

Summary of the Willard Spur Steering Committee Meeting February 17, 2011

Refer to meeting audio recording at
<http://www.willardspur.utah.gov/committee/meetings.htm>

Committee Members Present

Name	Representing
Walt Baker	Div. of Water Quality
Karen Hamilton	U.S. EPA
Bob Barrett	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Thomas Bosteels (Alternate)	GSL Brine Shrimp Cooperative
Rob Dubuc	FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake
Pam Kramer	Div. of Wildlife Resources
Hal Lee	Great Salt Lake Minerals
Ryan Nesbitt	Div. of Forestry, Fire & State Land
Jerry Nelson	Perry & Willard Cities
Ryan Tingey	Great Salt Lake Advisory Council
Dal Wayment	South Davis Sewer District
Dick West	Duck Clubs
Chris Montague	The Nature Conservancy

Others Present

Name	Representing
Lareina Guenzel	U.S. EPA
Leah Ann Lamb	Division of Water Quality
Jeff DenBleyker	CH2M HILL
Theron Miller	JR/FBWAC
Lynn de Freitas	FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake
R. Jeffrey Hicks	Airboat Association
Bruce Waddell	Duck Clubs
Jeff Ostermiller	Division of Water Quality
Jodi Gardberg	Division of Water Quality
Bruce Howard	Perry/Willard
John Isanhart	USFWS
Kimber Hall	Division of Water Quality

1. Roll Call and January 20th Meeting Summary Review:

Walt Baker of the DEQ Division of Water Quality and the Steering Committee Chairman found all committee members or alternate in attendance. He invited the committee to review the last meeting summary, ask questions or comment. Summary is at:

<http://www.willardspur.utah.gov/documents/SC012011/SCWillardSpurSummary1202011.pdf>

No changes were made to the January meeting summary.

2. Update on Ongoing Coordination with Perry and Willard Cities:

(Refer to recording at time 4:34)

Walt Baker updated the Steering Committee on a meeting he attended with representatives from Perry and Willard cities, Bear River Refuge and the Water Quality Board to discuss a proposal that would move the wastewater treatment plant discharge from Willard Spur to the Refuge. The Refuge really needs the water and the cities are looking at alternate discharge points. While the cities eventually want to reclaim the wastewater for secondary reuse, they are a long way away from being able to implement such an option and are agreeable to discharge into the refuge if all parties can work out the details. Walt summarized a path forward that includes:

- Continuing the Willard Spur Study;
- Asking the Water Quality Board to reserve \$1.5 million for the cities, to hold them harmless financially, to upgrade their plant for nutrient removal if required or to discharge to an alternative site, whichever is most feasible/less expensive;
- Completing the engineering feasibility study to assess the alternative discharge options including discharging to the Refuge.

Several Steering Committee representatives expressed that they would have liked to be involved in this meeting and are very interested in seeing the Willard Spur project area. Bob Barrett from the Refuge offered to hold the next Steering Committee meeting at the refuge and arrange a tour of the refuge and Willard Spur in the morning before the meeting.

3. Update on Sampling Program:

(Refer to recording at time 25:40)

See handouts at:

<http://www.willardspur.utah.gov/documents/SC021711/DataQualityObjectives.pdf>

Jeff DenBleyker began review of the data management objectives for the long term study when questions were raised about the baseline monitoring of the Spur prior to the wastewater treatment plant beginning to discharge. Walt indicated that the UPDES permit would be issued to the cities with the start date of March 1 to allow time for Division of Water Quality (DWQ) staff to complete the baseline sampling the spur. DWQ does not have an airboat to complete the monitoring and has been coordinating with cooperators to get out on the Spur, weather and availability of boats permitting. DWQ staff had one failed attempt. Bob Barrett offered assistance with Refuge boats.

4. Discuss Science Panel Nominations:

(Refer to recording at time 59:44)

See handouts at:

http://www.willardspur.utah.gov/documents/SC021711/SPNominations_2_7_11.pdf

Jeff reviewed the list of nominees and indicated the EPA nominee had dropped out due to his pending retirement. Also, four other nominees were unable to participate due to time commitments and several others indicated they needed remuneration to participate. Uncertainty about the commitment we were asking of the nominated scientists was raised. Could the study be terminated if an alternative discharge option became a reality and no discharge would be made into the Spur? It was also suggested that maybe the flow in the Spur is great enough that it flushed out any nutrients from the wastewater treatment plant.

It was decided by the committee to delay establishing the Science Panel and use this summer for intensive monitoring for the following reasons:

- The paucity of data on the Spur makes it very difficult to design the study,
- The uncertainty what the level of commitment is required by a member of the Science Panel, and
- The uncertainty of if changes in the cities' plans would significantly alter or even preclude the need to study Willard Spur.

The need to immediately establish a network of flow gages and a lake station was discussed. Jeff DenBleyker has been working with USGS on

the issue and there is urgency to proceed so the gages are installed prior to spring run-off. Other monitoring needs for an intensive data collection effort this summer to aid development of the study were discussed. The Steering Committee established a Monitoring Plan Subcommittee, comprised of representatives from DWQ (Jeff Ostermiller and Jim Harris); FWS (John Isanhart); POTW rep (Theron Miller) and CH2MHill (Jeff DenBleyker). Sharook Madon/CH2M HILL would additionally provide an independent review of the draft plan. This subcommittee was charged with developing the comprehensive monitoring plan before the next Steering Committee meeting where it will be reviewed, amended as needed and approved. It was agreed by the committee that Monitoring Plan Subcommittee will have to agree on the USGS workplan for flow gaging prior to the April Steering Committee due to time constraints and the subcommittee met after the meeting to discuss gaging locations.

5. Next Meeting Schedule and Topics:

(Refer to recording at time 139:46)

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2011 from 1:00 pm to 3:00pm and will be held at the Bear River Refuge.

However, Steering Committee members should allocate the full day because the Refuge wants to arrange a morning tour of the refuge, followed by lunch, before the scheduled meeting. The tour is contingent upon the weather. Bob Barrett will keep is informed.