

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, September 30, 2015 - 12 Noon
Beaver Creek Lodge
(27 miles east of Logan in Logan Canyon)
(13 miles west of Garden City in Logan Canyon)**

MINUTES
(APPROVED)

PRESENT

County Executive Craig Buttars
Commissioner Bill Cox
Mayor Roger Fridal
Commissioner Jeff Hadfield

Mayor Craig Petersen
Council Member Val Potter
Commissioner Stan Summers
Commissioner Tom Weston

EXCUSED

Commissioner Jeff Scott
Mayor John Spuhler
Commissioner Norm Weston

Mayor Sim Weston
Council Member Cory Yeates
Mayor Tyler Vincent

BRAG STAFF PRESENT

Roger Jones
Brian Carver

Zac Covington
Dolores Berkley

OTHERS PRESENT

Vicki Fenton
Nathan Jackson
Mitch Poulsen
Ryan Wilcox
Matt Coombs
Blain Hamp
Whitney Norton

Department of Workforce Services
Senator Orrin Hatch's Office
Bear Lake Regional Commission
Senator Mike Lee's Office
Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Forestry, Fire & State Lands

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MINUTES

Council Member Val Potter, Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Beaver Creek Lodge in beautiful Logan Canyon. Introductions were made. Nathan Jackson from Senator Orrin Hatch's office was welcomed and acknowledged.

Potter asked if there were any changes or additions to today's agenda or the minutes of July 22, 2015. Commissioner Bill Cox **MOVED** to approve; County Executive Craig Buttars **SECONDED** and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

HISTORY AND OVERVIEW OF BEAVER CREEK LODGE

Bryan Lundahl, owner of Beaver Creek Lodge, thanked the group for coming and said he was very honored to have us visit the lodge. He provided a brief history and said that his family has been the owners for the past 23 years. The parcel of land started with 40 acres and has expanded to 53 acres. The lodge is ranked as one of the top snowmobiling areas in the West and serves groups all over the world. Spring through fall months, guests can enjoy beautiful mountain horseback rides in the Cache National Forest; Beaver Creek Lodge is also a great choice for family reunions. A master plan made in 2011 could add another lodge in the future.

An excellent "dutch oven" luncheon prior to the meeting was provided by Dwain Burbank, D & B Catering.

REPORT FROM DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE, AND STATE LANDS

Brian Cottam, State Forester/Director, reported on the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. The Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands manages, sustains and strengthens Utah's forests, rangelands, sovereign lands and watersheds for its citizen and visitors (See information on the ffsl.utah.gov website).

Blaine Hamp talked about the 1.5 million acres in state lands and 700,000 acres of sovereign lands in the Bear River Region. He has the responsibility for Box Elder, Cache and Rich Counties.

Sovereign lands consist of the beds of Utah's navigable rivers and lakes. The beds of the Jordan and Bear River as well as portions of the Colorado and Green River are state sovereign lands. The beds of Great Salt Lake, Utah Lake and Bear Lake are all managed by the Division under the "Public Trust" doctrine.

Zach Maughan, former BRAG planner, was in attendance and talked about his new responsibilities with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands in coordinating education and prevention with private land owners. Please call his office to make him aware of any needs or projects.

Matt Coombs, Sovereign Lands Coordinator in Rich County, has the fire suppression responsibility.

The Utah Wildland Fire Policy brochure was distributed and includes: Wildfire Prevention; Wildfire Preparedness, and Wildfire Suppression. The brochure outlines the current State Wild and Fire Suppression Fund and proposes a new program for counties and/or municipalities in partnership with the State of Utah whose strategy is to reduce catastrophic wild fires. (See handout for detail.)

Potter thanked Cottam and the group for their informative reports.

ADOPTION PROCESS FOR REGIONAL PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN

Zac Covington, BRAG's Regional Planner, reported on the adoption process for the regional pre-disaster mitigation plan. Covington distributed a Project Summary which included:

Purpose of the Plan; Natural Hazards Mapped, Analyzed, and Addressed in the Plan; Potential Loss Analysis; Meetings Held; and Mitigation Strategy Surveys. The Final Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan is available on the BRAG website at www.brag.utah.gov. For more information, please contact Zac Covington at 435.752.7242 or zacc@brag.utah.gov.

The plan was approved in July and each community must adopt their plan through resolution. Covington said Box Elder County and Tremonton City have already adopted their plans. (See Resolution Form)

FEMA asked if BRAG might be interested in partnering with Cache County, Forestry, Fire, and State lands and others in ways to implement projects.

There will be meetings with BRAG and Cache County on October 28-29 to discuss floodplain issues in Cache County; contact Zac for more information.

Chairman Val Potter asked for a motion to approve the plan. Commissioner Bill Cox made the **MOTION** to approve; Commissioner Tom Weston **SECONDED** and approval was unanimous. Val Potter highly complimented Zac and the BRAG planning staff for their great work on this project.

PREPARING COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Brian Carver, BRAG Community and Economic Development Director, talked about the funding necessary for the regional County Resource Management Plans. HB 323 amends the Utah State Code-Title 17 requiring counties to include resource management plans in general plans “as a basis for communicating and coordinating with the federal government on land and resource management issues.” There are 27 elements that the plan must address.

Handouts were distributed as follows: 1) Public Lands in Utah: Total County Acreage, Population, % Federal, and % State Land Per County; 2) Federal & State Land in Utah by Agency and County (2015)

Carver said BRAG applied and was awarded \$150,000 from the Permanent Community Impact Board (PCIB). The funding has restrictions: it can be used to collect information but cannot be used to write the plans.

BRAG planning staff is available to provide information and data for the resource management plans. Carver said they would like to meet with each of the County officials in the very near future to discuss priorities and what focus might be. Considerable information is already available. Over the next six to nine months, we will continue to work on the strategies.

SAGE GROUSE PRESERVATION EFFORTS

Roger Jones, BRAG Executive Director, reported that Sage Grouse Preservation continues to be a hot topic. The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced last week that the greater sage

grouse does not warrant specific protection under the Endangered Species Act; however, related federal plans and regulations will be onerous.

Jones mentioned that Commissioner Stan Summers has been appointed to the Utah Quality Growth Commission.

DISCUSSION ON CLOUD SEEDING

Roger Jones referred to letters that were sent to the counties about the annual cloud seeding operations. In past years, both the Bear River Water Conservancy District and Cache County Corporation have participated in funding cloud seeding. The long-term results show consistent increases in snowfall and water supply. Cache County has already approved their participation in the program. Box Elder County will more than likely participate, as in years past, using the funding from the Water Conservancy District. Mayor Fridal sits on the water conservancy board and expressed some skepticism. Rich County has decided not to participate and will put funding toward mosquito abatement instead.

OTHER BUSINESS

BRAG Governing Board members and staff are invited to the annual Christmas Party to be held on Thursday, December 3rd. The American Festival Chorus will be featured at the Ellen Eccles Theatre at 7:30 p.m. A light buffet will be provided between 6 and 7:15 p.m. at the Bluebird Restaurant.

Brian Carver distributed information on the Northern Utah Regional Conference for Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties. The event will be held on Thursday, November 5th from 11:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the Bridgerland Applied Technology College-West Campus in Logan. The event is hosted by the Governor's Office of Economic Development-Office of Rural Development and its purpose is to ensure that the many state and federal business assistance programs are being effectively presented to all parts of rural Utah. See handout for more information.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. for a short tour of the area.