

## **Jordan River Watershed Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, June 1, 2023 | 10:00 AM

The Jordan River Watershed Council meeting was held at:  
Education Center at Conservation Garden Park – Apache Plume Meeting Room Jordan Valley  
Water Conservancy District  
8275 South 1300 West  
West Jordan, UT 84088

Soren Simonsen provided some background information regarding the conditional certification of the Jordan River Watershed Council.

Since the Council has not yet elected officers, Councilmember Silvia Catten, was recommended to serve as chair pro tem for the meeting and called the meeting to order at 11:42 AM.

### **1. Welcome and roll call of Watershed Council members and other meeting participants present in person and online**

#### Governing Board Members

Councilmember Silvia Catten, Millcreek, Chair Pro Tem  
Isaac Astill, West Jordan  
Dina Blaes, Salt Lake County (Mayor's Office)  
Councilmember Don Shelton, South Jordan  
Shazelle Terry, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District  
Craig Walker, Jordan River Foundation  
Heidi Hoven, National Audubon Society/Audubon Rockies  
Laura Briefer, Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities

#### State & Federal Liaisons

Ben Stireman, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands  
John Mackey, Utah Division of Water Quality  
Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Authority  
Eric McCulley, Utah Reclamation, Mitigation & Conservation Commission

#### Commission Staff

Soren Simonsen, Executive Director/Secretary  
Rachel Turk, Communications & Outreach Manager

#### Other Invited Guests & Visitors

Shannon Clough, Utah Division of Water Resources  
Todd Stonely, Utah Division of Water Resources  
Carly Payne, Division of Water Resources  
Steve Van Maren, Sandy Resident  
Morgan Faulkner, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands  
Sandy Wingert, Utah Division of Water Quality  
Mike Guymon, Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities

Marissa Beckstrom, Tracy Aviary  
Renn Lambert, LimnoTech  
Addy Valdez, Utah Lake Authority  
Keith Hambrecht, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands  
Chandler Beutler, Office of Senator Mitt Romney  
Nate Brakey, Office of Congressman Burgess Owens  
Marian Rice, Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities

## **2. Public Comments ~ 11:35 AM**

*This is an opportunity for members of the general public to provide comments to the Jordan River Watershed Council. Comments will be limited to two minutes per speaker.*

**Notes:** There were no public comments.

## **3. Jordan River Watershed Council Business ~ 11:40 AM**

- a) Annual Open & Public Meetings Act Training (<https://youtu.be/HvbOw9Q7ioI>) – this training will be conducted during the Jordan River Commission Governing Board meeting (Council members not present should review the presentation using the link provided)
- b) Appoint a Jordan Watershed Council Chair
- c) Appoint a Jordan Watershed Council Vice Chair
- d) Appoint Soren Simonsen, Jordan River Commission Executive Director and Secretary, as the Jordan River Watershed Council Secretary
- e) Appoint a Representative of the Jordan River Watershed Council to serve on the Utah Watersheds Council
- f) Appoint a Representative of the Jordan River Watershed Council to serve on the Great Salt Lake Watershed Council
- g) Adopt a Jordan River Watershed Council Meeting Schedule through the end of 2023
- h) Roundtable Discussion as Time Permits to Consider and Identify Possible Topics, Subjects, Themes and Presentations for Future Jordan River Watershed Council Meetings

**Notes:** Soren Simonsen noted that eligibility for officers with the Jordan River Watershed Council is different than the Jordan River Commission, and that Ex-Officio members of the Commission who are not eligible officers, are eligible as officers of the Watershed Council.

Ben Stireman shared his understanding that representatives of state agencies do not serve on local watershed councils, but may be liaisons. Todd Stonely confirmed that state and federal representatives serve only as liaisons to advise councils, not as voting members of local councils.

**2**

Soren asked whether the Watershed Council members would like to move forward with

appointing officers and representatives today, or take more time to better understand the Watershed Council function? Soren also noted that these appointments may be temporary as more information is clarified through bylaws preparation and questions with the local watershed council advisors and managers.

Eric McCulley expressed interest in serving as Jordan River Watershed Council Chair.

Ben Stireman asked whether Eric is eligible, since he represents a federal agency. Todd Stonely noted that he is eligible as a resident within the Watershed, but may would need to clarify whether he can serve as an officer.

Laura Briefer also expressed interest in serving, potentially as Vice Chair and Utah Watersheds Council Representative.

***Shazelle moved to nominate and appoint Eric McCulley as the Jordan River Watershed Council Chair. Isaac Astill seconded the motion.***

There was no further discussion of the motion.

***Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion by Council members present.***

***Isaac Astill moved to nominate and appoint Laura Briefer as the Jordan River Watershed Council Vice Chair. Eric McCulley seconded the motion.***

There was no further discussion of the motion.

***Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion by Council members present.*** Heidi

Hoven expressed interest in serving as the Great Salt Lake Watershed Council Representative.

***Eric McCulley moved to appoint Laura Briefer as the Utah Watersheds Council Representative, and Heidi Hoven as the Great Salt Lake Watershed Council Representative. Isaac Astill seconded the motion.***

There was no further discussion of the motion.

***Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion by Council members present.***

Chair Catten asked that if any issues arise with regard to these appointments, that they be communicated to Soren Simonsen or Eric McCulley.

Chair Catten recommended appointing Soren Simonsen as the Secretary to the Watershed Council, to provide staff support and assistance as he does with the Commission's Governing Board and committees.

***Shazelle Terry moved to appoint Soren Simonsen as the Jordan River Watershed Council Secretary. Laura Briefer seconded the motion.***

There was no further discussion of the motion.

***Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion by Council members present.***

Soren asked for guidance on the schedule and frequency of Watershed Council meetings. These

could be in conjunction with every Governing Board meeting (six per year), or every other Governing Board meeting (three per year). He suggested that when Watershed Council meetings are scheduled, that the

**3**

Governing Board meetings be shortened to accommodate the Watershed Council meetings within the current two hour schedule.

***Isaac Astill moved to adopt a Jordan River Watershed Council schedule of every other even month (three per year). Heidi Hoven seconded the motion.***

There was no further discussion of the motion.

***Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion by Council members present.***

Soren noted that the Jordan River Commission has already been doing much of the work of the Watershed Councils Act relative to the Jordan River Watershed, and that these adjustments are really about organizing and structuring meetings in a different way.

Eric McCulley suggested that the Watershed Council discussions may include participants beyond normal Governing Board meetings. Soren also noted that these meetings could be scheduled prior to the Governing Board meetings so that they don't feel tacked on, but have intentional time and discussion.

Laura Briefer commended the Watershed Council for taking into consideration the full context of the Jordan River Watershed, which is quite large.

#### **4. Adjourn**

Chair Catten adjourned the Council meeting at 12:10 PM.

*A meeting recording, presentation and handout materials, and meeting minutes will be available following the meeting at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/836033.html>.*