

THE UTAH LAKE AUTHORITY
REGULARLY HELD MEETING
July 17, 2024, at 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Board Members Roll					
Wednesday, July 17, 2024					
Seat	Organization	Name	Initials	Alternate	Initials
Chambers of Commerce	Utah Valley Chamber	Curtis Blair	X		
Utah DEQ	Utah DEQ	John Mackey	X	Jodi Garberg	
Utah DNR	Utah DNR	Ben Stireman	X		
Genola	Genola	Marty Larson	X		
Governor's Office	GO UTAH	Kamron Dalton	X		
Governor's Office	UVU	Hilary Hungerford			
Lehi	Lehi	Mark Johnson	X		
Lindon	Lindon	Carolyn Lundberg	X		
Orem	Orem	LaNae Millett	X		
Provo	Provo	Michelle Kaufusi	X	Isaac Paxman	
Saratoga Springs	Saratoga Springs	Chris Carn	X		
Utah County	Utah County	Tom Sakievich		Lisa Shepherd	
Utah House	Utah House	Brady Brammer	X		
Utah Senate	Utah Senate	Mike McKell			
Vineyard	Vineyard	Julie Fullmer	X		

1. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER/INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Chair Michelle Kafusi called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. She shared an inspirational thought, recalling memories of growing up on the west side of Utah Lake with friends.

2. CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS/DISCLOSURES/RECUSALS

Ben Stireman provided an update on the Utah Lake comprehensive management plan. He expressed looking forward to engagement with Utah Lake Authority and other representatives. He stated he would be sending an email with more information.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments to report.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

4.1 Approval of the May 30, 2024, ULA Board Meeting Minutes

Julie Fulmer motioned to approve and LaNae Millett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4.2 Approve May and June 2024 Monthly ULA Budget Reports

Julie Fulmer motioned to approve the consent items. Carolyn Lundberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4.3 Approve Resolution for Procedure for Voting in Electronic Meetings

Julie Fulmer motioned to approve the consent items. Ben Stireman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Conservation and Restoration Efforts

Addy Valdez provided updates on restoration projects, including planting parties. Volunteers planted 7,500 of 10,000 plants in a warm spring and summer, with the fastest group of 120 volunteers planting over 2,800 plants in 45 minutes. For future plantings, the Utah Lake Authority received a grant for 15,000 new plants to be installed in the fall. She also shared that 12 out of 26 duck nesting platforms used for a second time this year and provided updates on press coverage for plantings and other WRI projects.

LaNae Millet asked where the agency is advertising for the volunteer planting events. Addy answered that the agency posts on social media and some of the plantings were more private events. She shared that we are working on efforts to increase volunteerism.

Kamron Dalton asked about press coverage. Addy explained that there have been at least three news agencies including KSL, ABC, and FOX13 and other positive coverage encouraging more people to participate.

Curtis Blair thanked Addy for allowing the Chamber of Commerce to participate in the planting events.

5.2 Communications and Outreach

Marlen Martinez updated the board about website changes, t-shirt designs, social media, and field trip lessons.

Michelle Kafusi mentioned that councilmember Amber Rasmussen to step in for Julie Fulmer.

5.3 Events, Programs, and Sponsorships

Heather McEwen reported on the Utah Lake Festival, including new ideas for future events. She also discussed the Adopt-A-Shoreline program, which involves Dedicated Hunters cleaning up access points and talked about the upcoming Utah Lake Scavenger Hunt in August and September.

She talked about the T Tap Grant for a marketing campaign. Michelle Kafusi asked for details and Luke Peterson explained the details of the funding.

LaNae Millet reiterated what Kamron Dalton said about press coverage.

Amber Rasmussen asked about opportunities for the youth counsel and Heather responded that she would keep the counsel in mind.

5.4 Operations and Recreation

Sam Braegger reports on operations and recreation progress, including accounting improvements and the visitation counters project. He highlights John Newman's contributions to the visitation counters, acknowledging his hard work and dedication.

He discusses the procurement process for construction and data collection at the lake, mentioning the contractor S & L Inc and the expected timeline for installation and data collection. The Utah Lake Authority will soon begin the recreation access plan process, which involves inventorying access and recreation at the lake and developing a plan for the next 5-10 years.

Sam discusses the team's accomplishments and upcoming projects, including market research and facilitation for the Walkara Way project. He expresses excitement about working with Susan Harmon, a facilitator with experience in mediation and government settlements. He also mentioned securing \$5 million for the Utah Lake Nature Center from Congressman John Curtis.

Sam and others are working on a benchmarking study to learn from other lake-focused nature centers across the country, and explained there is a \$15 million fund for the nature center, and \$2.5 million for an Applied Research Fund.

He closed with remarks on the progress of Utah Lake and how the next phase needs more complicated, experimental solutions.

5.5 Executive Director Report

Luke Peterson began with an acknowledgement of the amount of work the Utah Lake Authority is doing this season. He thanked Congressman Curtis for the support of the Nature Center and expressed the success this is for Utah Lake.

Michelle Kafusi confirmed the \$20 million total needed for the Nature Center.

Luke continued to state the different entities involved in moving the Nature Center forward and then brought up the importance of the Utah Lake Symposium, which will have two days this year. One day will focus on technical aspects, and the second will focus on policy.

LaNae Millet asked if the Symposium would be a good time for community feedback, Luke Peterson confirmed.

Ben Stireman highlighted the different entities that have come together to make funding easier for the Nature Center.

5.6 Office of Legislative Auditor General Audit Report

Kamron Dalton updated the board on the on a Utah Lake Authority audit, which found areas for improvement in governance and board skills. The audit committee is working on an action plan to address these areas, with Luke and Sam leading the effort.

6. GUEST PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

6.1 Walkara Way Project Update

6.1.1 Landowner Update

Jake Holdaway corrected misinformation about land ownership and shares an update on trash cleanup. He described complex land ownership issues surrounding Utah Lake, including territorial deeds and state deeds. Jake described the issue of conflicting claims on public land, with the federal government and private landowners having different perspectives.

Jake highlighted the need for communication and cooperation between these entities to find a solution,

with the help of a simple barbed wire fence.

He emphasized the potential benefits of the Walkara Way project, including access to a beach and perimeter trail, and the possibility of abandoned lands being developed, as well as other benefits.

Ben Stireman provided additional context on the Utah Lake Authority board and its purpose. Sam Braegger clarified the stakeholder groups, including landowners at the lake, to be formed for input and feedback.

6.1.2 FFSL Updates

Ben Stireman thanked Jake for momentum on Powell Slough, highlighting its importance for lake habitat and recreation. He raised concerns about Phragmites on Utah Lake, recognizing the reduction by 74% but acknowledging it's a persistent problem, and discussed innovative grazing practices with the Holdaway, emphasizing the potential for technology to improve efficiency and conservation.

Utah Lake's boundaries have been settled, but unpatented federal land remains a contentious issue, with landowners and the government aligning on the need for conservation and public access. Ben discussed the Utah Lake project, seeking consensus with facilitators and adjoining landowners.

7. WORK SESSION

7.1 ULA Board Membership and UCOG Approval

In 2022, UCOG voted on and settled the term renewal for Utah Lake board members. The board will not be proposing renewal of current board members but will consider changes if requested. The board will be informed of the seat renewal process every two years, and seats will be tracked independently of city changes.

8. ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Approve Jordan River Commission Membership

Ben Stireman created the motion to approve, and Kamron Dalton seconded. The motion carried with unanimous support.

9. CLOSED SESSION

10. ADJOURNMENT

Michelle Kafusi motioned to adjourn. Carolyn Lundberg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Michelle Kafusi adjourned the meeting.