

Bear Lake Regional Commission

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Minutes Bear Lake Regional Commission Garden City, UT February 28, 2024

Those in attendance:

Sim Weston - Board Chairman, Rich County Commissioner
Bradley Jensen - Board Vice Chairman, Bear Lake County Commissioner
Dan Fisher, City Council of Montpelier
Mike Leonhardt - Mayor of Garden City
Albert Johnson - Bear Lake County at Large
Ken Brown - Rich County at Large
Mitch Poulsen - Executive Director- Bear Lake Regional Commission
Christy Jensen - Bear Lake Regional Commission
Tami Leonhardt - B L Convention & Visitors Bureau

Excused:

Burdette Weston - Board Secretary Mayor of Laketown
Ron Jensen - Recreation
Roy Bunderson- Mayor of Bloomington

Also in attendance:

Serena Seawolf

Chairman Sim Weston conducted the February 28, 2024, meeting of the Bear Lake Regional Commission, the meeting started at 7:06 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Sim Weston asked for an approval of the agenda, The agenda was reviewed and approved.

- **Mike Leonhardt motioned to approve the agenda.**
Dan Fisher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Serena Seawolf/ Update on Lake Monitoring from United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Serena Seawolf gave an update on their 2023 efforts, and plans for 2024, for the long-term study the USGS is doing on Bear Lake. They have a stationary platform on the lake that they deploy in the spring and pull out in the fall. They also have a flexible platform that they move around strategically in the lake looking at different parameters. While anchored in the lake these platforms are continuously collecting information, at 15-minute intervals, at every 3 meters of depth.

Initial monitoring on Bear Lake began in 2018. Mike Hess joined the project in 2019. Continued monitoring and some suspended sediment sampling at Mud Lake causeway, collecting 10 samples in 2019. Due to limitations of flow only 6 samples were collected at the causeway in 2020, and none were collected in 2021. Mike Hess became the project Chief in 2021. 2022 was the final contracted year of the platforms, however, they have been able to contract yearly and continue to monitor. Serena joined this project in 2023. The evaporation model started its peer review with a report started last year. Water quality sampling started for Mudd Lake, Rainbow Canal, Lifton Pump Station with 20 samples collected last year. This year they will continue monitoring, with the first draft of the report out in the next two to three months. After the initial peer review, they will be able to send it out to have interested people look at it. Their goal is to get it out around August and have that report available for review.

Some of the purposes of this study are to gain a baseline understanding of the health of the lake. So far, this data shows that the lake is maintaining its health. Other objectives are to understand evaporation, and sediment concentrations, and how those lend themselves to the health of the lake.

This project has been funded by Bear River Commission, PacifiCorp, Utah Department of Water Quality, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Bear Lake Watch, and Bear Lake Regional Commission. Rather than a cash contribution, Bear Lake Regional Commission is a collaborate partner, Mitch takes discharge measurements on a routine basis which complements their water budget analysis.

Staff Report

- Mitch suggests a Thursday June 13th date for a Legislative Rendezvous. Board suggestions for this agenda, activities, and pertinent legislators to invite are welcome.
- Idaho is working on some legislation which will strictly limit permitting requirements for short term rentals. As Albert Johnson also serves as the Chairman of the Bear Lake County Planning and Zoning board, he informed this board that Bear Lake County has been working on Short-term rental ordinances. This proposed legislation will limit their efforts to regulate them other than suggest a business license basically to help with owner contact if there are civil issues such as neighbor disturbances, parking etc....
- The office position Christy Jensen currently holds will need to be filled by the first of next year as she is planning retirement. With the current financial position of the Regional Commission, and with business costs continuing to rise, without any foreseen increase from the States or the Counties the executive director is planning to fill that position at a lower level with a part time employee and contract out the financial end to an accounting or bookkeeping firm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

- **Ken Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2024 meeting, Mike Leonhardt seconded the motion, motion carried.**

Bills & Payroll

The bills and payroll for the Bear Lake Regional Commission were reviewed, a motion was made to approve them.

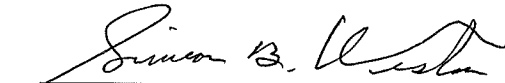
- **Mike Leonhardt made a motion to accept and approve payment of the February 2024 bills and payroll for the Bear Lake Regional Commission, Albert Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried.**

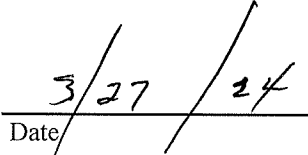
Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

- **Ken Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Bear Lake Regional Commission
Albert Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried.**

Minutes Approved:


Chairman


Date