

WILLARD SPUR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 23, 2011

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

NAME/AFFILIATION

Leah Ann Lamb*	Utah Division of Water Quality
Jim Harris	Utah Division of Water Quality
Pam Kramer*	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Joan Degiorgio*	The Nature Conservancy
Jerry Nelson*	Perry/Willard Cities
Rob Dubuc*	Western Resource Advocates
Dal Wayment*	South Davis Sewer District
Theron Miller	JR/FBWAC
Jeff DenBleyker	CH2M HILL
Bob Barrett*	USFWS
Kimber Hall	Utah Division of Water Quality
Thomas Bosteels*	Great Salt Lake Brine Shrimp
Jodi Gardberg	Utah Division of Water Quality
Lareina Guenzel*	U.S. EPA Region VIII
R Jeffrey Hicks*	Utah Airboat Association
Jeff Ostermiller	Utah Division of Water Quality
Jay Agular*	Willard City

* Indicates committee member or alternate

ROLL CALL AND APRIL 28 MEETING SUMMARY REVIEW

Walt Baker of the DEQ Division of Water Quality and Steering Committee Chairman was not able to attend; Leah Ann Lamb, his alternate, served in his place. Leah Ann found all committee members or alternates in attendance with the exception of those from Great Salt Lake Minerals, Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands, and the Duck Clubs. She invited the committee to review the last meeting summary, ask questions, or comment. No changes were made to the April meeting summary. Summary is found at:

http://www.willardspur.utah.gov/documents/SC021711/WillardSpurSummary2_17_2011.pdf

UPDATE ON PERRY WILLARD REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (REFER TO RECORDING AT MINUTE 3)

Bruce Howard provided an update on activities at the Perry Willard Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The treatment plant is currently discharging between 250,000 and 300,000 gallons per day. About 50% of Willard and 50% of Perry are now connected to the Plant. They expect all of Perry to be connected by the end of July. New sewer connections from Willard will continue but will be one house at a time. They are meeting all discharge requirements including ammonia. They are meeting phosphorus discharge requirements even without the addition of alum. They expect chemical nutrient removal to begin this week. The Cities still plan to develop an alternate discharge site to the south into the Willard Bay outfall channel.

UPDATE ON HYDROLOGY (REFER TO RECORDING AT MINUTE 7)

See presentation slides at: <http://www.willardspur.utah.gov/documents/SC062311/HydrologyUpdate.pdf>

Jeff DenBleyker provided a summary of current hydrologic conditions. 2011 has been and will likely continue to be a very high flow year in Willard Spur. The water level in Willard Spur has already increased by about 2.5 feet since April. Flow rates in the Bear River have been very high (~6,400 cfs) but are expected to get higher before they

drop for the year. Flow measurement capability at the Harold Crane WMA was lost for the period of May 30 – June 13. The Division of Wildlife Resources had to pull all weir boards to convey rainfall and snowmelt from the Weber River system. It is estimated that approximately 1,000 – 1,500 cfs were diverted from the Weber River to the north through and around to the west of the WMA. This may explain the continued rise in Willard Spur water levels even when Bear River flows decreased during the same period. It was agreed that the sampling program should continue even though 2011 is turning out to be an exceptionally wet and high flow year.

UPDATE ON SAMPLING ACTIVITIES (REFER TO RECORDING AT MINUTE 25)

See presentation slides at: <http://www.willardspur.utah.gov/documents/SC062311/FieldSamplingUpdate.pdf>

Jim Harris provided an update on sampling activities. DWQ has drafted Standard Operating Procedures for use in sampling activities for GSL wetlands. These were submitted to GSL wetlands stakeholders in April 2011 and to the Willard Spur Steering Committee in June. DWQ has received many review comments and would like to close the comment period on June 30. DWQ requested that any additional comments be submitted to Jeff DenBleyker by June 30. While already implement quality control/quality assurance in sampling activities, DWQ is finishing up its preparation of the QAPP. The QAPP will be reviewed by a UDEQ Quality Management Council and updated every year. It will be made available to the Steering Committee when complete.

DWQ has continued sampling as planned. High water levels have inundated many of the east drainage area sites; in particular the Plant's outfall ditch and the irrigation return flow channel from the north. Algae has been observed in the Plant's outfall ditch. Jerry Nelson mentioned that the fields to the north have often been used for running cattle and much of this area is now underwater. Nutrients from agricultural operations are likely a big contributor now to the Plant's ditch. The Cities are unable to separate runoff from these fields from their effluent. DWQ will continue to collect samples but is unable to measure the quantity of runoff from the north.

DWQ has been adapting sampling methods slightly to address deep water conditions. Bird observation protocol are still being refined. While obtaining a boat to sample the open water sites has been difficult, Jim extended his thanks to Leland Myers for providing a boat to access these sites. Jim described an unusual growth of algae that began near the Willard Bay outfall channel and has been extending to the west and north. Algae appears to be growing along all SAV and emergent vegetation. Jeffrey Hicks agreed that he has never seen this before. Jim also described unusual plumes in the outlet of BRMBR's 5C outlet. It appears that there are three distinct water sources contributing to this outlet. Jim also pointed out flooding at the Harold Crane WMA that has made it difficult to sample and determine flow direction.

SCIENCE PANEL SELECTION (REFER TO RECORDING AT MINUTE 56)

See presentation slides at: http://www.willardspur.utah.gov/documents/SC062311/SP_Selections.pdf

Jeff DenBleyker provided a summary of the technical disciplines that will make up the Science Panel. These disciplines and the number of members from each discipline were agreed to at previous meetings. Jeff summarized the intent and use of outside experts for peer review. He summarized DWQ's intentions for compensation of Science Panel member's time. Jay Augilar pointed out that we will need to make sure that if any member is compensated that money does not become an issue that extends the process. The issue of scholarship was also discussed. Primary authorship will likely belong to the principal investigator but secondary authorship and/or acknowledgement of the Science Panel's input will be required.

Jeff reviewed all nominees by discipline. Those not selected were identified as potential experts to approach for peer review and/or would be ideal principal investigators. The following selections were unanimously approved by the members of the Steering Committee in attendance:

- Jeff Ostermiller/Utah Division of Water Quality – chairman
- Jim Hagy, PhD/EPA ORD
- Karin Kettinring, PhD/Utah State University
- Theron Miller, PhD/Jordan River/Farmington Bay Water Quality Council
- John Luft/Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- David Tarboton, PhD/Utah State University

It was discussed that both Jeff Ostermiller and Jim Hagy could likely oversee bioassessment methods. Either Charles Hawkins, PhD/USU or Ryan King, PhD/Baylor would be approached to be a principal investigator or peer reviewer.

PATH FORWARD (REFER TO RECORDING MINUTE 1:54)

See presentation slides at: <http://www.willardspur.utah.gov/documents/SC062311/PathForward.pdf>

Jeff DenBleyker summarized activities for June/July. The next Steering Committee meeting will be on August 4 at the UDEQ Board Room. DWQ will be working to bring Science Panel members up to date and schedule their first workshop in August. Science Panel meetings will likely each be followed by a meeting of the Steering Committee.