

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 – 12 Noon
Box Elder County Courthouse
Third Floor Conference Room
1 South Main in Brigham City

MINUTES

(Approved June 1, 2016)

PRESENT

County Executive Craig Buttars	Council Member Val Potter
Commissioner Bill Cox	Commissioner Stan Summers
Mayor Roger Fridal	Mayor Tyler Vincent
Commissioner Jeff Hadfield	Commissioner Norm Weston
Commissioner Jeff Scott	Mayor Sim Weston
Mayor Craig Petersen	Council Member Cory Yeates

EXCUSED

Mayor Darrell Simmons	Commissioner Tom Weston
Mayor John Spuhler	

BRAG STAFF PRESENT

Roger Jones	Kent Watson
Brian Carver	Dolores Berkley
Zac Covington	

OTHERS PRESENT

Mark Bradley	Brigham City Planning Office
Rebecca Dilg	Box Elder County
Robert Grow	Envision Utah
Sandy Kester	Senator Orrin Hatch's Office
Scott Lyons	Box Elder County
John Newhall	Congressman Rob Bishop's Office
Debbie Sparks	Department of Workforce Services
Bryce Wheelwright	Willard City

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES

Council Member Val Potter, Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Box Elder County Courthouse in Brigham City. Robert Grow of Envision Utah was acknowledged and introductions were made.

Potter asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes of November 24, 2015. The minutes were **APPROVED** unanimously with a **MOTION** by Council Member Cory Yeates and **SECOND** by Commissioner Bill Cox.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2016

Chair Val Potter, opened the floor for nominations for the 2016 BRAG Governing Board Chair. Following the past practice and custom of rotating the chairmanship from county to county and elevating the vice chair to that position, Council Member Cory Yeates then **MOVED** to nominate Commissioner Stan Summers who has been the Vice Chair; Commissioner Norm Weston **SECONDED**. There was no opposition and Commissioner Summers was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

It is Rich County's turn in the rotation to select a Vice Chair. Nominations were opened for Vice Chair of the BRAG Governing Board. Commissioner Stan Summers **MOVED** to nominate Mayor Sim Weston as the Vice Chair; the MOTION was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Bill Cox and **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**. Potter continued with the meeting.

REPORT FROM ENVISION UTAH

Robert Grow, Chief Executive Office of Envision Utah, provided a Power Point presentation: "*Your Utah, Your Future*" *VISION FOR 2050* which is the culmination of more than two years of collaboration with more than 400 experts and more than 60,000 Utahns participating in this process. Utah's population is projected to almost double by 2050.

Booklets of information were distributed for those present to take to their communities on the following: Agriculture, Air Quality, Disaster Resilience, Education, Energy, Housing and Cost of Living, Jobs and Economy, Public Lands, Recreation, Transportation and Communities, and Water.

Mr. Grow outlined the four "cornerstones" or core strategies for implementing the vision for Utah's future: 1) A Network of Quality Communities; 2) Homes, Buildings, Landscaping, and Cars of the Future; 3) A Thriving Rural Utah; 4) People Prepared for the Future.

Trends Discussed:

- Continued increase in internet sales; problems for "brick and mortar" stores.
- Building lots are getting smaller.
- Tool box to help farmers be more profitable in Utah County. Jeff Scott asked for one on agriculture.

Utahns envision a future in which their state and communities are safe, secure and resilient. The values study found that Utahns treasure three primary characteristics about their state: Safe and Secure Environment, Cost of Living/Economic Opportunity, and Scenic Beauty/Outdoor Recreation. They are strongly concerned about poor Air Quality (Urban Residents) and Overbearing Federal Government (Rural Residents).

In closing, Mr. Grow said "Let's leave a great quality of life for our kids."

Detailed information can be found on the Envision Utah website: <http://envisionutah.org>

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- **Second Public Hearing to Gather Input on Projects to be Sponsored by BRAG**

Outgoing Chair Val Potter **DECLARED** the public hearing **OPEN** and read the following for the record.

We will now open the second public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant program. This hearing is being held to allow all citizens to provide input concerning the projects awarded under the 2016 CDBG program.

BRAG has amended its regional Capital Improvement List and decided to apply for the following projects:

- \$50,000 for local CDBG program administration and consolidated planning
- \$30,000 for local economic development assistance to small businesses
- \$40,000 for Emergency Home Repairs
- \$17,250 for housing program delivery
- \$2,000 for lead based paint inspection
- \$55,000 for homebuyer assistance program including \$20,000 for homebuyer education training.

BRAG will receive \$194,250 total in set-asides, of which \$95,000 will pass through to clients and \$99,250 will be used for staffing.

The floor is now open to any public comments or questions.

Copies of the Capital Improvement List will be available on the BRAG website at www.brag.utah.gov or by request at the front desk beginning April 1st.

If there are no further comments, I will accept a motion to close the public hearing.

Brian Carver, BRAG Community and Economic Development Director, said the above information was noticed in all four newspapers—*Box Elder News Journal*, *The Herald Journal*, *The Tremonton Leader*, and *The Uinta County Herald*.

There were no members of the public to provide comment. Council Member Potter **CLOSED** the public hearing with a **MOTION** from Council Member Cory Yeates and **SECOND** by Mayor Roger Fridal.

BRAG's Executive Director Roger Jones commented on the importance of the BRAG Set-Asides funding and that it has been reduced approximately \$60,000 or about 24%. When asked about the reasoning for the reduction, Brian Carver said the State of Utah felt we were holding too much out in terms of program delivery for the emergency home repair program, first time homebuyer program, and for staffing.

Commissioner Jeff Scott made the **MOTION** to approve the projects as outlined but with the caveat that BRAG staff would determine the best use of the funding set aside for homebuyer education. Potter asked that it be reviewed by BRAG Governing Board members before proceeding with any change. Mayor Craig Petersen **SECONDED** and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

- **Review Results of CDBG Rating and Ranking Process**

Brian Carver reported that the Community Investment Council/Rating and Ranking Committee met prior to this meeting. Carver said that we are #2 in the State in the way we administer our projects; we spend the allocations quickly and on very useful projects. This year because it is a population-weighted formula and Utah's population continues to grow, we will receive a little increase in allocations.

There is an estimated \$526,520 available to allocate to projects in the Bear River Region after the BRAG Set-Asides of \$194,250. There were seven (7) applicants this year requesting \$862,014. Five were fully funded and two (2) will be partially funded.

The following allocations will be recommended to the State of Utah. Using the scoring criteria, the results were as follows in order of scoring (See the 2016 CDBG Rating & Ranking Results):

Smithfield/The Family Place/Facility Improvements	\$ 116,706
Tremonton/Senior Center/Food Pantry Backups	89,446
Trenton Town/Water System Improvements	152,300
Snowville Town/Curb, Gutter, Sidewalk	100,000
Hyrum City/Bear River Head Start/Playground Equipment	30,304
Cache County/Cache County Senior Center/Meals-On-Wheels	37,764

Carver stated that Rich County has not had any projects for a few years and he will work with them to encourage future projects.

Commissioner Jeff Scott made the **MOTION** in support of the above recommendations; Commissioner Norm Weston **SECONDED** and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

- **Public Hearing on the 2016 Action Plan for Implementing the Regional Consolidated Plan**

Brian Carver presented the 2016 Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan Update. This is a five-year plan and this is the last year for the update. Council Member Val Potter **DECLARED** the public hearing open and read the following for public record:

We will now open the public hearing for the Bear River Region 2016 Action Plan Update for 2015 Regional Consolidated Plan.

Bear River Association of Governments has updated the regional 2016 Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan for Box Elder, Cache & Rich Counties Utah as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and State of Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (CIB). The Consolidated Plan examines needs, and proposes priorities for public expenditures related to providing safe and affordable housing, providing for suitable living environments and promoting economic development opportunities. The purpose of this public hearing is to collect comments on the 2016 Annual Action Plan and regional housing priorities.

The floor is now open to any public comments or questions.

Copies of the 2016 Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan Update are available on the BRAG website at www.brag.utah.gov or by request from the Cache County BRAG Office at 170 North Main Street in Logan, Utah.

If there are no further comments, I will accept a motion to close the public hearing. The public hearing was **CLOSED** with a **MOTION** by Council Member Yeates and **SECOND** by Mayor Fridal.

HOUSING AUTHORITY SERVICES REPORT

- **Public Hearing on Housing Authority Annual Plan**

Council Member Val Potter and Chair of the Housing Authority Board **DECLARED** the Public Hearing **OPEN** on the Housing Authority Annual Plan.

Housing Authority Board members in attendance were as follows: Mayor Roger Fridal, Mayor Craig Petersen, Council Member Val Potter-Chair, Mayor Tyler Vincent, and Commissioner Norm Weston.

Kent Watson, BRAG Housing and Human Services Director, reviewed the Housing Authority Fact Sheet dated February 1, 2016. The Total number of Vouchers is 566; Logan City Housing Authority-444 and Bear River Regional Housing Authority-122. There are 668 families currently on the waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. See detailed information on the Housing Authority Fact Sheet.

- **Changes to Administrative Plan**

Annually the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires a review and update of the PHA 5-Year and Annual Plan. The Streamlined Annual PHA Plan and the PHA 5-Year and Annual Plan were included in the information distributed for review. Public notices were advertised in the following newspapers: *Box Elder News Journal, The Herald Journal, Tremonton Leader, and Uinta County Herald.*

The Bear River Regional/Logan City Housing Authorities continue to have a 98% or better lease-up rate. Watson asked for approval of the Administrative Plan.

Housing Authority Board of Commissioner, Chair Val Potter, asked for approval. Mayor Tyler Vincent **MOVED** to adopt the Public Housing Authority 5-Year and Annual Plan; Commissioner Norm Weston **SECONDED** and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

There were no members of the public to provide comment; the public hearing was **CLOSED** with a **MOTION** by Mayor Petersen and **SECOND** by Mayor Fridal.

Roger Jones commented that we are seeing more homeless persons.

Economic Outlook for Box Elder County

Commissioner Jeff Scott provided and reviewed the Economic & Demographic Summary for Box Elder County. He expressed his appreciation to BRAG staff for the information (See Handout). Scott said they are well under the state average for unemployment.

They have lost a good deal of high paying jobs since 2008 and have underemployment; however, he felt they were doing extremely well considering where they have been.

Jones said he represents Logan City on the Cache Valley Transit District Board and asked if it would help Box Elder County/Brigham City to have CVTD assist in reviewing and improving transportation services. There was interest in exploring options.

BRAG SERVICES REPORT

Roger Jones, BRAG Executive Director, distributed the BRAG Quarterly Winter 2016 Newsletter. BRAG is in its "45th Year of existence which began in 1971. All Governing Board Members should have received an issue. Jones briefly reviewed the 2015 Summary of Services by Department of *What Does BRAG Do* which included highlights of Aging Services, Community Development & Planning, Economic Development and Job Creation, Housing, Human Services and In General information (See Handout).

At County Officials Day on the 29th of January and meeting with Governor Gary Herbert, we were asked to review our economic development efforts and resources. Brian Carver created the Strategic Economic Development Resources handout of information which was distributed by Jones (See Handout).

REVIEW AND APPROVE PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD ROSTERS

Roger Jones distributed the BRAG Advisory Boards for review. Governing Board members will review the boards and contact Jones for any corrections or suggestions.

The Compensation/Audit Committee was **APPROVED** unanimously with a **MOTION** by Commissioner Yeates and **SECOND** by Mayor Petersen. The committee members will remain the same; however, Commissioner Stan Summers will be the Chair and Mayor Sim Weston will be the Vice Chair.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Scott had questions on the project-based vouchers for Box Elder Commons. Watson said they have 9 on the Housing Choice Voucher program (Section 8); 3 on the waiting list and 2 using new funding from Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund. Jones said the housing authority will work closely with Bear River Mental Health to provide those eligible with housing assistance. Where possible, some of the requirements might have to be waived for mental health clients.

ADJOURN

Council Member Val Potter, the outgoing chair, **ADJOURNED** the meeting at 2:07 p.m. He said he enjoyed and appreciated being the chair this past year.
