

*EASTERN WASHINGTON COUNTY*  
***RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION***

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**MINUTES**

EASTERN WASHINGTON COUNTY  
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Hurricane City Hall  
147 North 870 West, Hurricane, Utah

Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 1:30 pm

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Arthur LeBaron  
Ms. Toni Foran  
Mr. Derek Imlay  
Mr. Clark Ronnow  
Mr. Daren Cottam

REPRESENTING:

Hurricane City  
Hurricane City  
LaVerkin City  
Leeds Town  
Toquerville City

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Ben Reeves  
Ms. Elissa Black  
Mr. Mike Miles  
Ms. Doni Pack  
Mr. Curt Hutchings

Leeds Town  
Form Tomorrow  
Utah Dept of Transportation  
Five County Assoc of Governments  
Five County Assoc of Governments

ABSENT:

Mr. Ron Whitehead

Washington County

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Curt Hutchings welcomed those in attendance. All members received copies of notes from the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) meeting held August 22, 2008. Mr. Hutchings pointed out that these are not official minutes requiring a vote of approval.

II. Nomination & Vote for Chair & Vice-Chair

Mr. Hutchings opened up the meeting to nominations for the position of Chair of the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC). Mr. Arthur LeBaron nominated Ms. Toni Foran. Ms. Foran nominated Mr. Daren Cottam. Mr. Cottam nominated Mr. LeBaron.

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It was noted that Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and Five County Association of Governments (FCAOG) employees are not voting members of the Committee.

Mr. Cottam suggested that Mr. LeBaron was best qualified to act as Chair due to his training as an engineer and other qualifications.

**A motion was made by Mr. Daren Cottam, seconded by Ms. Toni Foran, to approve Mr. Arthur LeBaron as Chair of the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

As Chair, Mr. LeBaron took control of the meeting and asked Mr. Hutchings to continue to moderate the meeting.

Mr. Cottam nominated Mr. Imlay to act as Vice-Chair of the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC).

**A motion was made by Mr. Daren Cottam, seconded by Ms. Toni Foran, to approve Mr. Derek Imlay as Vice-Chair of the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. Recommendation to RTEC for the Name of the RPO

**A motion was made by Mr. Arthur LeBaron, seconded by Mr. Derek Imlay, to approve to recommend to the Rural Transportation Executive Council (RTEC) that the name of this organization remain the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization (RPO).**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. Review and Recommendation to RTEC of the Draft Bylaws

**A motion was made by Mr. Arthur LeBaron, seconded by Mr. Daren Cottam, to approve to recommend to the Rural Transportation Executive Council the adoption of the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization Bylaws, with the following changes:**

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- 1) In the title for Article III, change the name 'Technical Advisory Committee' to 'Transportation Advisory Committee'.
- 2) In Article III, Section 1, and Section 5, Item 7, change the name 'Technical Advisory Committee' to 'Transportation Advisory Committee'.
- 3) In Article III, Section 5, Item 3, the specific naming of the other communities in Eastern Washington County which could send representatives to meetings as ex-officio non-voting members.
- 4) In Article III, Section 5, Item 11, the address of the Five County Association was added; also that notice of the RTAC meetings will be posted at the meeting location, as well as on the Utah Public Notice Website.

**AYE VOTES – 3, ABSTAIN – 1**

V. Presentation of the Draft Eastern Washington County Transportation Study and other Studies

Mr. Mike Miles from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) reviewed the Draft of the Eastern Washington County Transportation Study with the Committee. The Study consists of roadway characteristics of Highways 9, 17, and 59 along with improvement project suggestions. The project ideas were developed and influenced by feedback from the general public and community leaders of the populations along those highways. UDOT has done some initial project prioritization, but Mr. Miles encouraged the Committee members to review the Study and make priorities according to the desires of their own communities. UDOT is required to prioritize transportation projects, but prefers to do so in cooperation with local interests.

Every year UDOT must create a five-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) indicating which projects are going to be funded and at what cost. In choosing which projects are to be funded, additional consideration is given to projects supported by a consortium. Agreement between communities about what work needs to be done first, indicates how important that need is. An RPO allows for this type of communication and planning to happen.

Mr. Myers said that the STIP planning process begins in October and continues for four months. The sooner RTAC can submit its priorities to UDOT, the better chance of having their suggestions considered in the STIP planning process.

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Committee members asked about obtaining copies of the Eastern Washington County Transportation Study (EWCTS). Curt said he would talk to Horrocks Engineering about getting copies.

Mr. Hutchings pointed out that the EWCTS can serve as the basis for an Emerging Area Study, a task requested by UDOT for new RPO's. There are areas outside of the Study that still need to be considered. Mr. Hutchings encouraged Committee members to bring forward additional needs and projects, along with the task of prioritizing projects suggested by UDOT.

Mr. Myers mentioned a new study and additional projects along the I-15 Corridor. There was some discussion regarding a suggested Toquerville bypass road; also the 600 North project. Mr. Hutchings noted that there are many projects to be considered, but while prioritizing, don't eliminate a project completely. It is important to respect the opinions voiced in public forums.

Ms. Foran emphasized that planning should include all means of transportation, not just motorized traffic. Sometimes bicycle/pedestrian projects can be funded more easily than motorized projects. The RPO should be considering all types of transportation, including bus transit.

Mr. Hutchings reminded the RPO members that they will be targeting and prioritizing transportation projects over the course of months. More and different kinds of demographic, mobility, and long term factors need to be considered and information collected. Using this opportunity to give input to UDOT for the upcoming STIP is valuable, but the RPO is just beginning its task list. There are needs in the RPO area that haven't been observed and targeted yet.

Mr. LeBaron suggested the need for an interim work session before the next scheduled RTAC meeting, possibly before the upcoming RTEC meeting so that the RTAC recommendations could be considered by the Executive Council. It was decided for all Committee members to take the EWCTS project list, along with information from the SR 9 and 600 N Hurricane studies, and create a prioritized list of projects. New projects could also be included. At the work session, the Committee will discuss and search for consensus on priorities.

Staff will invite and include representatives from the communities in the eastern part of the County to join the discussion, and will prepare maps and tables to facility the collaboration process.

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VI. Other/Future Topics

The Committee decided there was reason to have a work meeting before the next scheduled meeting. The work meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2008, beginning at 1:30 pm at the Hurricane City Council Chambers.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2008 at 1:30 pm to be held at the LaVerkin City Hall.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.