

Minutes of the GEM Committee Meeting – May 6, 2009

1. Attendance: A total of approximately 30 people attended, roughly one-half committee members.
2. Reading of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting.
3. The following were the announcements:
 - a. Curtis Christensen reports no date has been set to put the North Fork drainage study of sewer back on the Commission's agenda.
 - b. Thursday, May 7th at 5 pm the Planning Commission will hold a work meeting with two topics:
 - i. Discussion regarding additional Manufacturing Zones/Contractor Storage Yards in Ogden Valley, and
 - ii. Report from the National APA Conference by attendees.
 - c. Jennifer Graham reports no decisions have been made yet regarding the Parks and Recreation Recommendation.
 - d. The Resort Zone Ordinance MAY be available for review by June 1. A peer review is being conducted after which the draft will be placed on the website for our review. (Currently the chair is reserving time in the June meeting for this discussion.)
4. Dr. Darwin Sorensen, USU Water Research Laboratory, presented a detailed and thoughtful review of work conducted during 2008 studying Pineview water quality. Steve Clarke has requested a copy of the presentation for distribution. No attempt to report the detail will be attempted here, but a few points are:
 - a. The focus of the work was analysis of the very low levels of dissolved oxygen in the cold, deep water during the summer.
 - b. Currently the reservoir is listed as "impaired", and as a warm water fishery. This work investigates the possible causes.
 - c. A result of the work is a better understanding of the algae bloom cycle in the reservoir, and of the levels of phosphorus and nitrogen. Iron concentrations are significant, and are believed to play a role in reducing levels of some nutrients.
 - d. The sources of the nutrients, particularly nitrates, are many and varied. Sediment being washed into the reservoir is judged to be significant (and also could contribute to high levels of phosphorus). Septic pollution is believed to be a factor. Irrigation practices are believed to contribute.
 - e. Dr. Sorensen does not feel the reservoir is likely to become a "weed patch" anytime soon. Rather, he feels we should address each possible source of pollution to the extent economically feasible and attempt to begin improving water quality instead of waiting until it is intolerable, at which time recovery would take many years.
5. The next meeting of the GEM Committee will be Wednesday June 3rd at 5 pm in the Huntsville Library.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.