

Mayor's Report

4 March 2023 – 19 March 2023

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, Nibley! You are my boss, and here are some items from the past two weeks.

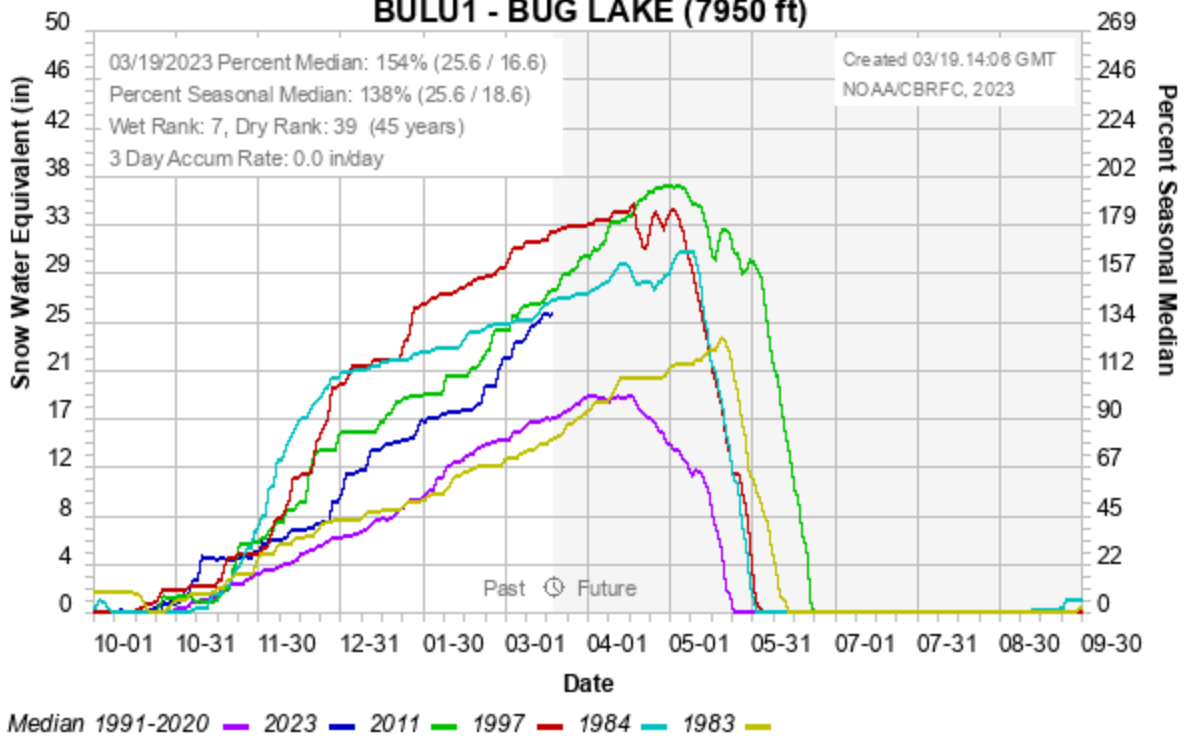
Flood Preparation

Please take a look at Nibley's home page and click on "Emergency Management" for some great information on how to deal with this year's generous snow-water supply. Here is a quick summary of a couple of items described on our website. Nibley City has two different types of water issues on big snow years. One is groundwater from a high water table that tends to cause problems on the western side of town. The best way to combat flooding from groundwater is to get melting snow away from your house with shoveling and with functioning rain gutters, along with the appropriate use of sump pumps. If you have to depend on a sump pump, it is best to discharge it into the gutter of a city street. That approach gets the water into Nibley's stormwater system and away from your house. If you discharge your sump pump into your yard, then that water can circulate back to your house or your neighbor's house. Placing sandbags is usually not an effective way to deal with groundwater.

The second water issue in Nibley is surface water, especially from the Blacksmith Fork River. Unlike groundwater, sandbagging is an effective measure to keep the river, streams, and ditches where they belong. Nibley City has not yet pulled the trigger on making sandbags available to our residents because the surface water runoff hasn't started yet. However, we are ready at a moment's notice when the need arrives. Please stay tuned on Nibley's website, Facebook page, and the emergency text service for updates and forecasts on surface water in our town.

We haven't had a good snow year for a while, and there is justified worry about surface-water flooding. However, it's too early to panic because surface flooding is a problem when there is lots of snow and it melts off quickly. Have you wondered about this year's snowfall compared to other years? Here is a graph that shows the water in the snowpack at Bug Lake for several big snow years. This year is certainly a water-producing year, and we have had others. The runoff in 1983 and 1984 caused flooding (remember the river on State Street in Salt Lake City?). However, 1997 and 2011 had more water in the snowpack. We pitched sandbags on those years, but the snow melted slowly enough to not cause as much trouble as 1983 and 1984. As mentioned, stay tuned. The weather data, snow data, river data, and forecasts from the experts will help us react appropriately when the runoff comes.

**Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
BULU1 - BUG LAKE (7950 ft)**



Watermark Property

We are still working on the possibility of the property north of Thomas Edison Charter School disconnecting from Logan and annexing to Nibley. Please have a look at the previous Status Report (February 19, 2023) for background information. City staff, a subset of the City Council, and I had a chance to see a concept plan from the landowner that would provide a buffer between the housing development and the school. When that plan is delivered to the city, we will arrange a meeting with the school to see if there is enough value in the Nibley plan to move forward.

Firefly Park Reimbursement

Justin Maughan, Nibley City Manager, has been pressing for Cache County to complete the process that will reimburse Nibley City for our original purchase of Firefly Park dating back to 2016. Justin lets me tag along as we work through things like this. There's a great story behind this purchase and reimbursement, and I hope you will ask me if you are interested in the details. The end result of that story is that our purchase of Firefly Park eight years ago for about \$500k is going to return to Nibley City around \$1.4M, nearly a 3x return on investment. Although Nibley City is not (rightfully so) in the real-estate business, that's a pretty good return. Each of the other cities in Cache County had the same opportunity to participate in this purchase and reimbursement opportunity (North Logan and Hyde Park participated), and Nibley City was

lucky enough (smart enough?) to take advantage of the opportunity when it came up. The financial return notwithstanding, Firefly Park is an incredible asset to our city.

Mayors' Association

The Cache County Mayors get together about once a month in what is largely a social setting. This month, it was a little less social as our Utah legislative representatives attended to give us a brief recap of this year's legislative session. In my last report, I vented some frustration about the legislature sticking its nose in the tents of municipalities. The mayors and legislators had a respectful conversation, but other mayors showed similar frustration. I believe some of the legislators were caught off guard by this, perhaps in part because bills are drafted and negotiated outside of the public process and because the 45-day legislative session is so fast and furious. As I see it, these two issues mean that legislative representatives don't get enough constituent feedback. The remedy is to start talking with our representatives in August about the upcoming session that will happen in the following January. There are a couple of specific issues that I will address with specific legislators long before the next session.

Miscellaneous

On other items, I heard a fun lecture at the Cache Historical Society about vintage signs from various places around Utah. It's a bit ironic to me that these old signs (many of them brightly-colored neon signs) are nostalgic to us, and the new electronic messaging displays (bright animated LED signs) aren't so welcome. I'm not arguing for the new animated signs (I have helped write an ordinance to limit their use in Nibley). Instead, I am noting how some things look more attractive in the rear-view mirror. Hmmm ... spoken like the aging old guy that I am.

We also spent time with the Cache County School District and Cache County discussing some upcoming activity on the Malouf Community Reinvestment Agency. More on that later.

Speaking of rear-view mirrors, I am always motivated to keep writing these reports after the relief of finishing the most recent one rather than facing the prospect of the next due date. You can help me stay motivated by letting me know these reports help you keep up-to-date with the goings on in Nibley City.

Thanks for reading, boss. Please call, text, or write any time.

Larry
435-512-7495
larry@nibleycity.com

My continued appreciation to Leslie Maughan for proofreading and giving feedback on this report before you see it.