

SUMMARY OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

September 2, 2008

Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

GREAT SALT LAKE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Eastman, Chairman	State Senator
Ben Ferry (by phone)	State House Representative
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 (by phone)	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

Richard Sprott	Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Walter Baker	DEQ/ Division of Water Quality
Leah Ann Lamb	DEQ/ Division of Water Quality
Jodi Gardberg	DEQ/ Division of Water Quality
Robyn Pearson	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Dave Grierson	DNR/Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Chris Montague	The Nature Conservancy
Mike Mower	Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Richard Goldberger	Citizen
Rod Decker	Channel 2 News

1. Call to Order:

The Chairman, Senator Dan Eastman called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. The Advisory Council and audience introduced themselves.

2. Introduction of Advisory Council Members:

The Chairman asked each council member to answer what are their interests in Great Salt Lake (GSL) and what are their expectations of the council.

Bill Fenimore, Wild Bird Center of Layton:

Bill moved to Utah in 1986 and is a businessman, birder and member of the Audubon Society. As a businessman, he views the GSL as an economic resource. He participates in conservation

organizations that help protect the resource. He hopes the council can make a recommendation to the Governor and create a master plan for GSL for the next 50 years.

Neka Roundy, Mayor of Kaysville:

Neka has been interested in the GSL since she was a child. Specifically, her interests are to see GSL as a tourist destination and its economic development potential for Davis County. She listed reasons why the lake is important; it is a prominent feature on global maps, it is home to millions of birds, it factors into Utah's weather and it is a great recreation spot. She would like to see a unified marketing approach to the lake, and she welcomes dialogue with the other groups present.

Corey Milne, Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation:

Corey manages the Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation and currently lives on the west side of Ogden. His interests in the lake are both personal and professional. He grew up in Salt Lake City on the east bench of bountiful watching the sunsets and has spent a lot of time on the lake over the last 26 years he has worked for GSL Minerals and enjoys its beauty. From a business standpoint, the business extracts minerals from the lake for fertilizers and therefore the health of the lake is important to the business plan. He thinks there needs to be a group vision that represents the needs of all groups. He thinks there is currently a fractured approach to the lake.

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District:

Leland has had significant involvement with the lake in the last 8 years working with Central Davis Sewer District. The District is a wastewater treatment facility that discharges directly to Farmington Bay. He has been involved in water quality studies of Farmington Bay and its wetlands, is a member of the Utah Water Quality Board and is part of the Selenium Steering Committee that will establish the first water quality standard for the lake. He would like the council to 1. Find a way to integrate management activities to protect all the beneficial uses and 2. See a mechanism in place to support and continue the studies necessary to protect the lake.

Wilford Sommerkorn, Salt Lake City Planning Department:

As part of the Salt Lake City Planning Department, Wilford's interests are in what Salt Lake City does in regards to the lake. As the Northwest quadrant plan proceeds for Salt Lake City, and part of the area has been annexed and will be annexed, there will be a lot of ideas of what to do with this area. Before coming to the Salt Lake City planning department he worked with the Davis County planning department and thus has had a long interest and association with the lake

Don Leonard, Utah Artemia Association:

Don's personal connection to the lake has been as a lifelong resident of Davis County and his parents courtship began on the lake. He is President of the Utah Artemia Association, a trade association that includes all the companies that harvest brine shrimp which has been in existence for 15 years. He also serves as chairman of the Great Salt Lake Brine Shrimp Cooperative. His objectives in a macro sense are to the health of the lake and the long term stability of the lake's ecosystem. On a micro sense, a number of key issues which include contamination of lake, water level and salinity. He is concerned with any governmental acts that disrupt the brine shrimp growth and health. The brine shrimp industry not only plays an important economic role but also helps keep the lake clean. The industry is very interested in research and has been a principal funding source for these studies. A major objective of the industry is to leverage and enhance more research and coordination of management activities

Lynn de Freitas, Friends of Great Salt Lake:

Lynn said that the lake defines us on the Wasatch Front and that our relationship with the lake should be responsible and long term. She is pleased to be part of this effort to look carefully at how we manage the lake and its resources and work through a process that will create a recommendation of effective management authority that is not piecemeal as we look to long term stability. In addition, a management entity which will not only consider the local beneficial uses but also look at the hemispheric importance and international relationship the lake provides as an important ecosystem for migratory birds. She pointed out the global recognition of the lake, the spiral jetty as an additional endowment. She would like to see an effective management tool that is unified in approach to the lake that promotes sustainability of the resource and research.

David Livermore, The Nature Conservancy:

This fall will make the 25th anniversary of The Nature Conservancy's involvement with the lake. The Conservancy currently owns and manages 10,000 acres of wetlands around the lake. David pointed out that the lake is an ecological resource, international treasure and one of the largest shorebird reserves in the world. He said that current uses may not be sustainable long term due to water quality, climate, land usage and population growth issues. He welcomes an opportunity for the council to resolve these conflicts long term. His expectation for the council is to make a recommendation to the legislature to create a permanent entity that will coordinate these issues and provide authority to maintain the ecosystem and clarify agency roles and jurisdictions. He would like to see decisions based on sound science long term.

Dan Eastman, State Senator, Chairman

On a personal side, Senator Eastman has been boating on the lake every year with family and is an avid duck hunter. His expectations for the council and as chairman are to fulfill the governor's executive order.

Bonnie Baxter, Westminster College

As the academic advisor to the council Bonnie is aware of the large amount of information being generated by researchers and she looks forward to learning how the lake is managed by the agencies. As director of the Great Salt Lake Institute whose mission is to connect people to the lake through education she is pleased to be part of the Council whose makeup has brought stakeholders together.

Ben Ferry, State House Representative:

As a representative of his district that resides over a large portion of the lake including private duck clubs, the Bear River Refuge and private lands, Representative Ferry would like to see the people who are the benefactors and beneficiaries of the lake understand the multiple uses of the lake both commercially and environmentally.

3. Governor's Executive Order and Charge to the Council:

Lynn de Freitas, Friends of Great Salt Lake inquired as to why 2(f) in the governor's draft executive order had more details than the final executive order.

Mike Mower, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget replied that the Governor's goal was to have a more broad rather than restrictive role for the council so they could determine whether a greater management role was needed or not. He would like the council to determine the template and decided the previous language in the executive order was too specific and limiting to the council charge.

David Livermore, The Nature Conservancy asked the Council when there will be public involvement and public forums for input.

Senator Dan Eastman responded that the Council will hold public hearings. The council as chosen by the Governor, would remain as is with no additional members but will ask for public input from all Great Salt Lake stakeholders

Mike Mower, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget told the Council that it was the intent of the Governor to have a council that was not too large and used the template of the Coal Mine Safety Commission that had a technical staff comprised of various groups to inform the commission.

Ben Ferry, State House Representative said that there are a wide range of interests on the lake and at the table. He asked the chairman what triggered the creation of the Council.

Senator Dan Eastman responded that the Governor saw a need to bring the divergent and interested parties together, get there input and provide recommendations for the future direction of the lake

The Deputy Director Robyn Pearson of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) spoke of DNR's role on the lake and the Departments thoughts of a greater entity similar to the Utah Lake Commission considered for Great Salt Lake. He said this concept derived from the multiple issues that DNR faces in its 7 divisions each with a different and prominent role. There are multiple opposing issues (oil exploration, mineral leasing, water rights) and there is a renewed intensification to address these issues in recent years. DNR saw a need for a unified view to maintain such a complex ecosystem. DNR approached the governor with the concept of a Great Salt Lake Commission that would be composed of multiple jurisdictions and a forum to address this complex and delicate lake.

Walt Baker, Director of the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) saw that there were issues on the lake that were larger and more involved than one agency, that the lake was unique in character and needed to include stakeholders in the decision making process. DWQ has been involved with an intensive 5 year effort to establish a numeric water quality standard for selenium for Great Salt Lake. The effort began when the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District applied for a UPDES permit to discharge reject water from a reverse osmosis procedure that would clean up a contaminated groundwater plume from Kennecott's tailings pond. The permit was written to discharge the reject water into the Jordan River. DWQ had to assess the permit with regards to the beneficial uses of the Jordan River, however, questions were raised as to what would happen when the reject water reached the Great Salt Lake. Since there were no numeric standards for the Great Salt Lake, DWQ could not issue the permit and embarked on an effort to establish the standard. This involved a Steering Committee composed of stakeholders who were advised by a science panel comprised of world experts on Selenium. The effort has taken 5 years and 2.5 million dollars and will be the first tissue based standard in the nation. He said that each agency deals with their particular charges and that it was confusing and daunting for stakeholders to visit each agency to get information. He saw a need for an organization that would bring all the interests together to address the issues. Other DWQ involvement in the lake includes a baseline study of Mercury in the ecosystem, nutrient studies of Farmington Bay and its wetlands and monitoring as part of permitting and protecting the lake. He pledged DWQ's staff and resources to this needed effort.

Bonnie Baxter, Westminster College asked how future council meetings will be run and are they open to the public

Senator Dan Eastman responded that the Council will extend invitations to Great Salt Lake experts to inform the council and the meetings are open to the public

Walt Baker, DWQ suggested that a technical advisory committee be formed to provide input to the council. He added that this worked well with the Selenium Steering Committee and the Utah Lake Commission

Dave Grierson, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands said the existing Great Salt Lake Technical Team organized by the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands could provide the technical expertise to the council.

Bill Fenimore, Wild Bird Center of Layton, suggested that avian experts Don Paul and Tom Aldrich address the council. He asked the council whether they should consider the Great Salt Lake watershed which includes the tributaries and wanted to know if the Great Salt Lake comprehensive plan was relevant.

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District, added that the council review the roles and coordination issues to figure out who does what and determine if this is sufficient and is there a need for additional integration.

Lynn de Freitas, Friends of Great Salt Lake, said she hoped the issues would illuminate the management options and agencies roles. She suggested the council look upstream at the tributaries that influence the viability and function of this terminal lake.

Senator Dan Eastman said the council should focus their efforts on the lake and management of the lake before moving upstream.

David Livermore, The Nature Conservancy said the council should have the end in mind and work backwards. The charter is to make a recommendation to the legislature and he thought that it would be wise to evaluate the interplay between the different beneficial uses of the lake. He suggested that future meetings examine the players and jurisdictions, beneficial uses and other organizational structures.

Neka Roundy, Mayor of Kaysville, said we need to keep the lake viable and that should be the goal of the council.

Corey Milne, Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation, said that the council should focus on the governor's executive order as a road map, with the end goal to develop a vision and process to solve the complex issues on the lake

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District, added that based on his experiences with the Selenium issues that there is a need to address the agencies roles and management functions to understand the lake and what is needed. He would like to see the council address the issues of water quality, wetlands, wildlife, land usage and water quantity.

Don Leonard, Utah Artemia Association, reviewed the executive order and summarized that 2b and 2c address the current roles and responsibilities, 2c deals with uses and 2d-2g with governance structures. He suggested the council focus on 2b and 2c. He also thought the council needs to agree that the other members exist based on their interests.

Leland Myers, Central Davis Sewer District, discussed the document Summary of Funding Models that was distributed to the Council. The Central Davis Sewer District had a consultant review other governance structures of prominent complex water bodies.

The council decided to address 2b and 2c in the executive order in the next three meetings by extending invitations to the state and federal agencies that have management responsibilities on Great Salt Lake, users of the lake and those involved with the science/pressures on the lake.

4. Meeting Frequency, Location and Dates:

The council decided to meet on September 30, October 28 and November 18 at 2:00 PM. A field trip was planned for September 18, 2008.