

Meeting Minutes
Emery County Public Lands Council
April 2, 2024
10:00 AM
Emery County Courthouse
Canyon Conference Room

PLC: Rod Player, Les Wilberg, Kim McFarlane, Ray Petersen, Varian Allen, Leon McElprang, Bruce Wilson

Absent: Sherrel Ward, Ben Grimes

PL STAFF: Jim Jennings (ECPL), Jan Olsen (Secretary)

Visitors, Keven Jensen Commissioner, Jordan Leonard, Commissioner, Lynn Sitterud Commissioner, Clay Crozier (PLPCO), Bart Kettle (DOGM), Darren Olsen (USFS), Jaydon Mead, and Kyle Beagley (BLM), Bryan Torgerson (SITLA), Brian Kurta (UDOR), Wayne Ludington (SRBCH), Kevin Albrecht (USFS) Randall Stilson (public),

Electronically: Kim McFarlane (PLC), Hannah Larsen, Joel Brown (Sen. Lee), Nathan Martinez (USP)

1. Welcome

Chairman Rod Player opened the Emery County Public Lands meeting, stating that a working board member meeting will be held on May 7 at 12:30 p.m. to review maps on the Travel Management Plan.

2. Approval of Minutes for March 2023,

Varian Allen motioned to approve the March meeting minutes, and Les Wilberg seconded it. Motion passed.

3. Agency Reports and Council Member Comments

The Commissioners have chosen alternative D. The comment will end in May. Alternative B protects resources, including wilderness, endangered animals, and plant life. C is multiple-use, and this one is sensitive to resources. D covers the mining area and historical sites to identify open roads.

On April 16th there is a planning meeting from PLPCO/Studies 5,000 acres in size, naturalness, solitude, and unconfined recreation.

TMP is on the website; please write why we use the route, share any photos you have taken over the years, and show them how important this route is for you.

Get the word out that everyone needs to get the word out, so they can get a lot of feedback on the Travel plan to help make a difference.

- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Agency reports began with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) by Kyle Beagley and Jaydon Mead. They discussed the Travel Management Plan again and again.

Look at the 9-mile canyon developing parking and trails. Land sales 1 Hunter Power Plant Parcel of land 200 acres. Ferron, Millsite land sale, Jurassic Monument is open Thursday - Sunday from 10-5:00 there is a new interactive petting bone

- **Emery Water Conservancy District**

No one in attendance

- **Division of Water Rights (DWRi)**

Marc Stilson, with the Division of Water Rights, was out of town at another meeting.

- **Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM)**

Bart Kettle also reported that they are working on Carbon sequestration. Applications are being accepted, but it can take 2-9 years. The CE collaborative bill will be worked on May 2, 2024. Save the date. House bill 295 on the way it could affect your hunting. DOGM will maintain recycling ponds to deal with waste management. DOGM has received a permit request from the Cottonwood-Wilberg Mine. Open house on recycle ponds on April 17th in Salt Lake can be remote. Onsite- permit for waste control on the Cottonwood Mine, underground OBA.

- **Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)**

No one was in attendance.

- **Trust Lands Administration (TLA).**

Trust Lands' Bryan Torgerson reported that the appraisals for the land exchanges from the Dingell Act are taking much longer than expected but hope to be finished by late summer. Trust Lands received a permit for a coal mine operation for Bronco Mine on Walker Flat. Hornshadow Solar Company is seeking a road easement on Oil Rig Hill.

- **Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF)**

Darren Olsen announced that work on the Little Creek Bike Trail west of Joe's Valley Reservoir is beginning, but he is waiting on a plant survey. The South Ferron Mountain road will also be redone this year. Logging in Reeder Canyon will continue this summer. Range improvements and sage grouse and eagle surveys are being organized. Wildlife gates will be opened on April 15, though some other gate openings depend on the weather.

- **Utah State Parks**

The Division of State Parks spoke online about the tiny houses being added to Green River State Park. He also said that the Green River Golf Course is already busy. An Outdoor Recreation spokesman spoke of attending the Watermelon Crawl in Green River as law enforcement and how well it was received with great organization. He also spent five days in the desert, driving over 500 miles over Easter weekend. He spoke of the coordination of law enforcement from the different government agencies and the efficiency it creates.

- **Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation**

Bryan Kurta attended the conferences in Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah. It was great networking. Bryce Canyon, August 27 & 28, got grants awarded. He also spoke of the Watermelon Crawl in Green River as law enforcement and how well it was received with great organization. A possible traffic flow on the reef. He also spent five days in the desert, driving over 500 miles over Easter weekend. Bryan also spoke of the coordination of law enforcement from the different government agencies and the efficiency it creates. E-bikes are going to be stamped with what kind they are. Snowdog's will no longer need to be registered as ice machines.

- **Utah State Department of Agriculture**

No one in attendance

- **PLPCO**

Crozier mentioned they are working on methane control, oil and gas operations closings, and questions about solar projects. Working on BLM zoning land for solar.

- **Washington Delegation Staff**

No one in attendance

4. Commission Comments on Public Land Items

The Board would like to know what is going on with Long Street. Did the attorney send the letter about the road? It is still in the works. If we do not keep the trails open, they will not open again. Please be involved in the Travel Plan.

5. Additional Issues From Council Members

Snow in the mountains

6. Concerned Citizens with Emery County-related issues

Nothing at this time.

7. Adjourn

Mission Statement

The mission of the Emery County Public Lands Council is to represent the interests of the public land of Emery County and its citizens and to perform an advocacy role for local users and stakeholders; to work in partnership with federal and state agencies in fashioning management decisions and policies affecting lands within Emery County; and to participate in the development, coordination, and implementation of the planning objectives of federal, state, and local entities to ensure harmony between the objectives of these various entities and the Emery County General Plan. It is the intent and purpose of the Emery County Public Lands Council to aggressively preserve the community heritage of Emery County by vigorously participating in and influencing all public land planning and decision-making processes on behalf of and under the authority of the Emery County Commission.