MINUTES
Emery County
Public Lands Council
December 5, 2023,

PLC: Rod Player, Ray Petersen, Leon McElprang, Ben Grimes, Sherrel Ward, Bruce Wilson, Leon McElprang, Ben Grimes
PLC Absent: Les Wilberg
PL STAFF: Jim Jennings (ECPL), Jan Olsen (Secretary)
Agencies: Commissioner Keven Jensen, Commissioner Jordan Leonard, Kyle Beagley (BLM), Jordan Davis (BLM), Brian Kurta (Outdoors Rec), Troy Herold (SITLA), Clay Crozier (PLPCO), Larry Ellertson (Rep. Curtis), ShiAnne Larsen (DWR), Bart Kettle (DOGM) Kent Wilson (Sen Romney).
Electronically: Kim McFarlane, Joel Brown (Sen. Lee), Terry (SITLA)
Public: Ed Geary,

- **Welcome**
  Rod Player welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- **Approval of Minutes for November 7, 2023**
  Bruce Wilson motioned to approve the meeting minutes, and Ben Grimes seconded the motion. Motion carries.

- **Chairman Comments**
  We have three vacancies on the Public Lands Board and will be advertising for these spots to be filled, one of the vacancies specializing in Historical Background. Please go to the Emery County Website and, under volunteer, fill out the form and submit it online; if you have trouble submitting it online, bring a copy to the Clerk's Office (Brenda Tuttle). The board will then gather and decide who best serves in Public Lands.

- **Agency Reports and Council Member Comments**

    - **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**
      The agency reports began with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requesting any reports of maintenance items needing attention on the BLM lands, such as signs, roads, cattle guards, or crossings on the river. Board member Leon McElprang expressed concern about the fences along the San Rafael River that have been removed. He questioned if break-away fences could be attached to permanent stands on the side of the river. Kyle Beagley suggested that he speak with Jaden Mead about these situations.

Construction projects on the BLM in Emery County, including power line revamping near Woodside, will be completed in the next few months. Beagley continued, sharing that the San Rafael Swell Travel Management Plan is now in the evaluation stage. It will be forthcoming when all the reviews have been completed.

He then spoke about the rumors circulating about Lila Canyon Mine shutting down and said that everything is still being determined as far as he knows. Still, they did find a lot of water inside and are recovering equipment, which could mean a probable closure. He did say that Fossil Rock is making steps to reenter the mine. Skyline Mine is also still having water problems.

Emery County Commissioner Keven Jensen then commented about an email the commission received from cooperating agencies with their concerns about all decisions being made nationally. Everything else was shut off and pushed out; no further discussion existed.

- **Division of Water Rights (DWRi)**
  No one in attendance

- **Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM)**
  Bart Kettle reported that a collaboration meeting will be held on January 10, 2023, from 9:00–12:00, in Price, USU building; lunch will be provided. The agenda will discuss Ridge Road, the San Rafael Research Center, the UDOT Transportation project, and Energy Development.

  Fossil fuels, and we are still determining what the future holds 30 years from now. Mineral types, such as Brine Wells minerals, will become more attractive. Extraction of Mineral from Brine Wells is very popular now; this could become ongoing. Lithium extraction in Brine Wells and removal of Brine Waters. There are a lot of questions that will need to be answered and addressed with the extraction of minerals from Brine Water. Are you worried about the chemicals used in the extraction process? Will they be harmful to the citizens? This will have to be addressed by the extraction team; ...it's a salty subject.

- **Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)**
  ShiAnne Larsen's report stated that it is capturing and relocating pronghorns to the San Rafael Swell area. There are currently about 160 antelope in this area, and the maximum number has always been about 600, which could be reached in a couple of years. These will be planted near Goblin Valley.

  A DWR Regional Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for Dec. 6 in Green River, and a proposal meeting on watershed restoration is scheduled for Jan. 24, also in Green River. At a recent wildlife meeting, it was reported that the protected use of scopes for muzzle-loader hunting was approved with the

provision that a one-power scope could be used if there are visual impairments. Different hunting restrictions to help improve deer production were also proposed at the meeting due to Utah's high number of predators

Christmas tree permits are available at recreation.gov or the Forest Service office in Ferron if anyone still needs one. The QR codes for campground fees need to be downloaded before getting to the campground on both the Forest Service and BLM.

.

- **School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA).**
  Troy Harold did a presentation regarding Drunkard Wash, Castle, Horn Shadow, Hunter Solar, Hwy 6, and Cedar Flats Solar projects. It explained some of the questions that have been asked regarding this endeavor, including looking at sites, talking to trust owners, and sight control and lease agreements.

  Ben Grimes made a motion as of a board and other governing body to the commission that we strongly oppose the SITLA solar project south of Cedar Mountain, and Sherrill Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF)**
  No one in attendance

- **Utah State Parks**
  No one in attendance

- **Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation**
  Utah State Recreation reported that December has been quiet, as they don't start grooming trails until there is about 24 to 28 inches of snow. Larry Johansen has rejoined the state to do instruction on the trails in this area. It was reported that once the trails are groomed, one could travel via snowmobile from Joe's Valley to the Utah-Wyoming border.

- **Utah State Department of Agriculture**
  No one was present

- **PLPCO**
  Clay Crozier reported on the travel management plan, IBLA claim was dismissed. Important Jobs have opened up GR, BLM, and Forrest positions. Encourage good people to take these jobs.

- **Washington Delegation Staff**
  Larry Ellertson issue of interest insurance accountability acts. Flavoring to whole milk for children. Charitable deductions. Explore Act expands public lands and outdoor recreation. Ticktock for the content that is on the internet; it

is very disturbing info. Tennessee walking horses, cruel and unusual punishment. He is leaning toward running for Senate.

Kent Wilson from Romney's office took a tour of Legislative People Sufco Coal Mine, You are the only board run by citizens of the County. Thanks for your hard work and doing your job seriously. PLPCO land issues are increasingly complex, and we need to have them apart from our government, the majority of issues going to lawsuits.

Merry Christmas from Sen. Romney.

- **Commission Comments on Public Land Items**
  Update about Long Street, nothing at this time. Meeting that Kim McFarlane will be attending next week. Send any historical information to him before the meeting.

- **Additional Issues From Council Members**
  Update on the water. In the 70% for moisture.
  Wish everyone a holiday season and be safe and enjoy.

- **Concerned Citizens with Emery County-related issues**
  Nothing at this time.

- **Adjourn**