

From: Monica Zoltanski
To: [Dustin Fratto](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] This Family Cares About The Future of Great Salt Lake
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 9:39:18 AM

Please include this as public comment on our water conservation item for tonight's agenda.
Thank you.

Monica Zoltanski
Sandy City Council, District 4
10000 Centennial Parkway Suite 231
Sandy, UT 84070

Office: (801)568-7141
Mobile: (385)449-1070

From: Britta B <brittabourdaghs@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 11:27:22 AM
To: Marci Houseman <mhouseman@sandy.utah.gov>; Zach Robinson <zrobinson@sandy.utah.gov>;
Cyndi Sharkey <csharkey@sandy.utah.gov>; Monica Zoltanski <mzoltanski@sandy.utah.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] This Family Cares About The Future of Great Salt Lake

To Councilmembers Houseman, Robinson, Sharkey, and Zoltanski,

I'll be honest, not even sure why I am bothering to write, but my daughters LOVE Great Salt Lake, so, I will try for them. We are supporters of Friends of Great Salt Lake and love everything about our unique and beautiful inland sea. We are residents of Sandy and live in District 4.

That lake is important for a myriad of reasons and its health is vital to all of us. It is a stop over for millions (approximately eight to ten million) of migratory birds. Gunnison Island (which is no longer an island) is home to one of the largest American White Pelican rookeries in North America. Because it is no longer an island, the pelicans now face increased predation risks and coyotes have already been spotted on the island. In 1991, Great Salt Lake was declared a site of "hemispheric importance". It is the largest salt water lake in the Western hemisphere and the eighth largest in the world.

Meanwhile, most Utahns treat it as a dump, a wasteland, a thing to be exploited. If you have followed Dr. Kevin Perry and his work, you will also know that our soils are naturally high in arsenic. Since Great Salt Lake is a terminal lake, all of that arsenic gets deposited in Great Salt Lake. As the lake dries and the playa becomes brittle, that arsenic will deposit itself back onto our city and in our watershed. Another study, conducted by BYU, found that 90% of our dust is coming from drying lake beds. This will only worsen as the lake continues to recede and will only worsen our already terrible air quality. There is also the work of McKenzie Skiles, which is fascinating, and is showing that dust from Great Salt Lake is already impacting our snowpack, and in turn our watershed, by the dust directly accelerating snowpack melt.

Great Salt Lake is on the precipice and has gained national/worldwide attention for its

alarming decline. Sandy City can do better. We can be leaders and jump to the forefront of water conservation. We can certainly do better than a 0.4% "goal" of water conservation. I'd love to see 1%, or even 2%, like Utah Rivers Council has proposed.

If you aren't familiar with the work of Great Salt Lake Institute, I highly recommend watching their "Salty Science" lectures on YouTube. About a year ago, Dr. Bonnie Baxter and Jaimi Butler wrote an obituary to Great Salt Lake as well: <https://catalystmagazine.net/obituary-for-great-salt-lake-even-lakes-are-not-immortal/>

If any of you would like to talk more about Great Salt Lake, I am happy to chat and am happy to also include my daughters (ages 7 & 9) in a chat. They are very reserved and shy, but they also love that lake fiercely.

Thank you for your time,
Britta Bourdaghs
801-450-9227

Water Conservation Plan Feedback

11/15/2021 12:04 PM (EST)



Name Emma McGowan

Address 2197 E Buttonwood Drive

Email emma3432@hotmail.com

Comments

The conservation goal within the new Sandy City Water Conservation Plan is incredibly weak. As an environmental engineer I am very familiar with gpcd measurements across the country and Sandy City residents (along with the rest of the state of Utah) are currently using well over the national average. Given the local water sources, water needs (i.e. the disappearing Great Salt Lake) and climate change, the rate we are using water is beyond unsustainable, and the proposed rate in 2065 is STILL unsustainable. I moved to Utah from Santa Fe, NM, which has had an incredibly successful conservation program over the past few decades without a sacrifice in quality of life. They, along with so many other cities in arid climates, have proven that it is possible but you need to take an aggressive approach. Santa Fe is currently sitting at about 60 gpcd, a QUARTER of the water use of Sandy City residents.

The report mentions that the City has implemented an "aggressive" rate schedule to incentivize conservation. I am glad to see that the rate schedule will be re-evaluated by the City in the next year because there is so much room for improvement. If you want to know what an aggressive rate schedule looks like, take a look at the one in Santa Fe. The schedule is dependent on season (warmer months w/irrigation vs colder months) and has a lower tier (10,000 gallons and 7,000 gallons respectively) with pricing of \$6/1000 gallons. Once you exceed that lower tier, it jumps to \$21/1000 gallons. THAT is how you incentivize conservation. This type of rate schedule does not impact anyone with reasonable water usage - but if you want to use more than what is reasonable, you need to pay for it. Water is a precious resource and you need to start treating it like one. Obviously there are lots of programs that can accompany this type of rate schedule, the toilet rebate program is a no brainer, along with a lawn buy back program - most of the excessive water use in Utah is for landscaping that is not suited to this climate.

The amount of water waste in Utah overall is astounding. I would recommend putting together a task force to help homeowners identify and repair sprinklers, and also to identify water users who irrigate during the hottest hours of the day. Whether we are in the middle of a drought or not, residents should not be irrigating their landscape at all between the hours of 10am and 6pm in the peak of summer.

I would like to see Sandy City take the lead in water conservation along the Wasatch Front, not just tick a box by creating a new conservation plan every five years that accomplishes the bare minimum. We need to preserve the resources we have and treat them with respect.

Thank you,
Emma McGowan
