

## **MINUTES**

### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**April 11, 2012**

**Parowan, Utah**

#### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Commissioner Clare Ramsay, Chair  
Mayor Jerry Taylor, Vice-Chair  
Ken Platt  
Commissioner Chad Johnson  
Alan Adams  
Commissioner Denny Drake

#### **REPRESENTING**

Garfield County Commissioner Representative  
Garfield County Mayor Representative  
Garfield County Schools Representative  
Beaver County Commissioner Representative  
Iron County Schools Representative  
Washington Co. Commissioner Representative

#### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Marreen Casper  
Teresa Banks  
Wayne Monroe  
Ken Sizemore  
Diane Lamoreaux  
Doug Carlson

Senator Hatch's Office  
Department of Workforce Services  
Utah State Parks  
Five County Association of Governments  
Five County Association of Governments  
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#### **MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Mark Yardley  
Carolyn White, Excused  
Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff  
Mayor Connie Robinson  
Commissioner Douglas Heaton, Excused  
Mayor Nina Laycook  
Wendy Allan  
LuAnne Forrest  
Mayor Darrin LeFevre  
Dorian Page  
Frank Lojko

Beaver County Mayor Representative  
Beaver County Schools Representative  
Iron County Commissioner Representative  
Iron County Mayor Representative  
Kane County Commissioner Representative  
Kane County Mayor Representative  
Kane County Schools Representative  
Washington Co. Schools Representative  
Washington Co. Mayor Representative  
Southern Utah University  
Dixie State College of Utah

Commissioner Clare Ramsay, Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance. Those asking to be excused include Commissioner Douglas Heaton, Kane County Commissioner Representative and Mayor Nina Laycook, Kane County Mayor Representative.

Chairman Ramsay indicated that a quorum was not present for conduct of business and asked that non-action items be covered for information purposes.

#### **I. MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2012 - REVIEW & APPROVE**

Approval of minutes to be deferred to the next Steering Committee meeting.

Mr. Sizemore asked to proceed Agenda Item # III. Legislative Report to allow Representative Lowry Snow the opportunity to cover items of interest from the recent session. He provided a brief introduction for the newest representative of District 74.

### **III. LEGISLATIVE REPORT - REPRESENTATIVE LOWRY SNOW**

Representative Lowry Snow expressed his appreciation to the Board for allowing him the privilege of making a report to the committee and noted that he would like to periodically attend the Steering Committee to become more aware of local issues in rural Utah. He indicated that his appointment came after the resignation of Representative David Clark who resigned to pursue a congressional campaign. The recent session of the Utah State Legislature was very fast moving and a lot of bills were introduced. The rural southern Utah delegation works very well together to address issues of importance to the area. He expressed interest in receiving input from the public regarding any legislation that needs to be considered and/or legislation that is in the process. One major accomplishment was approval of a balanced budget for the state of Utah. There was an increase of \$4 million in revenues, of which a large amount was allocated to fund education. There were no new tax cuts or hikes in taxes approved during the session. The pace for this 45-day session was very rigorous for debate and legislation approval. Close to 1,000 bills are considered each year in the Utah State House and Senate. The start of the session was somewhat slow in comparison to the last days. The lobby effort in Utah is quite impressive. There is a big push for lobbyists to confer with legislators and a considerable amount of interaction with lobbyists and the news media.

This legislative session theme could be titled "State Rights and Sovereignty". A handout was provided which depicts the amount of public lands in the state of Utah. Legislators feel that in order for Utah to prosper in the future, there is a need to have access to public lands. This is a promise contained in the Enabling Act. HB 148 is an attempt to bring this issue forward to the federal government. He provided several copies of a white paper prepared by the Attorney General's office that gives a historical background of public lands management in Utah. This is a fruitful area for discussion that needs to be brought to a head for dialogue to occur.

Utah also joined five other states in the Healthcare Compact to request that the state opt out of "Obama Care". Instead of Medicare and Medicaid being administered by the federal government, federal funds to the state of Utah for these programs would be managed by Utah.

Mr. Ken Sizemore commented that one great concern with rural representation is that legislators need to look at the impacts to rural areas in Utah when considering legislation. Another concern is with the recent legislation that merges the Division of Housing and Community Development into the Department of Workforce Services. A special committee has been established to work through this transition. However, nowhere in state government is there reference to Community Development. This legislation could have a lot of unintended consequences that may need to be addressed in the future. The community development mission could definitely become lost in workforce services. Representative Snow acknowledged some of the concerns that have been expressed and requested that he be contacted and briefed as issues surface.

## **II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION**

Mr. Ken Sizemore reviewed Executive Committee actions for information purposes as follows: **1) Fringe Benefit Package--** Authorization was provided to move forward in the budgeting process with IHC Select Health insurance which includes a seven percent (7%) increase in premiums. Each employee will be required to contribute a \$100.00 monthly co-pay towards the cost of the premium. The Executive Committee authorized the merit system to resume beginning July 1, 2012; **2) Cost-of-Living Adjustment FY 2013--** Authorization was provided for a 1% cost-of-living adjustment to all employees to help offset the insurance premium co-pay; **3) County Participation--** Each of the five counties provide \$15,000 towards administrative and match requirements for the AOG. This amount will be remain at \$15,000 for FY 2013; **4) Indirect Cost Allocation Plan for FY 2013--** The plan was approved and the rate remains at 11.1%; **5) Meal Per Diem Rates--** Approval was given to increase in-state meal per diem rates from \$30.00 to \$36.00 and out-of-state meal rates from \$38.00 to \$45.00. Mileage rates will remain at \$.30 per mile. This will be effective July 1, 2012; and **5) Budget Revisions--** Budget revisions for FY 2012 were reviewed by the Executive Committee and approved. The majority of revisions include increases in revenue for the various cost centers. An electronic participation meeting will be required to ratify these actions.

## **IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

### **A. FY 2012 PROJECT RATING AND RANKING**

Ms. Diane Lamoreaux provided copies of the staff recommendations for allocation of FY 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the Five County AOG. Because of the amount of funds available for reallocation (\$325,320), all applications submitted will be funded. Iron County on behalf of the Beryl Fire SSD and Big Water tied for #1. The remaining projects scored as follows: Hatch Town #2, Minersville Town #3, and Orderville Town #4. Staff is recommending that the Iron County/Beryl Fire SSD project also receive the second year of funding in the amount of \$150,000. In addition, funds are available to provide \$43,764 towards the second year of the Minersville Town project. The Minersville project will receive the remainder of funds from the FY 2013 allocation for total funding of \$300,000. Because a quorum was not present, no action was taken. An electronic participation meeting will be required in order to comply with state program requirements for submission of Rating and Ranking of projects.

### **B. CONSOLIDATED PLAN RESOLUTION**

Ms. Diane Lamoreaux referenced a resolution contained on page 14 of the packet to adopt the 2012 Consolidated Plan One-Year Action Plan, Excel tool and appendices. The 30-day comment period ends on April 14<sup>th</sup> and any comments provided prior to that date will be incorporated into the Plan. The Plan has been submitted to the state of Utah for incorporation into the state of Utah's Consolidated Plan and submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Update was provided for informational purposes with no action taken.

**V. WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REVIEW**

Mr. Doug Carlson referenced pages 15-16 of the packet which provides information on the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The main goal of the program is to make homes more energy efficient. The program provides assistance to low-income individuals and families throughout the Five County region. Mr. Carlson explained that workers perform an energy audit for each home utilizing a program provided through the U.S. Department of Energy. The program determines the extent of measures that can be performed and may also conclude that it would not be cost-effective to work on the home. Funding for the program comes from four sources as follows: 1) U.S. Department of Energy; 2) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); 3) Questar; and 4) Rocky Mountain Power. Each client's eligibility must be determined at 200% of the poverty level to qualify for this program. Renters that are income eligible may also participate in the program through utilization of a landlord agreement. However, the landlord is required to pay 50% of major measures provided.

Commissioner Chad Johnson indicated that the Beaver County Building Official has expressed concern with some of the homes that have been weatherized where it would be questionable if the structure would be considered a livable dwelling. Mr. Carlson explained that this is not a determination that would be made by the Weatherization Program staff. If a home has been condemned by the building official, measures would not be performed under the Weatherization program. Staff has the ability to defer work until major repairs such as roof replacement are completed by the owner. It would not be beneficial to provide insulation in a structure that has a leaky roof. The program is very careful to not spend large amounts on a home that would not provide benefit in the long run. Instructions have been provided by state weatherization staff that it is not appropriate to make a determination as to whether a structure is livable or not. This is something that would be determined by the zoning official or through code enforcement.

Mr. Carlson reported that sufficient funding is in place through the end of 2013 to cover costs required to retain the current number of weatherization staff. Reductions in staffing could become a consideration as funding decreases or in the event that application intake falls below required levels. Referrals to the program generally come through the Home Energy Assistance Target (HEAT) program. Measures such as newspaper advertisement, radio spots, etc. may also be used to provide program information to the public. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds are coming to an end. It is proposed to let attrition trim down the crew size over time.

The reverse side of the handout reports that 134 households were assisted for the period July 1, 2011 through April 1, 2012. Numbers are broken down by county with the larger number of completed units in Iron and Washington counties. Mr. Sizemore reported that a recent monitoring visit by state staff indicated that they were very pleased with the organization and efficiency of the work being provided by the weatherization crews. He noted that this is one of the premier programs in the state in terms of weatherization work performed.

Board members asked what percentage of the allocation is used for staffing costs. Mr. Carlson indicated that about 70% of the funds received are for program support or materials and 30% is utilized to cover labor and administrative costs.

**VI. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE UPDATE**

John Bennett, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, was not in attendance.

**VII. UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE**

Nathan Lee, UDOT representative, was not in attendance.

**VIII. UTAH DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES UPDATE**

Ms. Teresa Banks, DWS, provided copies of each county economic profile and reviewed unemployment rates for each county. She briefed members regarding a work readiness evaluation targeted towards those who are unemployed. The purpose of this evaluation is to make sure that clients are looking for work and to provide assistance in writing resumes, interviewing techniques, etc. It was also reported that training programs are available through the DWS office.

**IX. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY UPDATE**

Dorian Page, SUU representative, was not in attendance.

**X. DIXIE STATE COLLEGE UPDATE**

Frank Lojko, Dixie State College representative, was not in attendance.

**XI. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES**

Ms. Marreen Casper, Senator Hatch's Office, indicated that Mike Empey asked to be excused today due to a conflicting appointment in Kane County. She reported that Heather Urban, Congressional Liaison to the Department of Interior and Secretary Salazar, and Gary Fraizer, Department of the Interior, visited Iron County on April 27<sup>th</sup> to tour various sites to assess the Prairie Dog situation. The tour included the Paragonah Cemetery, Parowan Airport and areas in Enoch City. Officials stressed that it is difficult to even say that the species is threatened or endangered given the numbers of animals that are on private land. Mr. Frazier indicated that the agency has tools under the 4D rule that can be enacted that will allow for the lethal taking of dogs at the Paragonah Cemetery and Parowan Airport because of cultural and safety issues. He committed to have the rule addressed by summer to address these two areas. Once property is fenced and the dogs have been trapped and removed, if new dogs come onto the property the rule would provide the ability to utilize lethal options. This is a small victory but it has not actually happened. Commissioner Brinkerhoff asked Mr. Frazier what would need to happen for Iron County to take over monitoring of the Prairie Dogs in conjunction with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. The response was a requirement to purchase land to establish a habitat. The Utah congressional delegation is very concerned that introducing legislation to deal with this issue would open the door for various amendments and in the current political climate it would be difficult to pass legislation. Under the current Habitat Conservation Plan, it will be difficult if not impossible to reach required numbers of Prairie Dogs in Iron, Garfield and Wayne counties.

Senator Hatch has been in the state of Utah for the past two days and will be participating in a debate on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at Dixie State College. The Senate is back from recess and will resume work on appropriations bills. However, it has been 4-5 years since an appropriations bill was passed and it appears that continuing resolutions are likely. Continuing resolutions have been trimming on-going funding to existing programs and it is not likely that new programs would be funded.

## **XII. LOCAL AFFAIRS**

### **A. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Sizemore referenced correspondence contained on pages 17-18 of the packet from the Color Country Fire Managers announcing the 2012 schedule of prescribed burns in the Five County area. This is included for information purposes.

### **B. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL**

None.

### **C. PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND BOARD (PCIFB) APPLICATIONS**

None.

### **D. PLANNING ASSISTANCE**

None.

### **E. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Sizemore reported that an open house was held last month to honor Bob Rasmussen on his retirement. The event was well attended and enjoyed by those in attendance. Scott Leavitt has now shifted over to serve as the Chief Financial Officer.

## **XIII. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS**

Mr. Sizemore reviewed three A-95 reviews contained in the packet as follows: **1) Trust Lands Administration--** Vandenberg Fire Seeding located in Iron County; **2) Trust Lands Administration--** Blawn Wash Pinyon/Juniper Removal project in Beaver County; and **3) Trust Lands Administration--** John's Valley Shrub-Steppe Improvement Project. All reviews have supportive staff recommendations. Action cannot be taken without a quorum.

Mr. Sizemore explained that it will be necessary to schedule an electronic participation meeting to take action on various items. Board members concurred that the meeting be scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. The announcement of this electronic meeting will be posted on the Utah Public Meeting website and information will be provided via e-mail to Steering Committee members. A follow-up telephone call will also be made to all members to assure that a quorum will be able to participate.

**Steering Committee Minutes**  
**April 11, 2012**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 in Panguitch. The courthouse remodel may be completed by that time and if so, the meeting will be moved from the library to the courthouse. Advance notice will be provided.

The meeting ended at 2:25 p.m.