Council has funded the feasibility analysis and some of the preliminary engineering.

The plan for the Southern Marina expansion was described. A grant was received from Utah County to expand the site and add a beach and non-motorized craft launch area. An aerial was displayed of the existing facilities. Funding was available in the form of a \$1 million grant from Tourism, Recreation, Cultural and Convention ("TRCC") Tax funds through the County to construct a new jetty and beach area to the north. The project was in the design stage and expected to go out to bid in the next few months. The hope was for it to be open to the public by next summer. Funding was being sought to complete Phase 2.

Mr. Lapin stated that they also hope to work with the Division of Natural Resources ("DNR") on upcoming funding to improve and pave older sections of the trail. Their goal is to have a continuous paved trail along the entire City boundary so that it is accessible to a full range of users. This will be their next priority in terms of improvements to the trail system. Mr. Lapin reported that they recently completed two boat ramps that are open to the public.

Chair DeWolfe acknowledged the exciting work taking place in Saratoga Springs. He especially liked the hot spring concept.

Gina Grandpre, Saratoga Springs City Planner, stated that Oakwood Homes has a huge parkway planned for the Jordan River with boat launches and bridges at Pioneer Crossing.

b) Angelo Calacino, Park Development Project Manager, and Walt Gilmore, Associate Director of Planning & Development, for Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Division, will share a presentation about recent and ongoing development of the Jordan River Water Trail improvements at various locations in Salt Lake County.

Angelo Calacino, Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Park Development Project Manager reported that Salt Lake County has also been making improvements to the Jordan River to create a waterway from County line to County line. They have been working to get permission from the Division of Fire, Forestry, and State Lands to work on the river. They also have projects funded by Utah Outdoor Recreation. He described the projects Salt Lake County is pursuing from south to north.

- The Bluffdale – Parry Farms/Jordan River Trail Boat Launch is in design at approximately 15000 South and 1600 West. Construction was anticipated the summer of 2022.
- The Draper – Rotary Park/Jordan River Trail Boat Launch is located at approximately 12500 South and 1100 West. Completion was anticipated the winter of 2022.
- The South Jordan – Shields Lane Jordan River Trailhead Boat Launch is located at approximately 900 West and 10000 South. Permits were in place with construction was expected to begin in the next few weeks. Completion was expected the winter of 2022.

- The Sandy – North Jordan Canal Portage is located at approximately 1000 West and 9600 South. Construction was complete and partially funded by Utah Outdoor Recreation.
- The Midvale – 7800 South Jordan River Trailhead Boat Launch was next addressed. The design work had been completed with construction expected to begin in early 2022.
- Taylorsville – Millrace Park/Jordan River Trail Boat Launch at approximately 5300 South and 900 West was addressed. The design work was complete and the permitting process underway. Construction was expected to begin in early 2022.
- Murray – Brighton North Point Canal Diversion Structure – Removal located at approximately 4600 South and 600 West. County Flood Control is in the process of obtaining bids to remove the structure that will be replaced with two weirs to have it drop from upstream to downstream.
- The Murray – Brighton North Point Canal Diversion – Portage will follow the previous project to get around the drop structure. Users will be able to kayak or canoe through the drop structure based on its design. Salt Lake County Flood Control is finalizing its permits and the project was expected to go out to bid in November with completion anticipated by the spring of 2022.
- South Salt Lake – James Madison Park/Jordan River Trailhead Boat Launch at approximately 1100 West and 3300 South. Construction was expected to begin in early 2022 with completion by the spring of 2022.
- West Valley City – 2320 South/Jordan River Trail Boat Launch at approximately 2320 South and 1000 West. The existing bridge was to be removed with another bridge built further downstream with a new connector from Parleys Trail to the Jordan River Trail. A Feasibility Study was currently in progress.
- Salt Lake City – 1800 North/Jordan River Trail Boat Launch at approximately 1800 North/Redwood Road was completed earlier in the year and is in use.

Mr. Calacino stated that they are looking at three other portages in Midvale, at 3900 South, and in Salt Lake City to get around the surplus canal dam structure. A consultant was to begin the design of two of the three.

Jordan River Commission Executive Director/Secretary, Soren Simonsen, commented on the initial ramps that have gone in and stated that they will continue to explore opportunities.

Mr. Calacino described the materials proposed for the boat launches. Michael Horrocks from the Wasatch Rowing Foundation asked about the South Redwood Trailhead and asked if thought had been given to attaching beams to the ramp dock. Mr. Calacino explained that the project has been assigned to another Project Manager in their office. At this point, they are studying the feasibility of the project due to levy issues with the Army Corps of Engineers. He stated that the project is a bit behind. The intent was to have it built next year.

A question was raised regarding the level of the rapid going over the portages. Mr. Simonsen stated that the infrastructure will facilitate people enjoying and recreating in the river in a new way but facilitate volunteers getting out and doing cleanup and

conservation activities in the river. The proposed access points will provide numerous opportunities. He thanked Salt Lake County, Saratoga Springs, and North Salt Lake who have led the initiative to develop the water trail. A lot of current and ongoing improvements had been seen.

Mr. Calacino noted that two other launches were completed by Salt Lake City. One is at 200 South and 1000 West near the Fisher Mansion and the other at 1000 West and North Temple. They function as a separate boat launch and portage.

c) Aimee Horman, Outreach & Education Manager for the Jordan River Commission, will share a presentation summarizing and highlighting events and activities from the recent Get to the River Festival in September.

Jordan River Commission Outreach and Education Manager, Aimee Horman, gave an overview of the Get to the River Festival that took place in September and activities that the Jordan River Commission was directly involved in. She reported that there were 29 events, 16 of which were paddling events, 14 on the trail, and one at the Kennecott Nature Center Amphitheater. The highlights were identified as follows:

- A Governing Board field trip to Big Bend;
- Utah Symphony Concert;
- North Salt Lake Paddle with 75 participants;
- South Salt Lake Paddle with Mayor Cherie Wood;
- Field Trip with the American Planners Association (“APA”) to Big Bend in the morning and a paddle in the afternoon;
- Pollinator planting in Draper; and
- Legacy of Lowell Day of Service on 9/11.

Ms. Horman reported that they were approached by the Utah Symphony in August about interest in Hilary Hahn giving an outdoor violin concert on the river. With help from Murray City Parks and Arts and Culture Council, a concert was held at the Kennecott Nature Center Amphitheater.

Events took place all along the corridor in:

- Saratoga Springs;
- Lehi;
- Bluffdale;
- Draper;
- West Jordan;
- Midvale;
- Murray;
- Millcreek;
- South Salt Lake;
- West Valley City;
- Salt Lake City; and
- North Salt Lake.

Over 550 people participated in events and volunteer projects throughout the month and there was more paddling than ever before. There were 11 Puncturevine pulls, eight canoe cleanups, and three revegetation projects. 940 hours of volunteer work was contributed. Canoe and trail cleanups removed 66 cubic yards of trash from the river and trail and volunteers pulled 2,664 pounds of Puncturevine and reseeded approximately 2.5 acres along the trail. Appreciation was expressed to their partners at Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts, and Parks ("ZAP") for a grant that mostly funded the Hilary Hahn event.

4. **Commission Matters**

a) **Eric McCulley, Chair of the Jordan River Commission Technical Advisory Committee will share a Quarterly Technical Advisory Committee Report.**

Eric McCulley presented the Quarterly Technical Advisory Committee Report and stated that they try to provide technical information to those around the river. In September they focused on available funding sources. They included an outdoor recreation grant, a Legislative request from Representative Mike Winder, and the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative. Mr. McCulley reported that outdoor recreation grants have funded numerous projects up and down the river and have been a great source of funding over the years.

Most Utah Legislative requests are already in play. Mr. McCulley also addressed the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative. He reported that about a decade ago they had the Jordan River listed as a focus area, which has provided the ability to fund various projects. There was also a field trip for Board Members. In August, there was a Cooperative Weed Management Area Partnership meeting where they discussed Puncturevine bounty and progress. It was reported that in Utah County there has been over a 90 percent reduction in the number of goat heads in one year. There was also a best practice discussion about Phragmites control from the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands.

Mr. McCulley reported that they are working to provide information on landscaping for private lands around the edges of the river. A best practice training series also took place earlier in the week and they were in the process of developing consistent design guidelines for trails.

In response to a question, Mr. McCulley stated that they were still doing some revegetation to Big Bend, which is not currently open to the public. Work was taking place there and volunteer opportunities were available. Mr. Simonsen thanked Mr. McCulley who has served as Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee for the last few years. His term was to end at the January meeting at which time new officers will be elected.

b) **Action Item] Approve Governing Board meeting minutes from August 5, 2021.**

The minutes were reviewed and modified.

Michael Horrocks moved to adopt the meeting minutes of August 5, 2021, as corrected. Tish Buroker seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

- c) [Action Item] Adopt Bylaws Amendments incorporating recently approved Event Advisory Committee and clarifying the term of the Commission Treasurer.**

Mr. Simonsen stated that because the committees are already referenced, he did not think it was necessary to name an Event Advisory Committee in the Bylaws. Committees can be appointed and are already covered in the Bylaws. He left the decision to the Board to determine whether to add it in as a standing committee. Appointments are to be made by the Board. The only change reflected in the Bylaws was the Treasurer appointment. When they were seeking a candidate to replace the most recent Treasurer, it seemed that having a term might make recruiting easier. The proposed change specified that the Treasurer is appointed by the Governing Board to serve a term of approximately two years corresponding to the fiscal year cycle of the Commission and may be reappointed to serve a successive term or terms. If the Treasurer's Office is vacated for any reason during the term, another Treasurer shall be appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Simonsen thought it would be valuable to include language regarding removal.

Fred Lowry moved to adopt the proposed changes to the Bylaws modifying the term of the Treasurer position. Stan Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

- d) [Action Item] Appoint Travis Kartchner, CPA, as the Commission Treasurer for a Two-Year Term, and as a member of the Executive Committee.**

Mr. Simonsen acknowledged the excellent work done by North Salt Lake City Manager, Ken Leetham who served as Treasurer for many years. Travis Kartchner is a CPA and currently works as the Associate Controller/Treasurer at Salt Lake Community College. He previously worked at the State Auditor's Office. Mr. Kartchner has an impressive background that will be very useful.

Mr. Kartchner introduced himself and stated that he lives next to the Jordan River. He informed the Executive Committee the previous week that he runs the parkway frequently. He was excited to be part of the team.

Michael Horrocks moved to appoint Travis Kartchner as the Commission Treasurer. Stan Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

- e) [Action Item] Appoint Proposed Initial Members of the Event Advisory Committee.**

Mr. Simonsen reported that at the last meeting they formally approved the creation of an Event Advisory Committee, which would replace the previous Oversight Committee, in conjunction with the Get to the River Festival, and expand its roles and function. Several individuals came forward both during and after the meeting who expressed interest in serving. The outline for the Event Advisory Committee specifies seven to 11 members with the following eight who have agreed to serve:

- Ali Avery, North Salt Lake City Planner;
- Daniela Larsen, Executive Director of the Hutchings Museum and Institute;
- David Wilkes, Event Coordinator with Draper City;
- Tori Bird, Conservation Action Coordinator at Utah's Hogle Zoo;
- Rita Lund, Communications Director with Millcreek City;
- Sylvia Catten, Millcreek City Council Member;
- Tim Brown, Tracy Aviary CEO; and
- Tish Buroker, Riverton City Council Member.

Mr. Simonsen stated that they have discussed the possibility of having the Jordan River Foundation serve. Goals for the Event Advisory Committee included bringing geographic diversity, increasing ethnic diversity, and different organizations and stakeholders. He suggested that as part of their annual appointment of officers and Executive Committee members that they review the list of Technical and Event Advisory Committee members and make changes as necessary.

Stan Porter moved to appoint the proposed initial members of the Event Advisory Committee. Tish Buroker seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

5. Director's Report

a) Upcoming Meetings, Events, and Activities of Interest.

Mr. Simonsen thanked Outreach and Education Manager, Aimee Horman, and Project and Program Manager, Moriah Jackson Ivory, and the communities that put together an amazing slate of activities for the Get to the River Festival. He described an experience paddling the river and commented that he was surprised by how little water there was in the river. Potential solutions were discussed including ways to use water shares through transfer agreements to get more water in the river near the narrows at the Point of the Mountain. Mr. Simonsen felt that long-term that was something that would be of benefit. He was hopeful that the Watershed Council Act and the Water Banking legislation will allow them to think long-term about how water impacts the river.

Mr. Simonsen discussed upcoming events and activities and stated that many have observed a significant increase in homeless activity around the Jordan River. He has actively participated with the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness Steering Committee. He has attended meetings for the last couple of years but has been part of the Steering Committee since the spring. He has represented the interests of the Jordan River Commission, which is mostly comprised of service providers who are working to address homelessness. The three newly constructed homeless resource

centers and the upgraded facility in Midvale are all operating near capacity. Optimistic things are happening such as a new project in Salt Lake City involving a partnership with The Other Side Academy and the village they are creating to address many around the Jordan River. Mr. Simonsen stated that the project may be delayed due to environmental issues with the site but are hopeful that the new agency that was established on July 1 at the State level that is now led by Wayne Niederhauser will be of benefit. Mr. Simonsen has spoken with Mr. Neiderhauser and was pleased to see the State being more proactive in addressing homeless issues.

Mr. Simonsen reported that the Salt Lake Valley Coalition meets every other month with the next meeting scheduled for October 13. He was intrigued by the Utah County Growth and Prosperity Summit scheduled for October 28. A link was provided for Board Members interested in signing up. Other ongoing events were described including watershed events.

b) Grants and Funding Opportunities.

Mr. Simonsen reported that there are three active solicitations taking place currently. Staff is currently reviewing applications for Outdoor Recreation Grants that are administered through the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands and will be making announcements later in the month. He noted that they received several grant submissions this year.

The Wasatch Front Regional Council currently is offering a Transportation and Land Use Connection Grant with Letters of Intent due in September. Mr. Simonsen expressed a willingness to help provide letters of support.

Applications for the Voting Access Grant are due on October 30. It was noted that they typically like to see a pre-application in July. Mr. Simonsen offered to help support the efforts of Board Members and stated that a great deal of work has been done pertaining to boat access. He hoped to see it continue along with the Outdoor Recreation Grant Program and other local funding.

Future grant opportunities were discussed. Mr. Simonsen reported that they had a lengthy discussion at a recent Technical Advisory Committee ("TAC") meeting and stated that Outdoor Recreation Grants are great for active transportation, water trail, and other types of improvements. The three grants are significant, and applications are due in the winter. There is also the National Park Service RTCA Program that is administered through State Parks. A fair amount of funding is also coming through the State Legislature for various transportation projects.

Mr. Simonsen reported that there is legislation at the federal level and commented on the bi-partisan Infrastructure Investment in Jobs Act. Senator Romney's Office had been instrumental in drafting the current proposal. Roads, Bridges, and Major Projects funding will likely be available for all types of surface transportation as it is a reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act that goes toward transit, active transportation, and roads. It is a good source of funding that they have used through the County, State, and other partners for various projects around the Jordan River Parkway Trail.

Mr. Simonsen reported that there is public transit funding with new funding going toward public transit. They know from a survey of lower-income individuals that nearly 15% of Jordan River Parkway Trail users who took the survey as part of the Blueprint get there by using transit. He noted that West Jordan City built a direct link from the Gardner Village Trax Station to the Jordan River Parkway Trail that opened last year. It has been a great addition and makes the parkway more accessible by transit.

Mr. Simonsen commented that there is water infrastructure funding in the bill that would go toward drinking water, stormwater, and treated water. They are looking at how the funding could tie into potential water quality improvements.

Mr. Simonsen was also interested in exploring electric vehicle charging and ways to use trailheads as electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Other funding opportunities would be explored.

Rhonda Perkes from Representative Chris Stewart's Office stated that Congressman Stewart is looking at the tax ramifications of the bill. Some conflicts needed to be explored. The consensus was that if a bill for federal funding passes, they want to do what they can to make sure that projects in the State of Utah get a fair shake. Any projects like the one mentioned that tie into the Jordan River Master Plan that have been tied to a federal grant or if the DNR requests federal funds, they would like to offer any letters of support. Ms. Perkes thanked Mr. Simonsen for his leadership.

Mr. Simonsen referenced a letter from Senator Romney's Office regarding potential funding opportunities.

Chair DeWolfe stated that the November 4 meeting will be the last one of the year. There was discussion about having an event in December. They will also be looking for a New Commission Vice-Chair. Those interested were encouraged to reach out to Chair DeWolfe or Mr. Simonsen. Chair DeWolfe had enjoyed serving as Chair and working with Mr. Simonsen. He considered the Jordan River to be a great amenity and place to recreate.

6. Adjourn

Mayor Kristie Overson moved to adjourn. Isaac Astill seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

A meeting recording, presentation and handout materials, and meeting minutes will be available following the meeting at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/703557.html>.

Meeting transcription provided by T. Forbes Group. Meeting minutes prepared by Soren Simonsen, Commission Secretary.