

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.
Sunrise Resort
865 N Harbor Village Drive
Garden City, UT 84028
In Person Meeting with Zoom Option

MINUTES

PRESENT

Commissioner William Cox
Commissioner Stan Summers
Mayor Mike Leonhardt
Council Member Sandi Goodlander
County Executive David Zook

Commissioner Lee Perry
Mayor DJ Bott
Mayor Lyle Holmgren
Mayor Larry Jacobson
Commissioner Jon Lee

EXCUSED

Council Member Karl Ward
Commissioner Boyd Bingham
Mayor Scott Sabey

Mayor Holly Daines
Commissioner Sim Weston

BRAG STAFF

Brian Carver
Shawn Milne

Karen Merkley

OTHERS PRESENT

James Dixon
Sherry Stevens
Chandler Beutler
Lisa Roskelley
Derek Anderson
Representative Mike Petersen
Troy Lamb
Eslí Morales
April Groll

Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity
Utah Rural Outreach Manager
Senator Mitt Romney's Office
Congressman Blake Moore's Office
Senator Mike Lee's Office
Utah District 2
DWS Specialist for Bear River Area
City of Logan Deputy Recorder
Randolph Town Clerk

ZOOM

Senator Chris Wilson
Valerie Claussen
Glen Gammell
Michelle Mortensen

Utah District 2
Planning Outpost
Harrisville City
Midway Connection

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MINUTES

Commissioner William Cox, Chair, opened the meeting. He welcomed everyone to the BRAG Governing Board Meeting in beautiful Garden City. Introductions were made including those joining via Zoom. It was mentioned that Roger Jones, BRAG Executive Director, was recovering from a surgery and therefore was unable to attend the meeting.

Cox asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes of the May 24, 2023 Governing Board meeting. No changes were needed. Commissioner Summers made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes. Mayor Mike Leonhardt **SECONDED** the **MOTION** and the minutes were **APPROVED** unanimously.

RURAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FROM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (GOEO)

James Dixon, Community Grant Director, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity gave a presentation on the Rural Opportunity Programs. He along with Sherry Stevens, Utah Rural Outreach Manager, shared that their purpose of being in the meeting is to help the counties prepare to apply for the grants.

Currently there are three funding opportunities.

1. Rural Employment Development Incentive (REDI)
 - a. Grants paid directly to businesses creating new high-paying jobs in rural Utah communities.
 - b. A business may receive up to \$6,000 for each new position that is filled by a full-time employee for 12 consecutive months. A business entity may qualify for up to \$250,000 in REDI grants each year.
 - c. On-going application process
2. Rural County Grant (RCG)
 - a. A grant for rural county governments supporting economic development planning, projects, and activities that will lead to improved economies.
 - b. Includes business recruitment and development as well as workforce training.
 - c. Grant closes October 1, 2023.
3. Rural Communities Opportunity Grant (RCOG)
 - a. Similar purpose to RCG, these are competitive grants that require a funding match based on a community's population. Applications are scored based on measurable outcomes related to improving the community's overall economy, with an emphasis on business development not community development.
 - b. Associations of Governments can apply on their own with different criteria if the project will have regional effectiveness. Commissioner Summers suggested an Agriculture Park for the tri-county area.
 - c. Grant opens October 16 and closes November 17, 2023.

More information, including a PDF Guide to Applying for Grants, can be found at **business.utah.gov** under the Programs and Services tab.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Brian Carver, Director, BRAG Community & Economic Development Department reviewed the Local Administrative Advisor (LAA) Program which will provide support, help, and training to Utah cities and towns that have little administrative staff. Carver reported that in the BRAG region there are 39 cities and towns, 22 of which qualify for this program. BRAG will receive

what will be equivalent to a \$150,000 salary position. Based on the number of communities and the physical distance between them, it seems more appropriate for BRAG to contract out several part-time employees to logistically be able to be hands-on in supporting and attending local county meetings. These new local administrative advisors should be well qualified and versed in community government responsibilities so they can successfully work directly with town leaders to train and mentor as well as establish, examine, and implement community plans, budgets, etc. as necessary.

Commissioner Summers and Cache County Executive Zook considered an idea of having each community that utilizes a local administrative advisor, contribute some funds to add to the funding from the state to create local buy-in and commitment.

REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY TEAM

A Bear River Association of Governments Regional Opportunity Team has recently been established to facilitate closer cooperation with the Governor's office and various state agencies. The purpose of this team is to help connect local governments with state resources. BRAG has met with Evan Curtis, Senior Budget & Policy Analyst and Strategic Planner from Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB), Sherry Stevens, Utah Rural Outreach Manager, and others, a couple of times already and plan to meet at least quarterly.

LOOKING BACK OVER PAST FIFTY YEARS

As part of the reminiscing of BRAG for the last 50 years, a newspaper article dated February 1, 1973 titled "Unit Elects Leaders" was shared. At that time, Don Chase, a Box Elder County Commissioner was elected as the chairman of the BRAG Governing Board. Bruce King, BRAG's executive director said the tri-county organization had been designated officially as the responsible governmental entity for the Community Action Program.

CONTINUING REGIONAL COOPERATION OVER THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS

Distributed were drafted copies of the Interlocal Agreement Among Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties Extending Bear River Association of Governments for Another Fifty Years as well as each county specific Resolution to Continue Participation in Bear River Association of Governments for Another Fifty Years.

No MOTION to ACCEPT the documents was made during the meeting.

Commissioner Bill Cox, BRAG Governing Board Chair, will meet with BRAG Executive Director Roger Jones to further discuss these resolutions.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Shawn Milne, BRAG Regional Economic Development Department/Quality Growth Director began his report by letting elected officials know that he is available to have economic discussions with any city or town in our tri-county area that desires his help. Milne created an informative powerpoint presentation recommending a portion of the Rural Community Opportunity Grant go towards a Bear River Agri-Park Feasibility Study. Members of the BRAG Governing Board expressed several concerns about how to help agriculture in northern Utah thrive, keep open spaces and productive working farms. Elected leaders want to preserve these great aspects of our area for future generations. They aren't sure what to do, but agreed they would like to do something to help the agriculture stay a big part of our economy. Therefore, a MOTION was made by Commissioner Summers and a SECOND by Mayor Holmgren to

APPROVE that Shawn Milne begin the process of the grant application for funding of the Bear River Agri-Park Feasibility Study. With the acknowledgement that all three counties would need to contribute towards the required matching funds needed. The **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RICH COUNTY

Mayor Mike Leonhardt said Fall is the best time to be in Bear Lake, less tourists, beautiful fall foliage, and great weather. He said they are waiting for approval to start the marina expansion on the northside. They are working with UDOT to extend the bike trail from the marina to the Idaho border. New baseball fields are being built near Heritage Park. All the pickleball courts in town keep busy. Most of the housing development going on is for short term rentals, currently there are around 700 rentals. He talked about the balance of managing 1,000 people to 100,000 during peak season.

Commissioner William Cox added that construction of 3.5 miles of the bike path along the west side of the lake and Rendezvous Beach is also in the works. Also, trails for utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) are being created that connect housing areas directly to forest areas.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Cox, asked board members to consider the following ideas for the 2023 BRAG Governing Board Christmas Party:

- Count the November 29, 2023 Governing Board Meeting held at Brigham City's Academy Square. Have an extra nice catered meal at the meeting.
- Concert Only:
 - Offer tickets to board members and a guest to attend the American Festival Chorus and Orchestra – “Christmas From the Daines Concert Hall” with Special Guest Kurt Bestor on Saturday, December 9, 2:00 p.m.
- Lunch and Concert for Board Members:
 - Lunch for board members and guest prior to attending the matinee Concert on Saturday, December 9.

Board members chose the option of both a luncheon and the concert on Saturday, December 9, 2023.

Next BRAG Governing Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 29 in Brigham City.

ADJOURN

A **MOTION** to ADJOURN the Governing Board meeting was MADE by Mayor DJ Bott with a **SECOND** by Commissioner Summers. The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 3:00 pm and was followed by a short BRAG Compensation/Audit Committee Meeting.