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SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
WATER SUPPLY AND WATERWORKS
WATER RECLAMATION AND STORMWATER

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MAYOR

**Public Utilities Advisory Committee
Minutes
August 20, 1998**

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CITY RECORDER

The Public Utilities Advisory Committee members attended the Salt Lake City Draft Watershed Management Master Plan '98 Public Hearing which was held on August 5, 1998 in room 315 of the City and County Building. Committee members present were Sharon Walkington, Tom Berggren, Elliott Christensen, Louise Franke and Ken Bullock. Committee members Mark Bauer, Pieter van der Have, Pat Richards and Rob Rice were not present. Public Utilities members present were LeRoy W. Hooton Jr., Jeff Niermeyer, Florence Reynolds, Chuck Call and Russ Hone. Also in attendance were Ralph Becker and Alan Dailey, Bear West Consultants.

SALT LAKE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday, August 20, 1998
451 South State Street, Room 315

Present from the Planning Commission were Chairperson Max Smith, Vice-Chairperson Judi Short, Diana Kirk, Gilbert Iker, Fred Fife, Andrea Barrows, Craig Mariger and Mike Steed. Arla Funk was excused.

Present from the Planning Staff were Planning Director William T. Wright, Deputy Planning Director Brent Wilde, Craig Hinckley, Ray McCandless, Doug Wheelwright and Cheri Coffey.

A roll is being kept of all who attended the Planning Commission meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Mr. Smith. Minutes are presented in agenda order, not necessarily as cases were heard by the Planning Commission. Tapes of the meeting will be retained in the Planning Office for a period of one year, after which, they will be erased.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Steed moved to approve the minutes of Thursday, August 6, 1998. Mr. Fife seconded the motion. Ms. Short, Ms. Kirk, Mr. Iker, Mr. Fife, Ms. Barrows, Mr. Mariger and Mr. Steed voted "Aye". Ms. Funk was not present. Mr. Smith, as Chair, did not vote. The motion passed.

PETITIONS

JOINT HEARING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE - The Planning Commission and the Public Utilities Advisory Committee will receive public comment and consider making recommendations to the City Council on the "Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan '98".

Mr. Ralph Becker of Bear West, the consultant who developed the draft of the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan '98, was present for this portion of the meeting. He stated that the seven major canyons of the Wasatch Mountains represent the primary water source for approximately 400,000 people in the Salt Lake Valley. These canyons include City Creek, Emigration, Red Butte, Parley's Millcreek, Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood. In order to protect this valuable watershed, Salt Lake City first developed and adopted a formal watershed management plan in 1988. Mr. Becker continued by stating that in the Fall of 1997, the City began a process to review the plan. The purpose of this review is to determine if the recommendations of the original plan are still valid, address changes that may have occurred in the canyons and identify and address any new issues affecting the watershed that may have arisen over the past 10

years. Mr. Becker then noted that all of the jurisdictions have been working together with Salt Lake City in the development of this Plan. The Plan has focused on a number of areas for recommendations such as watershed education, enhancing the Public Utilities Watershed Protection Fund (provides funding to acquire ground in the canyons) and looking at the various activities in the canyons and how they are affecting the water quality in the canyons today and possibly in the future.

Mr. Smith opened the hearing to the public and asked if anyone wished to address the Planning Commission.

Mr. John Veranth, a concerned citizen, stated that he supports the Plan, especially the camping permit system and the emphasis on education. Mr. Veranth feels that the Plan should include back country toilets. He then stated that he feels that there are some inconsistencies in the Plan that should be restudied. Mr. Veranth then stated that the Plan should reflect that there are generic federal requirements that require all surface waters to be treated, regardless of quality.

Mr. Jeff Steba, a concerned citizen, stated that he feels that the Plan lacks hard scientific data to support the recommendations that are being proposed. **There seems to be a lot of restrictions on people and activities in the back country yet it is not supported with facts and figures of scientific data.** Throughout the document, there are items mentioned (i.e. badly maintained toilets, fertilizers, septic tanks, commercial development) that "may impact the water quality". When the Plan talks about dispersed recreation users, the wording used leads the reader to believe that this is a definite problem with water quality. Mr. Steba feels that this is prejudice against the dispersed recreation user and that the Plan should reflect that dispersed recreation users "may impact the water quality".

Mr. Tom Stephens, a concerned citizen, stated that he very strongly supports a camping permit system and back country toilets. He then stated that we should not lose sight of the continual pressure for development by the ski resorts. Construction activities and maintenance sheds create a large amount of industrial run off and vehicle usage run off that effects the quality of the water.

Mr. Wes Odell, a concerned citizen, stated that he believes that Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities has done the best job of any of the agencies responsible for protecting the watershed. He then stated that the Plan is an impressive document however, he feels that it is too loose and that it needs more data and facts.

Mr. Frank Grover, a concerned citizen, stated that he has been proud of the actions of Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities in preserving the quality of water for delivery to the users in Salt Lake City. He then stated that he has carefully reviewed the draft Plan and has some concerns. Some concerns are the evaluation of possible causes of water quality declining is very inadequate; there is no mention of soil loss and reservoir filling as a measure of watershed quality; and the use of the word 'impact' is

improper. Mr. Grover also stated that he feels that the recommendation section of the document, which includes about 90 recommendations, is not workable. Many of the recommendations have already been discarded or failed to be implemented because of the lack of agency funding. Mr. Grover continued by stating that without a better plan, water will need to be treated more and more to maintain a usable standard.

Mr. Bob Fisher, a concerned citizen, stated that people need to realize that the watersheds and streams that come out of the canyons are the most precious thing to this valley. The adults need to be the ones to educate the children that the streams need to be kept clean in the canyons as well as in the valleys. Mr. Fisher then stated that if the areas are protected where the water runs, it will last a lifetime.

Mr. Onno Wieringa, a concerned citizen, stated that he feels that the document is too loose and vague, however, it addresses some great issues. Mr. Wieringa spoke specifically about fee stations and that the Plan does not define the objective and capacity.

Upon receiving no further requests to address the Planning Commission, Mr. Smith closed the hearing to the public and opened it for Planning Commission discussion.

Mr. Iker asked how much money is collected at the fee station in Millcreek Canyon and how the money is used.

Mr. Jack Vanderberg, representing the Forest Service, stated approximately \$250,000 per year is collected. **Of the \$250,000 per year, about 15% goes toward the operation of the fee booth.** The remainder of the money goes towards seasonal forest service workers who patrol the canyon and improvements to the canyon. Mr. Vanderberg then stated that he feels that the fee system has been very successful.

Further discussion followed regarding the concerns expressed during the public hearing, specifically, fee permit systems, water quality and watershed education.

Ms. Florence Reynolds, a representative from Public Utilities, stated that the community needs to remember that there will always be a need for water and as the community grows the need for finding sources of good drinking water will continue. As a consequence, all watershed areas need to be protected so that the source can be used if necessary.

The Planning Commission will receive public comment and consider making recommendations to the City Council regarding proposed amendments to the Salt Lake City Subdivision Ordinance. The goals of these amendments are to:

1. Create an ordinance that allows routine and uncontested lot line adjustments between two lots be reviewed and approved administratively.