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# PERSPECTIVES

UTAH CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Cory Shupe, President Elect, Utah ASLA



As members of the Utah chapter of ASLA, we all look forward to the annual Chapter Christmas celebration.

During the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving on the Utah ASLA Executive Committee (E. Comm.) as VP Membership & Member Services. I have enjoyed my association with the members of the Ex. Comm. and I am looking forward to serving with them for the next three years as President-Elect, President, and Past President.

Not only is it a time to gather to celebrate the holiday season at the end of each year but it provides us the opportunity of gathering as friends and fellow professionals. As in years passed, this year's celebration was a great success. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank everyone who participated.

It is my goal over the next year as I serve as President-Elect to learn the duties of President, maintain the successful traditions of the past and prepare to move the existing goals and programs of the Utah Chapter forward.

I look forward to serving all of the members of the Utah Chapter of ASLA. I am anxious to get to know those of you whom I have not yet met. I am confident that as we all work toward and move forward the common goals of the Chapter that the profession of Landscape Architecture will be stronger, valued more in our communities, and more recognized throughout the industry.

President-Elect,

Cory Shupe, ASLA, LLA

Whether it is at the annual Christmas celebration, the summer BBQ, USU's LAEP week, the monthly socials, or any ASLA activity, I have had the wonderful opportunity of getting to know so many talented landscape architects. Over the years, I have been introduced to numerous successful practitioners who have shared their knowledge, wisdom and skills with me. It has also provided a means for me to stay in touch with so many friendships that have developed over time. For me, this is one of the great benefits of our chapter.

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## Upcoming Events:

» *LARE PREP COURSE - OVERVIEW SECTIONS A, B, & D - JANUARY 21 -23, 2011 BERKLEY, CA SEE WWW.UTAHASLA.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS.*

» *SAVE THE DATE FOR THE UTAH ASLA ANNUAL MEETING: TBD*

» *SALT LAKE SUSTAINABLE BUILDING CONFERENCE - MAY 20, 2011 - SALT LAKE CONVENTION CENTER*

## MONTHLY SOCIAL

DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2011  
TIME: 11:30 - 1:00 PM  
LOCATION: TBD

DESCRIPTION:  
CERTIFIED FENCING COMPANY WILL BE OUR SPONSOR. THE SPEAKER IS TBD. WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR PRESENTATION TO COME SOON.



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# CAREER ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO POST SOMETHING IN THIS SECTION PLEASE CONTACT JOLYNN AT EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR @ASLAUTAH.ORG

**Job Title** Community Development Director  
**Jobs Online Post:** 4 weeks  
**Job Level** Senior 8-10 years  
**AICP Certification:** Preferred  
**Salary Range:** \$79,508 - \$89,447

The City of Logan, Utah is searching for a Community Development Director. This position will provide a challenging and rewarding opportunity to grow and develop professionally while serving a beautiful college community in the Rocky Mountains.

Logan is a growing, full service, financially sound municipality of more than 50,000 residents. The city is a designated MSA affording hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual community improvements. Logan residents enjoy a four-season climate with extraordinary access to boating, fishing, hiking, Nordic and Alpine skiing, camping, and an abundance of other recreation activities. Logan is the home of Utah State University (22,000 students) providing a remarkably broad variety of cultural activities and educational opportunities.

The applicant must have broad experience in all aspects of community planning and design. The Director needs experience in personnel supervision and management of staff. We prefer a candidate with public and private planning experience.

The Community Development Director will develop, promote, and implement a variety of short and long term plans, including the General Plan, specific plans, neighborhood plans, and participates in the Capital Improvement Plan. Supports the Municipal Council, Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment, Design Review Committee, Neighborhood Councils, Historic Preservation Committee and the Downtown Alliance (a National Main Street Program).

The City requires a Bachelor's Degree or higher in Municipal Planning, Public Administration, or closely related field. American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification is preferred. Applicant is required to have a minimum of five (5) years increasingly responsible municipal planning experience and two (2) years prior supervisory experience in the required field of work. Practical experience in private planning, landscape architecture, or site design is desirable. In addition, the following qualities are important factors in selecting the new Director:

Personal Integrity with a high sense of ethics and honesty

Knowledge of the principles and theories of urban and regional planning and community development.

An optimistic attitude, with abundant energy to multi-task.

Confidence, with strong social skills, effective interpersonal skills, and a sense of humor.

Team leadership with the ability to instill confidence, as well as empower and motivate staff.

Political savvy and perception with ability to clearly see and retain the big picture.

Excellent verbal and non-verbal communication skills, including effective listening, writing, and excellent public speaking skills.

Well-developed group interaction skills with a strong background in public engagement and involvement and the ability to foster relationships and positively interact well with multiple government agencies

The ability to consider and evaluate alternative viewpoints intended to find creative solutions and work collaboratively to develop innovative approaches toward consensus on difficult issues.

Competency to quickly become a contributing member of the Mayor's Executive Management Team working collectively as problem solvers with fact-based political insight.

The Director reports to the Mayor and sits on the Mayor's Executive Committee. The Director manages the divisions of Planning, Building Safety, and Neighborhood Improvement/Enforcement. The Department also manages the CDBG Program and Business & Landlord Licensing.

Candidates must complete an on-line application at: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/cityofloganut/default.cfm> .

See expanded requirements for this position at the same site.

OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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# STUDENT CHAPTER MESSAGE

## WASHINGTON DC LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

As student president of ASLA at Utah State University I have had a lot of great experiences that have helped shape and mold me into a future practitioner in the field of Landscape Architecture. Attending the ASLA annual meeting which was held in Washington D.C. was one such experience that has propelled my optimism and realization of just how important Landscape Architecture is to the society in which we live.

When I found out that I was invited to attend annual meeting and president leadership meeting that was held prior to the annual meeting I anticipated the opportunity and was unsure of what to expect. I had never been to the nation's capital. Being able to represent Utah State, the state chapter and to be surrounded by thousands of professionals who have similar goals as mine was an incredible experience.

While I attended the meetings I had the opportunity to attend Leadership Meetings with Cory Whiting and Mark Vlasic. As Cory and I attended the President meetings I realized that I was the only student

president there. I felt humbled. I learned a great deal from the professionals there. During one of the "open microphone" sessions I was able to present the Student Mentor Program that the state chapter and student chapter has introduced this year. As Cory and I spoke about this undertaking we were recognized with a roar of applause. Afterwards professionals were asking questions on how we were able to do this.

Attending the annual meeting allowed me to realize a variety of possibilities and interests that the profession provides. I was able to meet professionals from all over the nation and across the globe. One educational session that I really enjoyed was a professional by the name of Vladimir Djurovic. As I attended his presentation I was exposed to his work that encompasses many different countries. As Vladimir and his colleagues spoke I realized the potential that I have as an emerging professional. After his presentation I had a conversation with him, his optimism about the profession and his encouraging



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words for me will not be forgotten.

When I was not in meetings or attending seminars I was being inspired by the sights and sounds of the capital city. I spent hours on my feet walking and exploring everything that I could see. Viewing artwork, the National Monuments and spending in various museums including the Holocaust museum were highlights of the trip.

The evening of September Eleventh was spent walking the National Mall. I spent time to reflect upon our great Nation and those who have lost their lives protecting it as I saw all of the flags at half mast. Later that evening I enjoyed the company of new friends I made at the ASLA Gala which was held at the National Building Museum.

I am grateful for the opportunity I had to attend the meetings in Washington D.C. Once again it was an honor to represent the profession in that setting. I hope to one day repay the opportunity, the knowledge and wisdom I obtained through my contribution to the profession of Landscape Architecture.

Christopher Worthington

USU ASLA President

## ASLA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JOLYNN ATKINSON



I graduated from Utah State University with an Associate's degree in 1993. For the last 10 years I have worked as a loan processor for American Preferred Capital and this past year for Burbank & Wilde, CPA firm.

I have been married to my wonderful husband Brandon for the last 12 years. We have 3 awesome children ages 15, 10, and 8. They keep life fun and busy.

I am really excited to be working with Utah ASLA as the Executive Director. I love a challenge and look forward to meeting and working with each of you. I am still learning so if there is anything that you need please feel free to contact me at anytime and if I don't have the answer I will get it for you.



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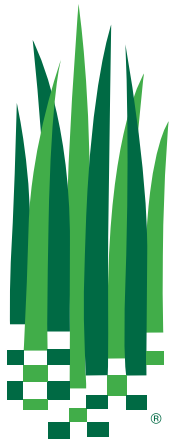
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## Call for Proposals

Submit Applications by:

Jan. 3, 2011 at 5:00 MST

### OVERVIEW

The Salt Lake Sustainable Building Conference Organizing Committee is now accepting proposals for educational sessions. The 2011 regional sustainable building conference will be held in Salt Lake City, May 2011; dates will be announced by the end of December.

### TIMELINE FOR PROPOSALS

October 29th, 2010: Call for presentation proposals released

January 3rd, 2011: Submit applications by 5:00 p.m. MST

February 14th, 2011: Proposers notified of their proposal status by email

Please download the Call for Proposal PDF and email applications to [2011slcsquestions@usgbcutah.org](mailto:2011slcsquestions@usgbcutah.org). Proposal in subject line.

Download Call for Presentations Application PDF

Please send all questions to [2011slcsquestions@usgbcutah.org](mailto:2011slcsquestions@usgbcutah.org)

Please visit our web site for updates and additional information: <http://www.saltlakesbc.com/>

# EXCOM DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Minutes Approval Jesse Bell motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Geoff Ellis seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Calendar of Events / Member Services

## Monthly Socials:

Dec: Speaker: Christmas Party – Thank you sponsors!  
Sponsor: UASLA Location: Toucano's

January: NO SOCIAL IN JANUARY

February: Speaker: Sponsor: CFC fencing Location: TBD

Next Excom Meeting: January 10th @ 4:00pm  
Location: Logan Simpson Design, 8 E. Broadway, SLC, UT (801) 364-0525

Conclusions / Action Items: Jolynn to get a list from Alicia of who our sponsors have been for the last 12 months. Contact GSBS about being speaker at February social.

## President:

National Endowment for the Arts (Kris Kvarfordt)  
Conclusions / Action Items:

Kris spoke with Jason Schutbach at NEA. Jason seems excited about something happening in Utah. Go to <http://www.arts.gov/grants/recent/index.html> to see recent grant projects. Typically grants are for 501C3 organizations. We are a 501C6. Need to find a 501C3 organization that we could team with to apply for grant. Grants are typically from \$10-50,000. There needs to be a match. Create a steering committee to set up format, goals, and objectives of project. Justin Hamula, Susan Crook, Amanda Wiberg, Kris Kvarfordt, Greb Boudrero and USU staff discussed as potential members.

## Past president:

Annual Meeting: "Utah ASLA – Past, Present & Future"

Conclusions / Action Items: If it will work out, everyone thought it was a good idea to have the annual meeting at USU. This may result in the meeting not happening in April. Final dates need to be set and coordinated. March 7-11 is spring break for USU students. A good keynote speaker will be key to the success of the meeting. Having the meeting in Logan should not affect vendor involvement. Provide Sean with meeting requirement details – required SF for

rooms, number of anticipated vendors. Jolynn to gather information and provide. Inform vendors of plans.

## Education & Licensure:

Conclusions / Action Items: Pecha Kucha Night will be on Dec. 17th. Jay Nielson distributed a spreadsheet of ASLA members and who they should contact regarding Continuing Education. People should make contact within the next 3 to 8 days. Sit down with members on the committee and discuss the importance of continuing education for our profession. They will probably have their meeting the beginning of February.

## Treasurer:

Draft budget finalization and approval

Conclusions / Action Items: Budget revisions were made and 2011 budget was finalized. Russ Holley motioned to approve the revised budget. Mark Vlasic seconded. Approval was unanimous. Follow up with national to see if there is any reimbursement possible to Student Chapter President's attendance at national meeting.

## USU Student President:

Conclusions / Action Items: Coordinate with Jeremy and Sean regarding annual meeting. Could the student social be combined with the ASLA dinner as a money savings opportunity?

## Executive Director:

Participation in Salt Lake Sustainability Conference

Vendor Contact Lists

Interview with Jay Nielson

Conclusions / Action Items: Decision was made to not have a booth at the Salt Lake Sustainability Conference this year. Everyone needs to follow up on their vendor contacts. The following ideas were discussed for Jolynn's upcoming interview with Jay Nielson: Advice, His favorite projects, Changes he's seen over the years, Where he sees the profession going

# WEATHER BASED SMART IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY

BY: JASON NAUGHTIN CLT, CID – HYDROSYSTEMS-KDI, INC.

The importance of correctly irrigating landscaped areas cannot be overstated. Water is the catalyst in the soil/plant relationship. It is fairly obvious what happens to the plant material with too little water. However, too much water can deplete oxygen to the roots and promote shallow growth, among other things. With ever-tightening water restrictions, agency regulations, climate change, and a struggling economy, water conservation is as important as it has ever been. Weather based smart irrigation controllers help conserve our most precious resource while saving clients money in the short and long term.

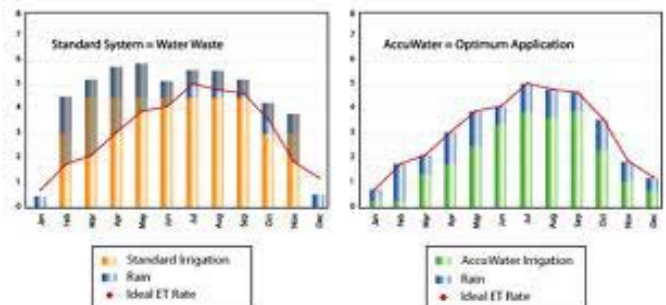
Experts estimate that 20 to 30% of water used by landscape irrigation systems is wasted through either water distribution or control. Water distribution can be visually controlled by regular maintenance and adjustment of the irrigation system (i.e. broken heads, leaks, water spraying onto hardscapes, and runoff). It isn't too difficult to recognize water running down the sidewalk. Irrigation control is much more subjective. Most irrigation maintenance personnel have a fairly good grasp on what zone timing should be programmed given the type of irrigation used. However, most personnel set zone timing based on the worst case scenario, which tend to be the hottest, driest periods of the season. Irrigation managers slightly adjust irrigation systems in the spring and the fall, but they still tend to err on the side of overwatering. This is usually due to customer request, fear that plant material may be lost, or the thought that more water applied early will provide a healthier plant when



warmer, drier days arrive. Weather based controllers take this subjective portion of water use out of the maintenance personnel's control and lets the technology do the work.

For two decades, weather based irrigation controllers have been in use on extremely large sites, agencies with multiple sites, and golf courses. This technology usually involved purchasing and maintaining an expensive on-site weather station and software. However, recent technological advances have made it more user friendly and cost effective for smaller sites, even in residential applications. In areas where water conservation is of the utmost importance, agencies and municipalities require weather based smart controllers and some even provide rebates for customers who utilize them.

Consider a client with a fairly large site with five acres of manicured, cool season turf. In this region, yearly water usage for that parcel of turf will be



approximately 6.2 million gallons. At Denver Water Board's current water rate for treated domestic water of \$4 per 1000 gallons used, that would equate to a yearly water bill of \$24,830. Taking into consideration that a weather based controller would conservatively reduce water usage by 20%, one could save that client nearly \$5000 per year in water costs; not to mention the savings of 1.25 million gallons of water. It is important to note that if a weather based smart controller is installed on an older existing irrigation system or a system with inadequate coverage, water savings could be significantly less. In these situations, it is important to consult an irrigation professional before specifying or installing these devices.

Weather based irrigation controllers utilize historical or actual evapotranspiration (ET) rates to help replace the water used by the plant material for duration of time. ET is defined as the process of transferring moisture from the earth to the atmosphere by evaporation of water and transpiration from plants. There are many factors that determine ET rates. These include solar radiation, temperature, wind, humidity, and even elevation. The controller automatically irrigates as the water content of the soil approaches the wilting point, but will not exceed soil saturation based on the irrigation system's specific precipitation rate. Jerry Wright of the University of Minnesota explains this concept best in "Irrigation Scheduling Checkbook Method." Each day an ET value is measured from a weather station and "withdrawn" from the soil. In the following days, successive ET values are "withdrawn" and a "deposit" must be made, either by irrigation or rainfall before the soil moisture "balance" reaches zero. Keep in mind that once a "withdrawal" is made, a "deposit" is not made until the "balance" approaches zero (which equates to 50 % of maximum allowable depletion). Once the irrigation system or rainfall makes the "deposit," soil moisture is replenished and the cycle repeats itself. The "Checkbook Method" also ensures that the soil moisture content does not hover around saturation in order to promote deep root growth. One case study revealed that in June of 2009, a client had irrigated only three times in 30 days utilizing an ET based smart controller.

Once ET data is accumulated by a remote or on-site weather station, ET rates are received and calculated by either a weather data service, on-site irrigation software, or ET controller interface. The irrigation schedule is then automatically adjusted depending



on specific data. Specific data may include irrigation precipitation rates, soil types, plant types, directional aspects, and even slopes (all of which are typically entered into the on-site software or controller interface). For example, an irrigation manager assigns a turf zone to activate and operate for fifteen minutes, every day. Irrigating this particular zone would distribute approximately 2.0 inches of water per hour. Once the ET data is logged, the controller realizes that the plant material and the soil only used .15 inches of water that day. Based on the specific data of the turf zone, the controller will override the manager's assigned schedule until enough water is depleted from the soil to warrant irrigating.

There are a number of ways ET data can be accumulated and distributed. Solutions are typically addressed based on specific site information and can be dependent on client needs and budget. Moreover, products differ greatly from manufacturer to manufacturer. ET data can be accumulated by way of an on-site or community weather station. There are even more ways data can be distributed. It can be distributed via the internet, paging broadcast service, cellular service, radio broadcast, and conventional phone lines. Some of these services may be subject to monthly charges for which the client would be responsible for over the life of the irrigation system. It is important to consult an irrigation professional to figure out which ET system would be most useful and cost effective for your client.

It is important that a concerted effort be made toward conserving water because of the current economic market and water's value as a resource. Weather based smart controllers help sites and irrigation managers achieve conservation. Even though this technology has been around for quite some time, it is now available and should be considered for use on a wide range of landscape projects to aid in conserving water, reducing budgets, and promoting healthy plant material.

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***If you would like to be included in this guide, please contact Jolynn Atkinson at 801 833 2944.***