



Water Maintenance worker Rick Malloy explains some of the South Jordan water infrastructure to Mayor Birama Traoré and Mayor Nampage Coulibaly from Mali.

Two Mayors from West African Country of Mali Visit South Jordan City April 18, 2013

Mayor Birama Traoré left is a busy man. In addition to being the mayor of Kirané in the country of Mali, he is also a student in a dual degree program, owns a pharmacy, and runs a business with a brother in France. He left his wife and son to travel thousands of miles along with a delegation of other mayors to come to Utah to learn about municipal governance and how to improve infrastructure.

“The greatest challenge in Mali is water. Where water is, we can develop and grow. Getting to that water is difficult as it is often hundreds of feet below the surface. We hope to learn about water infrastructure in Utah” Mayor Birama Traoré said. He and Mayor Nampaga Coulibaly from Messini, Mali came to South Jordan City recently to spend part of the day learning about water infrastructure.

Rick Malloy, a South Jordan public works employee who works in the water department, also happens to be a graduate of the Defense Language Institute and speaks French. He along with a friend helped to translate the workings of the South Jordan water system into French for Mayor Traore and Mayor Coulibaly. Also assisting with the translation and were Rhett Davis, Christiane Fauron, and Jennifer Leahy.

The delegation was coordinated through the Utah League of Cities and Towns. Former Brigham Young University public administration graduate student Yeah Samake left Utah after his studies

to return to Mali. Once in Mali, he ran and became a mayor of a town, but felt the need for other mayors in his country to learn more from cities in Utah. Mayor Samake reached out to the Utah League of Cities and Towns and found that they would be willing to arrange visits for mayors from Mali to Utah cities.

“We’re thrilled to have these wonderful public servants come and visit our city, and we hope that they will return again and bring others. Cities can gain so much by learning how other cities approach their challenges. South Jordan is honored to participate in this program with our friends from Mali” said South Jordan Mayor Scott Osborne.