

UGS BOARD MEETING
Department of Natural Resources
Utah Geological Survey
1594 West North Temple, Suite 3110, Salt Lake City
Wednesday, August 21, 2019

The meeting of the UGS Board was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Marc Eckels – Chair, Elissa Richards, Sam Quigley, Ken Fleck, and Tom Faddies

UGS Staff: Bill Keach, Mike Hylland, Jodi Patterson, Cheryl Gustin, and Steve Bowman

Apologies: Dave Garbrecht, Rick Chesnut, and Pete Kilbourne

Personnel Changes

Martha Jensen hired in July to fill new Data Coordinator position in the Web Services section. Martha is an internal hire, previously working in the Editorial section as a Senior GIS Analyst. Her new title is Business Analyst Software Administrator. We now have an opening to replace Martha.

Four new interns have been hired, Lydia Keenan – Groundwater, Keilee Stratton – Mapping, Elizabeth Williams – Hazards, and Brigham Whitney – Hazards.

Chelsea Samuelson left in July. She has accepted a teaching position at a middle school in Orem.

Will Hurlbut now assisting as an assistant curator in the Core Repository.

No known upcoming retirements. There are probably 3-5 (or more??) staff on a “2year plan”, meaning they are considering retirement in that time frame.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sam Quigley motioned to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2019, UGS Board meeting with one change of WITAC to WETC. Elissa Richards seconded the motion. The Board voted, and the motion carried.

ACTION ITEM

Enclosed in the materials is the Contract Proposal spreadsheet from 2016 forward. This is a good indicator of how the UGS is doing getting awarded outside funding, both federal funds and dedicated credits, and what's on the horizon.

Although contract proposals for external funding are provisionally approved by the Board by email, they require formal approval at the next Board meeting. The proposals are:

Hydrogeologic study of Emigration Canyon; funding from the Utah Division of Water Rights; new funding to the UGS \$99,710; total project cost \$199,420; estimated start 7/1/2019, estimated end 6/30/2021.

Carbon Utilization and Storage Partnership of the Western U.S.; funding from DOE-NETL, via New Mexico Tech and EGI; new funding to the UGS \$140,000; total project cost ~\$5,000,000 (\$175,000 UGS portion); estimated start 10/1/2019, estimated end 9/30/2022.

2020 Utah Earthquake Working Groups and Update of Working Group-Related Databases; funding from the USGS; new funding to the UGS \$27,251; total project \$38,930; estimated start 1/1/2020, estimated end 12/31/2020.

Detailed Mapping of Late Quaternary-Active Traces of Southwestern Utah and Northwestern Arizona Active Faults: Collaborative Research with the Arizona Geological Survey; new funding from the USGS; new funding to the UGS \$29,467; total project \$58,935; estimated start 1/1/2020, estimated end 12/31/2020.

Mapping Groundwater Levels and Estimating Groundwater Salinity Contributions to the Great Salt Lake, Utah; funding from DNR-FFSL; new funding to UGS \$37,709; total project \$46,873; estimated start 7/1/2019, estimated end 6/30/2020.

Dynamics of Groundwater Discharge and Salt Precipitation in Great Salt Lake's North Arm; funding from DNR-FFSL; new funding to UGS \$41,459; total project \$50,370; estimated start 7/1/2019, estimated end 6/30/2020.

Sam Quigley motioned to formally approve the above proposals. Elissa Richards seconded the motion. The Board voted, and the motion carried.

Pete Kilbourne has been asked to be on the Price River Water Resources Committee. UGS Board agrees that he is free to serve on that board and to tell them and anybody associated with them that he is a member of the UGS Board, but he does not speak for the Board or UGS. If he has any questions regarding issues that would concern the board or UGS he can discuss them as they come up with Bill Keach who will then decide if it should be brought to the board.

Director's Report:

Recent activities

Recognition

Tom Chidsey et al received the Crawford Award in June. Had to convince Tom to race home from his vacation to make the picnic.

Gordon Douglass and several other UGS staff had their 2017 Earthquake and Fault map featured on the cover of ESRI's annual Map Book. The book is a collection of maps submitted and reviewed from around the world. ESRI is the leading provider of Arc-GIS products. A great recognition for a wonderful piece of work.

Looking forward – Funding and Budget

FY19 is in the books. As a whole, the division did well. Carryover grew to \$600,000, which we will need to use in FY20. More on that later. Individuals and groups were recognized for outstanding work and efforts.

Looking to the future, our top priority is to secure stable funding for the UGS. The budget for FY20 is manageable. FY21 will present significant challenges if we do not find a way to replace decreasing Mineral Lease funds. To that end we are proposing two building blocks for FY21: 1) ongoing General Funds increase of \$600,000, and 2) a one-time building block of \$250,000 to address deferred maintenance and equipment needs. See discussion below.

In the past few months UGS leadership completed an exercise to identify long-term needs and goals. Each manager was asked to create a prioritized list of goals and ideas. Then UGS leadership met to discuss and prioritize them. Rising to the top was to seek stable, ongoing funding.

Minerals and Energy –

DOE-funded grant - \$9,000,000 to University of Utah, UGS will receive ~\$450,000 over 4 years.

Understanding Hazards/Groundwater to Satisfy an Expanding Population –

UGS involvement in hazard awareness and planning continues to be a high priority. In the past few months Geologic Hazards program staff have participated in several conferences and activities including:

Great Shakeout – Staff trained closely with state and local officials, including on the ground inspections and helicopter flyovers with the Utah National Guard.

Conference on Unreinforced Masonry Buildings – A gathering of western states hazard planning leaders.

Western States Seismic Policy Council.

Inspections of landslides, mudslides, debris flows and rockfalls. Using UGS-gathered drone imagery staff have created some amazing videos. We will see more in the technical presentations.

Board Swear-in

Elissa Richards, Ken Fleck, and Sam Quigley were all sworn in for another term by Brian Steed, DNR Executive Director.

October Field Trip – October 11-12, 2019

Regional Geology and Industrial Minerals (I-80 corridor, NW Utah)

Day 1: October 11 (Friday) ~8 am to 5 pm

Potential Field Stops: Great Salt Lake Marina, Lakeside siding, Grassy Mtns, Knolls/Clive area, Intrepid

Potash facility tour

Field Trip Leaders: Don Clark, Andrew Rupke, Mike Vanden Berg, Tom Chidsey

Lunch: Please select box lunch options for Cheryl

Lodging: Quality Inn (Wendover)

Dinner: Salt Flats Café (small Mexican restaurant, Wendover)

Day 2 October 12 (Saturday) ~8 am to 5 pm

Field Trip Leaders: Don Clark, Andrew Rupke

Breakfast: At hotel or local cafe

Lunch: Please select box lunch options for Cheryl

Potential Field Stops: Jukebox trench and Bonneville Salt Flats, Silver Island Mtns, Pilot Valley, other

stops To Be Determined

Return to Salt Lake City

Financial Update – Jodi Patterson

The Utah Geological Survey closed FY19 with an unexpended balance of \$5,605,018. \$5,000,000 is non-lapse for the Bonneville Salt Flats Restoration funding and UGS had non-lapsing authority for \$600,000, therefore the balance of \$5,018 had to lapse. We started the year with a carry-forward from FY18 of \$521,584. We were able to materialize some turnover savings in personnel and some savings in IT.

The estimated FY20 Operating Budget is included. We anticipate grant and contract revenue to be about the same as last year at around \$1.8 million. We will need to reclassify some revenue types to now be Transfer Revenue (those grant/contract funds received from another state agency or division. The big concern is Mineral Lease revenues are projected to be about \$500k less than

appropriated. We are addressing this concern and the ongoing sustainable funding structure for the UGS with our FY21 Building Block request (see further discussion and documentation).

A table containing the UGS revenue and expense trends from FY14 to estimated FY20 is included. We want to bring to your attention the notes 1, 2, and 3 for explanation on some potential increases from FY19 to FY20.

Legislative Update – 2019 June Interim Session

Met with the legislature during June session to discuss zero-based budgeting review of the UGS. Legislation, HJR18, passed in 2019 requires the legislature to do an in-depth review of 20% of the divisions every year. The UGS was part of the first 20%. During this session explained to the Appropriations sub-committee the reasons behind falling Mineral Lease funds and the challenges it presents for the UGS.

HB387 – Boards and Commissions Amendments – Passed in 2019, requires executive branch board to submit an annual report to Governor’s Office. Report prepared.

FY21 Building Block Request

Two requests:

Ongoing – \$600,000 from General Funds. The UGS has determined that Mineral Lease funds are not a sustainable, reliable funding source for core operating expenses. Instead, the UGS seeks the stability of state General Funds to maintain core services and seeks to use Mineral Lease funds as a mechanism to balance fluctuations in outside funding, while still maintaining the mineral-related objectives tied to Mineral Lease funds. Currently, there is also some reliance on Mineral Lease funds to cover legislative compensation increases. This is a challenge on two fronts: Mineral Lease funds are decreasing while compensation is increasing, and, statutorily, the UGS is limited as to what they can be spent on.

The requested new funding will: 1) Allow UGS to deliver high quality, relevant and needed information to the public, and 2) avoid delayed or deferred projects, which have negative consequences. Together, the new funding requests will ensure the UGS will continue its important role in Utah’s future.

One-time – \$250,000 for catch-up of maintenance and equipment deferred over past 5 years.

Presentations:

Elliot Jagniecki and Andrew Rupke presented on Salt Cycling in the North Arm of Great Salt Lake.

Jay Hill presented on new web apps coming up.

Ben Erickson and Adam Hiscock presented on recent debris flows and rockfalls.

Mark Eckels adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.