

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024 – 12 Noon
Logan City Hall – Main Floor Meeting Room
290 North 100 West in Logan**

MINUTES

PRESENT

Commissioner William Cox	Council Member Sandi Goodlander
Council Member Karl Ward	Commissioner Lee Perry
Commissioner Stan Summers	Mayor Larry Jacobson
Mayor DJ Bott	Mayor Mike Leonhardt
Mayor Lyle Holmgren	Commissioner Sim Weston
County Executive David Zook	Commissioner Jon Lee
Mayor Holly Daines	

EXCUSED

Commissioner Boyd Bingham	Mayor Scott Sabey
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BRAG STAFF

Lucas Martin	Russ Price
Brian Carver	Brittany Alfau
Shawn Milne	Karen Merkley
Paul Davis	Margie Rycewicz
Adam Chandler	

OTHERS PRESENT

Rebecca Dilg	GOEO - Utah Broadband
Chandler Beutler	Senator Mitt Romney’s Office
Ben Palmer	Congressman Moore’s Office
Troy Lamb	Department of Workforce Services
Sherry Stevens	Utah Rural Outreach Manager

ATTENDING VIA ZOOM

Elizabeth Hendrickson	Utah Broadband Project
Clair Shiverdec	Utah Broadband Project
Collin Leonard	KSL News

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MINUTES

Commissioner William Cox, Chair, opened the first BRAG Governing Board Meeting for 2024. He welcomed everyone and excused BRAG Executive Director, Roger Jones, who was not feeling well. Cox asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes of the November 29, 2023 Governing Board meeting. No changes were needed. Mayor DJ Bott made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes. Council Member Karl Ward **SECONDED** the **MOTION** and the minutes were **APPROVED** unanimously.

ANNUAL EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

Andy Hernandez from Jones Simkins Accounting and Advisory Services presented the results of the required annual external audit of all BRAG operations for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). This was the first year Jones Simkins conducted the external audit for BRAG.

The audit is conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Copies of the Management Report and the Financial Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023 were distributed to board members. A copy will also be posted on BRAG’s website.

Hernandez walked the board through the entire process of making sure the Internal Controls and Compliances for both Financial and Management were met. The opinions offered by the auditors resulted in a clean report with no noted deficiencies or no compliance discrepancies found in any of the areas. It was cited that the auditors tested sixty transactions in each area and all funds were spent in accordance within the grant funded. Hernandez recommended that Board Members read pages 6-11 of the audit report to gain a good understanding of it, as well as review the financial statements throughout.

He thanked BRAG for the opportunity Jones Simkins had to conduct the External Audit, he offered to answer any questions, and promised that they would watch for any new standards required by state and federal government.

A **MOTION** to **ACCEPT** the Bear River Association of Governments External Audit Report by Jones Simkins for Fiscal Year 2023—year ending June 30, 2023 as presented was made by Council Member Karl Ward. Mayor Mike Leonhardt **SECONDED** the motion. And it **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024

Commissioner William Cox, Chair, opened the floor for nominations for the 2024 BRAG Governing Board Vice Chair. Following the past practice and custom of rotating the chairmanship from county to county and elevating the Vice Chair to Chair, County Executive David Zook, made a **MOTION** to elect Council Member Sandi Goodlander who has been the Vice Chair to serve as Chair and Commissioner Lee Perry from Box Elder County, to serve as the Vice Chair. Mayor DJ Bott **SECONDED** the **MOTION** and all **APPROVED THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY**.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2024

Mayor Lyle Holmgren moved to **APPROVE** the proposed schedule of BRAG Governing Board Meetings for 2024. Mayor DJ Bott **SECONDED**; and the 2024 meeting schedule was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

STATE BROADBAND CHALLENGE PROCESS

Rebecca Dilg, Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity, presented a PowerPoint outlining the Utah Five Year Digital Connectivity Plan. The plan helps identify locations in Utah that are not served or are underserved with high speed internet. A resource is The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) National Broadband Map which provides information about internet services available

in specific locations. The plan utilizes existing broadband funding by considering the following four areas: Infrastructure, Community Anchor Institutions, Rural and Tribal Areas, and Home Broadband Service Costs. The State Challenge Process has just opened its portal to determine mis-identified underserved locations to be eligible for BEAD-funded projects. Dilg explained how to make the challenge with supported evidence. She encouraged getting a FCC “Fabric” license and provided a PowerPoint with instructions to apply as well as websites with the links and recorded webinars for the Challenge Portal and Submission Process (included in minutes binder). Paul Davis from BRAG offered to help any communities interested.

AGRI-PORT GRANT REVIEW

Shawn Milne, Regional Economic Development/Quality Growth Director notified the Governing Board that the submission for the Northern Utah Agri-Park Feasibility Study the Board authorized him to submit during the September 27, 2023 meeting was approved. He provided a nice handout with details (included in binder). Sherry Stevens, Utah Rural Outreach Manager, remarked that the Rural Community Opportunity Grant was very competitive and that Milne did an exceptional job on his application. She felt it was a solid project and an appropriate amount of money was requested. The terms of the grant are that BRAG match 40% of the \$150,000 which equals \$60,000 and the GOEO’s is \$90,000. The 40% match could be divided up based on county population. The BRAG Governing Board serves as the County Economic Development Board and will make decisions for this grant, not the communities. Milne felt like a next step would be to have separate conversations with Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties. The Study will generate a list of land sites that may work to help preserve agriculture and attract business by streamlined access to markets for regional farmers, ranchers, and processors. Some ideas suggested were Cache Junction and Hyrum as well as coordinating with the Inland Port in Box Elder County.

BRAG SERVICES AT A GLANCE FOR 2023

The 2023 Services at a Glance handout is a brief summary of services rendered by each BRAG department during the 2023 calendar year. Copies were available for all attendees to review and see the significant number of clients BRAG employees serve in various ways (13,000 plus services to communities).

WHAT’S NEW IN LOGAN CITY

Mayor Holly Daines offered a great report on the many happenings in Logan City.

- Opening of the new Carol and Jim Laub Plaza – over 8,000 skaters so far have enjoyed the ice skating rink.
- The New Logan Library and New Fire Station will be opening soon.
- Logan’s Public Works Department keeps the infrastructure working well, including managing waste water from six cities. They have submitted a grant for a 10 million gallon culinary water tank and have plans to replace the water pipes near 400 N and Main Street.
- Roads – multiple intersections were upgraded across railroad tracks, new traffic lights installed at several intersections, a new road and bridge was constructed on 100 W. She noted the remaining parcels on 600 S and 100 W are available for options such as affordable housing. 10th North will also be widened.
- Logan Power and Light is cleaning out the sediment on Second Dam which allows for another source of cheap, clean energy. Natural gas and solar generators are also in the works to help with base load power.
- Recreation/Parks and Trails – The Rec Center will terminate June 2025 to allow the school district to use it. Logan City is rethinking how to provide the indoor recreation programs the

facility offered. A large Logan Outdoor Recreations Complex will be built on the Logan Landfill. It will be built in phases over the next 10 years with an 11 acre dog park, a frisbee golf course, as well as new trails that will connect to existing county trails. (Map included). A new bridge was built at Trapper Park.

- The Cache Valley Mall will be torn down around the end of March and new development will begin.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brian Carver, BRAG Community and Economic Development Director, wanted Board Members to be introduced to the two new Local Administrative Advisors, Russ Price and Margie Ryczewicz. The LAA Program provides support, help, and training to Utah cities and towns that have little administrative staff. Carver reported that in the BRAG region there are 39 cities and towns, 22 of which qualify for this program. BRAG received funding from the state for these positions. The new employees have already been busy meeting with communities in all three counties and offered their assistance to any additional communities board members thought might benefit from their expertise.

Lucas Martin, BRAG Human Services Director, informed the board about the nationwide Homeless Point-In-Time (PIT) Count held on January 25, 26, 27, from 12 midnight – 2 am each morning. There was a good number of volunteers that signed up to help this year. Many were repeaters so an experienced volunteer was able to be in each vehicle. The more volunteers, the more geographical area that can be covered, which can result in a larger homeless count.

The unofficial counts were:

- 38 unsheltered
- 14 at WAB Warming Center
- 34 in motels/hotels using the hotel voucher program
- 8 at New Hope Crisis
- 11 at CAPSA

Much of the homeless funding received is based on PIT counts both sheltered and unsheltered. HUD also looks back two years at the PIT count when considering eligibility for new housing vouchers. Not only are the numbers from the PIT count important, but the PIT count helps increase understanding of the communities homeless population situations.

Commissioner Lee Perry shared information about the Department of Energy Grant Program Application. It focuses on energy efficiency. He thought it would be a good idea for BRAG to consider applying.

ADJOURN

The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 2:30 p.m.