MINUTES
Emery County
Public Lands Council
June 6, 2023

PLC: Ray Petersen, Sherrel Ward, Kim McFarlane, Les Wilberg, Leon McElprang, Bruce Wilson
PLC Absent: Rod Player, Wade Allinson, Ben Grimes,
PL STAFF: Jim Jennings (ECPL), Jan Olsen (Secretary)
Agencies: Commissioner Keven Jensen, Commissioner Jordan Leonard, Dal Gray (DOGM), Ryan Jones (UDAF), Jessica Mortenson (NRCS/UDAF), Kyle Beagley (BLM), Roger Fairbanks (AG), Brad Walker (State Parks), Jay Humphrey (EWCD), Nate Roberts (UDAF), Darren Olsen (USFS), Wayne Ludington (SRBCH), Bryan Torgerson (SITLA), Marc Stilson (DWRi), Chris Wood (USFS), Dan Benhorin (BLM) Kent Wilson (Romney), Joel Brown (Sen. Lee), Clay Crozier (PLPCO), Larry Ellertson (Rep. Curtis)
Electronically:
Public: Ed Geary

1. **Welcome**

2. **Approval of Minutes for May 2, 2023**
   Les Wilberg motioned to approve the May meeting minutes with a couple of changes, and Sherrel Ward seconded the motion, motion carries.
3. **Chairman Comments**
   The Committee has asked Jim Jennings to draft a letter from Public Lands to give support to the Exchange Land Act with the Dingle Act., while it is open for comment.
4. **Discuss the Field Trip for July, where, and when**
   The council decided to cancel the meeting for July and go on the Field Trip in August.

5. **Consider recommendations to Emery County Commissioners regarding the status of Des Bee Dove Motorized Trail (open or closed to motorized use).**
   There was a lot of discussion on this trail regarding the safety of it. It is unable to repair due to all the erosion. It is still usable for Cattlemen but very dangerous for motorized vehicles. It is the consensus of almost everyone in the room that they agree with closing this for motorized

use. Some even feel that it is not safe for single-track use. This was brought up to write a letter to our County Attorney and get the legal way to close this trail to motorized use only.
Tom's Trail, near this trail, is only used for livestock.
Ray Petersen will draft a letter to send to the County Attorney, Mike Olsen, for his legal opinion.

6. **Agency Reports and Council Member Comments**

   - **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**
     Kyle Beagley introduced Dan Vanhorin, who is the new field manager; he is from Colorado. He reported that on the recreation side, they are very busy with visitors; some of the trails are still snowed in but will open as soon as possible. Opening a new trail at Jurassic Park Monument.

     Kyle Beagley reported that the timeline for the Land exchange information will be sometime around January 2024

     Les Wilberg brought up that a company would like to improve the Milsite golf course and put improvements on the clubhouse and the back 9 holes. Kyle explained that where the golf course ownership is on BLM land and the other on the City of Ferron, it gets a little complicated and confusing when it comes to acquiring property that belongs to a state entity. The process takes quite a bit of time. Happy to sit down and talk about different options.

   - **Division of Water Rights (DWRi)**
     Division of Water Rights State Engineer Marc Stilson spoke about the historic snowpack in Utah. We have been blessed with mild weather and no flooding due to the slow melting.
     Most of all, the spillways will spill here in the next few days.
     Search and rescue repealed down the Joe's Valley spillway to see what issues needed addressing. The freezing and thawing of the water expanding and retracting has caused some cracks; patching must be addressed. The vertical direction looks great.
     Grant funding for water share changes, 200 million for the Agriculture department.

- **Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM)**
  Dal Gray oil and gas prices have gone down. They have had to hire a few people. Sen Hinkins is putting a tour on August 2, 2023, to discuss Highway 191 and 6, the oil traffic, and stop at Wild Cat loadout, tour at the Research Center and Power Plant.

- **Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)**
  Chris Wood gave an update. DWR owns the San Rafael properties, the upper section, and down to Fullers Bottom, the river running time of year is here, and the water is high; hoping individuals will be safe, as it is a high-traffic year. We are wildlife resources and need to be set up for recreation; we have a lot of traffic due to high waters. Bison is being maintained and staying for the time.
  Leon McElparng spoke about installing a breakaway system in the river to help those who are Kayaking. It is becoming more and more traffic in this area. There are fences and wires in the water that they could not see.

- **School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA).**
  Bryan Torgersen working on Bears Ears, is being introduced to the Washington Delegation moving forward. Spring auction is happening. Two (2) parcels in Emery County. Land west of GR is another parcel. The solar project, Ceder Mountain block, and some plant studies are happening now. North Emery Easement lease in Emery doing the EA shows no impact from these lands going from BLM to the State. Muddy Creek, Calf Canyon, and Cat Mesa Road. Mineral lease up at Lila Canyon, coal company is asking for a lease to expand for more room to grow.

- **Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF)**
  Daren Olsen states a Skyline HFA (Healthy Forest Act) meeting US-6 down to Fish Lake. Meeting here in the Swell Room tomorrow. Logging and Fuels Work is the main focus of the meeting.
  Ryan Neil is back; he is the supervisor. Access has been a big thing due to all the snow for a few weeks, and they should be open to Stevens Creek, Willow, Ferron Reservoir Millers Flat, and Potters Pond. Working lower on the mountain while everything is still snowed in. Wood permits are for sale through November. Sherrel Ward asked about grazing being moved out longer.

- **Utah State Parks**
  Jim Wells, manager of Dead Horse State Park, in July, Visitation is down just a tiny amount. Carmel Canyon trail with volunteer groups and work to make steps and level out Slopes
  GR is busy working on construction in the Camp Ground, which will be done in August.
  The golf course is busy, and more people are needed for the tournaments.
  Huntington, Millsite, and Scofield are my stuff, and it is ramping things up. Just fixing broken water pipes. Getting the internet up and running. All camping is booked for most of the Summer.

- **Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation**
  Brian Kurta is in Lake Powell, so he sent the information to report.
  We held our Trails Form in Richfield and appreciate everyone who attended the event. The second round of Grant opportunities for OHV related items is open for applications. The acceptance period is open from now to July 31, 2023. We continue to see OHV users take the OHV educational course. Our youth course has also seen an increase in compliance. We hired a new State Ranger, Bracken Yardley, for the Bullfrog area. During the off-season, he will be stationed in Bullfrog and conduct OHV patrols in arrears south of I-70. Lake Powell continues to rise. With Bullfrog and Wahweap main ramps are both open.

- **Utah State Department of Agriculture**
  Ryan Jones reported about grants closing recently, including the Spring 2023 optimized water grant. By the end of June, have funding available. The grant for 200 million will not have an application until later this year. Application for Predatory Animal grant, Utah Pollinator Habitat grant started plants and seeds. Agriculture VIP Program volunteer program for nutrients. New is Le Ray McCallister working Farming and Ranch. Russian Olive removal in Orangeville, volunteers to help.

- **PLPCO**
  Working on the land conservation letter getting it out soon. General Plan RFQ for Forest Service Federal Register was tabled to get more money from CIB, Grant Range 30,000.00-64,000.00.

- **Washington Delegation Staff**
  Kent Wilson (Sen. Romney) RPMPs land trades, training with agencies. BLM, Forest. Start paperwork to get this done in the next 10- years. Romney is for the Arizona Monument to move forward and have the Federal Government be proactive in helping Utah Rancher. Social Security is also being looked at 0.70 cents on the dollar but has yet to get much traction.
  Larry Ellertson (Cong Curtis) Debit ceiling did pass. Reduced spending by 2 Trillion. Cong. Curtis is discussing Climate change in September 2023.

7. **Commission Comments on Public Land Items**
   No comment
8. **Additional Issues From Council Members**
   No comment
9. **Concerned Citizens with Emery County-related issues**
   No comment

10. **Approval of entering into a Closed Session in order to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation.**
    This meeting was recorded but is private.

    Les Wilberg motioned to go into a closed session and was seconded by Kim McFarlane.

    Bruce Wilson has motioned to go out of the closed meeting to the open meeting, seconded by Leon McElprang.

1. **Adjourn**