



Meeting Summary Utah Water Quality Standards Workgroup April 17, 2017

See agenda and supporting materials at <http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/WQS/workgroup.htm>

Workgroup Charter. Jodi Gardberg distributed a draft version of the workgroup charter and discussed membership, ground rule, roles and responsibilities for the workgroup. The workgroup was invited to relay any comments on the workgroup charter and members to Ms. Gardberg.

Jeff Salt stated that the Angler's Coalition recommended that he take Paul Dremman's position as a representative from Trout Unlimited. Other comments included that Jay Olsen should represent the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Sterling Brown (not in attendance) should represent the Utah Farm Bureau.

UAA for Surplus Canal. Tim Arendt, Gresham Smith and Partners introduced the proposed use attainability analysis (UAA) for the Surplus Canal agricultural designated use via web conferencing. While work has begun on the UAA, several issues need to be addressed prior to any change to the standards being proposed. Mr. Arendt explained that one of two options was being pursued. Either the agricultural use could be removed or revised. No irrigated fields were identified via air photography but the lack of use had not yet been ground-truthed.

The airport has obtained a new discharge permit and meeting the 1,200 mg/l agricultural TDS criterion does not appear to be feasible or necessary to protect the existing uses. The airport is not seeking to increase TDS concentrations in the Surplus Canal. They are seeking to meet the regulatory requirements that will allow existing practices to continue, i.e., continue to discharge the water collected by the runway drains intercepting groundwater with naturally elevated TDS concentrations and discharging the water to the Surplus Canal.

Jay Olsen requested additional information on the water rights for groundwater that were not characterized. Only the surface water rights were explored. While the groundwater extractions are not expected to be impacted by the Surplus Canal because of the depths of well completion and subsurface geology in the area, the Airport or DWQ will characterize these water rights.

While Mr. Olsen stated that he was not opposed to the project, he wanted to make sure that the agricultural uses were appropriately characterized and he was willing to help with outreach. Mr. Olsen also expressed the concern that removal or revision of the agricultural use designation could affect water rights. No legal basis or precedents were identified for this possibility. Mr. Olsen stated that DWQ failed to understand that pasture irrigation constituted an irrigation use but did not provide specific examples. Mr. Bittner explained that DWQ was legally obliged to protect existing agricultural uses, whatever those uses were documented to be. DWQ had already anticipated interviewing land owners to characterize the existing agricultural uses.

Mr. Richardson, a land user and water user (crop irrigation) of water from the Surplus Canal attended the meeting at Jeff Salt's request. Mr. Richardson's water right is from diversion upstream of the airport that is unaffected by the proposed change.

Lareina Guenzel stated that EPA would be evaluating whether the UAA addressed the protection of existing aquatic life and agricultural uses.

DWQ and the airport will consult and return to the Standards Workgroup with additional data and information.

Summary of proposed changes to be recommended to Water Quality Board at May meeting.

Mr. Bittner briefly discussed the previously discussed standards changes and one new change. The new change was to include “and tributaries” for the site-specific TDS criterion for Quitchupah Creek. As explained in the supporting rationale, the same logic that applied to supporting the site-specific criterion for Quitchupah Creek also applied to the tributaries. A map view of the watershed was shared with the workgroup.

Mr. Olsen still has concerns regarding extending the more stringent Class 2A recreational use (from Class 2B) for Mill Creek in Moab to the headwaters. Mr. Olsen was concerned that this could impact grazing in the higher areas of the watershed where the water is likely too shallow to support frequent primary and secondary contact recreation.

UAA for Farmington Bay Recreational Uses. Mr. Meyer’s introduced the concept that the recreational uses for Farmington Bay should be modified by a UAA. Mr. Meyer’s proposed a 3rd recreational use designation in addition to the existing frequent primary and secondary contact recreation and infrequent primary and secondary contract recreation. The basis of the UAA is natural conditions because the study of a sediment core in Farmington Bay showed the historical existence of cyanobacteria in Farmington Bay. Mr. Bittner questioned the reliance on a single data point (one core) and whether the results of that core supported that historical cyanobacteria were the same in species, frequency and magnitude of blooms. No specific data were reviewed to support the proposed UAA. Mr. Bittner also asked the purpose of a UAA given that Farmington Bay does not have any numeric criteria. Mr. Meyer’s stated that the UAA could be used to revise interpretations of the Narrative Standards with regards to Farmington Bay. If DWQ elected to not assess support of the recreational use for Farmington Bay using cell counts, he didn’t think a UAA would be necessary. Mr. Bittner committed to sharing these concerns with DWQ management.

2017 Triennial Review. Mr. Bittner reviewed the comments received for the 2017 Triennial Review received from USEPA Region 8, Western Resource Advocates and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. Mr. Bittner explained that DWQ would be preparing formal responses to these comments and potentially reprioritizing the list of proposed standards changes accordingly. These responses will be shared with the Utah Water Quality Board and Water Quality Standards Workgroup in the future. If the workgroup has specific additional comments regarding the prioritizations, they should contact Mr. Bittner.

2013 USEPA Ammonia Criteria. Mr. Bittner provided a brief overview of the draft guidance for mussel determinations used to implement the 2013 USEPA ammonia criteria. This guidance is anticipated to be public noticed with a 30-day public comment period at the end of April.

Updates to Human Health Criteria. Mr. Bittner provided a brief overview of the proposed updates to the human health criteria in Table 2.14.6 of R317-2-14. Workgroup members were encouraged to review the changes and be prepared to discuss any concerns at the workgroup meeting. Mr. Meyers noted that the analytical detection limits may be higher than criteria for bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate.

Next Meeting. Monday, July 17, 2017 1:00

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Meeting	Water Quality Standards Workgroup	Meeting Date:	April 17, 2017
Chair:	C Bittner	Place/Room:	Great Salt Lake West

Name	Affiliation	Attendance
Chris Bittner	DEQ/DWQ	✓
Jodi Gardberg	DEQ/DWQ	✓
Paul Dremman	Trout Unlimited	
Lareina Guenzel	USEPA R8	
Lisa Kirschner	PBL/RTKC	✓
Jay Olsen	Utah Dept of Food and Agriculture	✓
Leland Meyers	CDSO	✓
Mike Lau	CUWCD	
Jodi Gardberg	DEQ/DWQ	
Bard Rasmussen	Aqua Engineering	
Chris Cline	USFWS	
Sterling Brown	Utah Dept of Food and Agriculture	
Patty Nelis	Salt Lake City Airport	✓
KEVIN E. STAPLES	SALT LAKE CITY DEPT. AIRPORT	✓
Marian Rice	SLC PU	✓
Tim Hawkes	Brine Shrimp	✓
THOMAS BOSTERS	Great Salt Lake Brine Shrimp Cooperative	✓
Joe Crawford	CUWCD	✓
LOW RICHARDSON III	Land owner Land and Ranch Properties, LLC	✓

Name	Affiliation	Attendance
Jeff Salt	Utah Anglers Coalition Great Salt Lakekeeper	✓
Landon Neywell	SUWA	✓
THERON MILLER	WFWQC	✓