SUMMARY OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

December 9, 2008
Utah State Capitol Building

GREAT SALT LAKE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Dan Senator, Chairman	State Senate
Lynn de Freitas	FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake
Leland Myers	Central Davis Sewer District
David Livermore	The Nature Conservancy
Don Leonard	Utah Artemia Association
Neka Roundy	Mayor of Kaysville
Bonnie Baxter	Westminster College
Bill Fenimore	Wild Bird Center of Layton
Corey Milne	Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation
Wilford Sommerkorn	Salt Lake City Planning Department

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Mower	Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Leah Ann Lamb	DEQ/ Division of Water Quality
Jodi Gardberg	DEQ/ Division of Water Quality
Walter Baker	DEQ/ Division of Water Quality
John Whitehead	DEQ/ Division of Water Quality
Bill Sinclair	Department of Environmental Quality
Chris Montague	The Nature Conservancy
Kelly Payne	Kennecott Utah Copper
Dave Grierson	Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Karen Nichols	Stantec Consulting
Natalie Rees	Salt Lake County
Mike Stark	Associated Press
Judy Fayhs	Salt Lake Tribune

1. Call to Order

The chairman, Senator Dan Eastman, Chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. A motion was passed to approve the November 20, 2008 summary of the meeting. All were in favor with no opposition. The Senator introduced Bill Ross who was invited to facilitate the meeting

2. Review of the Meeting Agenda and Purpose - Chair Senator Dan Eastman and Facilitator Bill Ross, Bill Ross and Associates

Bill Ross, Bill Ross and Associates introduced himself: He explained that it was time to discuss the information the Council has been given and the future of the lake from a governance point of view.

He asked that the Council discuss the following questions:

- What has the council heard or thought about the lake (to see if vision of the lake is starting to emerge)?

- What does the Council need to do to meet the governor's charge?
- How does the Council want to organize itself?

Bill Ross, Bill Ross and Associates further explained the difference between consensus and convergence. That convergence does not demand consensus and that it is important for council to keep moving towards common ideas.

Lynn de Freitas, FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake replied that given the nature of council and importance of the mission, she suggest that council members assign alternates in case of absence

Senator Dan Eastman, Chairman thought the greatest threat to the resource was keeping water in the lake.

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District replied that based on the presentations it is obvious that the lake has an important environmental and economic impact in Utah, and that it is important to maintain the lake that supports all the interests (water , water quality, birds…) all are keenly put together as a need that has to be maintained. He has heard that there are a lot of agencies with different charters that try to meet that charter to the best of their abilities. He also heard that there is a larger population that wants some degree of involvement in the management structure and deciding things and that he didn't hear from anyone who thought we are doing something wrong or that the system is broken.

Lynn de Freitas, FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake said that regard for the system as a whole is coming from the multi use value of the system and those assets are driving decisions on its behalf. In regards to water as a limiting factor, she suggested that the value of system's sustainability was prioritized asking questions such as what keeps the system afloat and how do we define that system.

Bill Fennimore, Wild Bird Center of Layton replied that water quantity was one of the challenges facing the lake, in addition to population and water demands. He gave the example of Bear River and future growth. He asked how we are able to enable those growth factors to continue and keep water in the lake is important factor, especially with drought cycles.

David Livermore, The Nature Conservancy said that he has learned a lot from a lot of experts about the lake and that it is an amazing ecological and economic resource. He also learned that it is in jeopardy. He said that current management is excellent however, coordinated management was the problem. He recommended a system or procedure for coordinated management and the need to define clearly, lake health. He said unless there is a healthy lake, all users will fail. He said we needed science to define a healthy lake such as indicators.

Neka Roundy, Mayor of Kaysville said that public perception of the lake was negative and that marketing was needed. She said that those who have visited the lake love it and are contributing to it. Otherwise, they just think it smells bad. She mentioned that the Utah Office of Tourism doesn't mention Great Salt Lake. There is a lot of money for and generated by the ski industry.

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District replied that there are a lot of passionate users of the lake but they are not a large part of the overall population.

Bill Ross, Bill Ross and Associates that based on his experience with the Puget Sound, people will contribute to the ecosystem if they are engaged and have a sense of what a healthy lake should look like. Puget Sound has goals for human utilization as a component of what is a healthy lake.

Bill Fennimore, Wild Bird Center of Layton said that he has learned a lot. Figuring out some system of measurements for lake health would be useful.

Lynn de Freitas, FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake said that there is a public perception disconnect. The lake is managed as a terminal basin rather than a watershed that affects the system directly. There is ambivalence and a lack of understanding on how we conduct ourselves in the watershed.

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District replied that there has never been continuous research on the lake defining what a healthy lake should look like.

Senator Dan Eastman, Chairman said we need to change people's perception. Show people pictures of lake over and over again. He suggested a public relations campaign.

David Livermore, The Nature Conservancy replied that we need to build on two themes of lake health and public relations. Health would be hard for this council to define. We would need a technical committee to do that. On lake branding, the Nature Conservancy has been polling for conservation and the Lake tests the same as national parks, iconic features. What need to be tested is the water; water supply, lakes and streams, heritage, and the watershed. We have a big job to sell this to the legislature. We need the right campaign to brand and sell this to the legislature.

Corey Milne, Great Salt Lake Minerals wondered what the role of a permanent council is as opposed to a modification of the governing agencies and how the state governs the lake now. He said that the council has been brought together because of our interests in the lake. He asked what are the issues the council would like to recommend.

Don Leonard, Utah Artemia Association said that no one has mentioned pollutants or contaminants. The brine shrimp industry is concerned with contaminants and the lack of data and research. There needs to be significant, dedicated long term funding.

Wilford Sommerkorn, Salt Lake City Planning Department said that there are a lot of problems that result from growth. We are going to be facing a direct challenge as development approaches the shore. The Salt Lake City northwest quadrant adjacent to the lake will be open for development. The question is what we do in regards to growth. Do we want to control that through standard zoning guidelines?

Bill Fennimore, Wild Bird Center of Layton sees that there is movement towards the lake where there is land still available. Of all agencies involved with lake, no one who will say that

growth is limited. Need to consider having some body to coordinate all the agencies and communities with master planning.

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District said the FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake have been good at highlighting the dilemmas facing GSL. We haven't put enough research into defining/quantifying lake health. Extraordinary measures to get research and money in place were undertaken for setting a water quality standard for Selenium. Nutrients are present in Farmington Bay to levels that are exceeding causing algal blooms. But, the brine shrimp eat the algae. We have huge issues with water rights in our state. Currently we lack money to understand the ecosystem. One person says GSL is in horrible condition, yet another says it is in great shape. The biggest threat is lack of understanding. We need a group to bring together research and define the problems facing the lake. The environmental community hasn't been at the table because there hasn't been a seat. Need a balanced approach as hearing officers when different groups have problems with each other. Need to bring together information and disseminate it. The greatest threat is the lack of knowledge. Need to dedicate a financial stream.

Bill Fennimore, Wild Bird Center of Layton: So as to make informed decisions.

Senator Dan Eastman, Chairman suggested funding would come from a restricted account, not earmark, for research. There is a small group of people (scientists and experienced professionals) who advocate for the lake and they are doing a tremendous job. An advocacy group would be advantageous to them. A small group that works with agencies puts together a project list and reports to the legislature.

Bill Ross, Bill Ross and Associates asked the council to speak about the strengths of the current systems and what is good about how the lake is being managed.

Bill Fennimore, Wild Bird Center of Layton said that he was impressed with the Division of Wildlife Resources especially the linking partners and bird festivals that involve the general public in the migratory pathway.

Lynn de Freitas, FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake said that she is impressed with the GSL ecosystem program from the Division of Wildlife Resources that oversees the brine shrimp harvest. She thought it was a great model for cooperative working effort that strives to manage the resource. She thought all the agencies need to improve their communication with each other and the public.

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District said that the agencies function well and are responsible but they work within a silo, and keep on top of their responsibilities. The main weakness is there is not a bridge between the silos. For example water quality impacts the birds, mineral extraction, brine shrimp etc.

David Livermore, The Nature Conservancy said that the GSL comprehensive management plan from the Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands has well though out goals but the goals aren't achieved due to the silo problem.

Wilford Sommerkorn, Salt Lake City Planning Department said that coordination has always been a problem. Davis County created a good GSL shoreline plan. It raised awareness and got everyone on same page.

Bill Fennimore, Wild Bird Center of Layton: Parks said that the Division of Parks and Recreation are doing a good job promoting Antelope Island Park.

Neka Roundy, Mayor of Kaysville said she was appreciative of the good relationships between all the players.

Corey Milne, Great Salt Lake Minerals said that there are good people doing good things in the agencies. However, they have to work within that structure and are subject to the legislature and legislative cuts. There is good value in a separate entity that allows for civilian input, another entity outside of legislature. He said that he has to go to many different agencies to do business because there is no coordinating agency.

Lynn de Freitas, FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake said that the GSL Comprehensive Management plan was an iterative process that includes a mineral release plan. These kinds of plans that involve the public through scoping are a positive thing.

Bill Ross, Bill Ross and Associates said that the council needs to be clear on the authority of a coordination board within existing agencies authorities. He gave the example of the Puget Sound Partnership that doesn't have authority but approves agency budgets from many different agencies.

Bill Ross, Bill Ross and Associates summarized that the council wants to define a healthy lake and track it. That there needs to be a coordinated effort so the agencies row in the same direction along with their independent responsibilities. Funding for research is paramount. Growth will clearly be an issue.

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District said that he was not suggesting breaking down the silos, rather there is a need to bring information out of the silos and disseminate the information for the common good.

Bill Ross, Bill Ross and Associates added there is a need to engage stakeholders.

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District said the common vision should be to define a healthy lake. The Council needs to establish a mechanism for a vision for this lake, a coordination or advocacy board. One that can disseminate money, public relations, advocacy to elected officials and review what is going on and ties together the organizations. How do we coordinate items and bring to public that these things need to be done. Need to bring this back to the legislature by August so we need to be done by June. Everyone here needs to go to their constituents in order to sell this to the legislature.

Lynn de Freitas, FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake said the council should here from Bob Adler who can talk about structural ideas. It would be good to have him at the next meeting.

3. The work of the council

Bonnie Baxter, Westminster College suggested the Council holds a retreat to get the work done and asked what the Council's budget is.

Michael Mower, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget said that DNR and DEQ have donated staff time. With existing staff and resources we can provide facilitation and food but there are no extra resources available.

Bonnie Baxter, Westminster College said that Westminster College has funding and resources.

Walt Baker, DEQ/ Division of Water Quality said if the council wants consultants involved, there needs to be funding and offered DWQ resources.

Don Leonard, Utah Artemia Association said that he has learned that there is more commonality of interests than he thought there would be. He said he could see the council in January having a meeting on structure. In February a meeting that discusses funding and then has staff put it in writing for the March meeting. Spend the following several months lining everything up so it will be out there by April.

Bonnie Baxter, Westminster College said that they should use a public forum for questioning.

Corey Milne, Great Salt Lake Minerals said that the council needs to recommend what is the organization, define the health, get these group coordinating, so that these kinds of things can get addressed.

Bill Ross, Bill Ross and Associates explained the Puget Sound Partnership and how it is set up.

David Livermore, The Nature Conservancy said that the council should have an outline by March and should have defined goals for each of the next 6 meetings. It would help if the council had a draft timeline for the rest of the meetings.

Bonnie Baxter, Westminster College said the council needs to create a mission statement with strategies per the executive order.

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District suggested creating sub-committees

Corey Milne, Great Salt Lake Minerals said the council needs to get an agreement on how to get together recommendations. The council needs to set up a good working process to get things done. The council needs to determine what that process should be and who should be involved.

Don Leonard, Utah Artemia Association said there should be a list of questions that need to be answered in the February meeting, and staff can come up with a timeline to move us forward.

Bill Ross, Bill Ross and Associates suggested that the February meeting could be all day meeting. By the March meeting, council recommendations could be written up in white papers and in April they could review. By May, the council will have good foundation. He said it is an

ambitious schedule but lots of progress can be made. In January, the meeting could review best practices from other governance structures and Bob Adler could speak about local structures.

Walt Baker, DEQ/ Division of Water Quality suggested that someone from the Utah Lake Commission and Bear Lake Commission come speak to the Council. He said he could arrange to have those speakers such as Mayor Billings.

Michael Mower, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget said there may be some value in inviting Mayor Billings to the table because they have done good work with the state legislature. It may be helpful to get their advice on what has been successful

Corey Milne, Great Salt Lake Minerals asked that before the January meeting, if there could be a draft that represents what was discussed today.

Bonnie Baxter, Westminster College said there will be a lot of questions after the January meeting discussing what elements will be appropriate for Great Salt Lake. She said she was not sure enough time has been allotted to do this.

David Livermore, The Nature Conservancy suggested that the council creates 4 subcommittees; a Mission Statement team, Governance Structure and funding team, Science structure team and a Communication team. The subcommittee meetings will be open to everyone. The teams could have outlines by the March meeting.

Bill Ross, Bill Ross and Associates asked if the teams could organize before the January meeting.

The Council formed the following subcommittees.

TOPIC	WHOM	OBJECTIVES
Governance Structure and Funding	Don Leonard, Leland Myers, Corey Milne, Ben Ferry	Recommend structure including role, authority and representation.
Communication/ Marketing	Neka Roundy, Bill Fennimore, Wilf Sommerkorn, Colleen Johnson	Develop plan for engaging the broadest possible stakeholder groups to get feedback on the GSLAC recommendations and legislative support
Science	Bonnie Baxter, David Livermore	Develop a model for future research efforts and collaboration.
Mission Statement	Leland Myers, Lynn de Freitas	Recommend a mission statement for a future GSL Commission.

Don Leonard, Utah Artemia Association said that if the teams have meetings they should tell the rest of council

Jodi Gardberg, DEQ/ Division of Water Quality offered that the council could schedule with her and she could disseminate it. She said that she could help schedule set up rooms etc.

The council scheduled the 2009 meetings as following

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PURPOSE/GOALS
January 14, 2009	1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Casual discussion with panel, box lunch included 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM Meeting	DEQ Room 201	Governance structures – Presentations and Interactive Panel by Robert Adler, Jim Kramer, Utah Lake Commission and Bear Lake Commission
February 19, 2009	2:00 PM to 5:00 PM	DEQ Room 101	Sub Committee Reports
March 18, 2009	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (includes catered lunch)	DEQ Room 201	Draft recommendations
April 22, 2009	1:00 PM to 5:00 PM (includes box lunch)	DEQ Room 101	Review final report