

# HABITAT CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A **regular** meeting of the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee (HCAC) was held at the Washington County Administration Building on **May 28, 2024.**

Committee members present were:

Chris Blake, Chairman	Environmental Organization
Chris Hart, Vice Chair	Local Development
Dawna Ferris-Rowley	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Kevin Bunnell	Utah Dept. of Natural Resources (UDNR)
Steve Kemp	Citizen-at-Large

Absent and Excused:

George Weekley	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Carmen Clark	Citizen-at-Large
Kress Staheli	Mayors Association

Also present were:

Cameron Rognan	HCP Administrator
Randee Sanders	HCP Executive Assistant
Ammon Teare	HCP Outreach & Education
Steven Scott	Washington County Attorney
Adam Snow	Washington County Commissioner
Jason West	BLM
Melanie Oberhelman	BLM
Ann McLuckie	UDWR
Danielle Costantini	USFWS
Matthew Bandy	Resi
Chris Peterson	Wildlife Walls Artist
Sadie Bassett	St. George City
Justin Sip	Toquerville Mayor
Kyle Wilson	Senator Romney Office
Alysha Lundgren	St. George News
Holly Snow Canada	Conserve Southwest Utah
Lisa Rutherford	Conserve Southwest Utah
Richard Spotts	Citizen
Michelle Graves	
Debi	

## 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice chairman Chris Hart, filling in for Chris Blake, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:01 p.m. noting that a quorum was present.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting routine matters which come before the committee for approval. The consent portion of the agenda is approved by one (1) non-debatable motion. If any member wishes to remove an item from the consent portion of the agenda, then that item becomes the first order of business on the regular agenda.

- a. **Approval of Agenda**
- b. **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes**
  - 1. **March 26, 2024**
- c. **Next Meeting Date**
  - 1. **July 23, 2024**

**MOTION** by: Steve Kemp  
**Seconded** by: Kevin Bunnell  
**Discussion:** To approve the Consent Agenda.  
**Vote was taken:** All voted aye.  
**Motion passed.**

**3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Chris Hart is the Mayor of Ivins City.

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**a. Desert Tortoise Mural in St. George – Shane Moore/Chris Peterson**

Utah Wildlife Walls is a project started by Chris Peterson about 18 months ago. The plan is to put different wildlife murals in each County in Utah. So far Chris has done 5 murals. If approved, this would be the 6<sup>th</sup> mural to be completed. Some of the existing murals are in different stages of development, and they are unique to the species found in their community.

Lloyd Sutton, with St. George City transportation, had originally contacted Chris about the possibility of putting a mural on a tunnel. Together, they went through some designs and effort to try and make that happen, but ultimately they weren't able to get it to work out, and this proposal to put the mural in downtown St. George (on the south side wall of Station 2 bar) came into to the realm of possibility. The mural would be dedicated to the Mojave desert tortoise and in support of work that is happening in Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. This is why the mural installation is in line with the educational and outreach goals of the HCP.

Ammon Teare shared a presentation (see exhibit 4a) and a link (<https://www.celebrateutahwildlife.org/home>) with the committee highlighting some of Chris' past work and the conceptual drawings.

Ammon said that this proposal is part of Utah Wildlife Walls' statewide program to put up murals and engage with wildlife experts in order to communicate something interesting about the animals. This mural will focus on the Mojave desert tortoise because it is recognizable and a great symbol of our area, making it a great opportunity for public outreach. A QR code will be incorporated in the mural so that folks who pass by can scan it with their phones and be redirected to a webpage that will have information about the Reserve and its ongoing conservation efforts. It could also include some information about what locals can do to make sure tortoises are safe and protected.

The final design hasn't been approved yet, so there are opportunities to work in any messaging about the interactions between Ravens and Tortoises and/or the Raven's dependence on trash, etc. It could share ways that individuals can eliminate bad habits that might encourage ravens, therefore protecting tortoises as well. The HCP is working on ways to communicate this effectively, and think that this wildlife mural would be a great addition to the downtown area.

The County is working with the City of St. George, who have received a \$5,000 grant through their general fund art permit. Pending the HCAC's recommendation, they are asking the HCP to match with \$5,000. The city will then secure the remaining money to fund the mural. Sadie Bassett, with St. George City, said that the mural is anticipated to cost \$18,000 total. Ammon continued, saying that there are funds available in the HCP Outreach and Education Fund. The County should be able to accommodate this request and still have plenty for our other educational programs and activities.

#### **b. Discussion and possible action on funding support for mural**

Steve Kemp suggested that some of the issues (such as the ravens/etc.) are more down in the weed issues that we will see change. He thought those things would be best flushed out and communicated through the QR code link. We could then convey new messaging without having to repaint the wall. Kevin Bunnell agreed, the mural should catch eyes and get attention, and then direct individuals to get more specific information with the QR code and be able to guide themselves through the website. He would like the mural to be something that is attention getting and is going to bring more eyes and more people to the website to get the information.

Ammon said that Chris has been kind enough to allow him the option to put up a little booth outside while the wall is being painted. As people come by asking about what's going on, Ammon can give them information and encourage them to stop by the visitor center.

Chris said the mural will take approximately 7-10 days to paint, depending on how much help he gets. Assuming that everyone feels good about moving forward, he is planning on trying to get down here and begin working on it during the second week of June. He and Ammon have been talking about scheduling some windows of time to have an outreach presence at the wall, and they will also try to generate a little bit of media attention for the project. There's a lot of ongoing outreach potential beyond just what's on the QR code that the mural will generate.

Chris Hart wondered if the parking stalls in front of the wall are active and will pose the risk to cover up the art much of the time. Ammon answered that it possibly could. The parking serves the bar and neighboring establishments. However, he still thought that there would be a pretty decent view of the mural most of the time for those walking by on the street. Steve said that the area is heavily trafficked. He said that the City will make sure that there are bumpers out in front of it. Parking in this area is extremely tight, so the local merchants from all directions would have concerns with eliminating those three parking stalls. Kevin suggested that as long as the mural is designed so that the main part of the artwork is above where cars will be parking, then that would be accounted for.

Kevin asked if there is an agreement in place with the business/building owner. It would be bringing some people there that are not patrons of the bar. What's been done to make sure it will not cause a conflict. Sadie answered that agreements are signed and in place. The business owner is happy to have the mural because it will bring attention to their establishment.

Dawna Ferris-Rowley wondered if the examples shared are close to final design. Ammon answered that there are three versions with varying complexities. Chris further answered that the colors are all negotiable. The examples shared are mostly for composition and showing different levels of complexity depending on the budget. The background gradient colors can be changed. He can tone them up or down, or turn it to look like it is mostly night. The gradient effect is a beautiful effect, and it's a little bit of a trick to make it happen. However, there is some flexibility to choose the colors to plug into that five color gradient. He can provide a handful of options then allow the decision makers to choose which one they feel good about. Chris' job is to make sure that the tortoise stands out from whatever background color is chosen. The shape and location of the tortoise can go up more so that he is not cutting off the bottom. They can line up some cars there and see how it's going to look.

Kevin wondered if Chris had recommendations, to which Chris replied that he always appreciates clients saying they trust him to do what he thinks is best. The sky has pinks, peaches, and purples which are a pretty spectrum. It might feel too bright for some people, but they are not that far from a really beautiful sunset. Chris usually likes to create a handful of options that he would be comfortable

with, and then let the decision makers choose from them. Part of what he likes to focus on is the interplay of color, so he enjoys designs that allow for that. The HCAC members then compared the three designs and discussed their preferences.

Steve shared that the property is owned by the City of St. George, and they will need to do some work on that lot to clean things up.

Keven shared that the mural would be great for prom picture backdrops that would be shared on social media. Chris agreed, saying that that will happen organically. People are drawn to public art, and that will be part of the ripple effect of a project like this.

Chris Hart wondered if any other locations were considered. Sadie answered in the affirmative. The city wanted it to be downtown. They did try it on overpass bridges, but UDOT changed their rules and weren't interested. Station 2 was the best location downtown that was interested.

**MOTION** by: Kevin Bunnell

Seconded by: Steve Kemp

Discussion: To approve of a contribution of \$5,000 to go toward this project.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

Cameron offered to work through the details with the artist to ensure that the design is anatomically correct for Mojave desert tortoise and won't look like a sulcata tortoise.

Lisa Rutherford, wondered if there was any way to incorporate the windows into the design. Steve thought a wrap might be worth looking into. Wraps have holes allowing the ability to look out from the inside yet see the image from the exterior. Sadie said window wraps could be looked into. Chris would be willing to go with the wrap idea as well, but thinks that after people look at the wall they won't see the windows (as the art was designed to avoid those windows). Chris Hart suggested that the artist could make that call.

### **c. BLM Converging Restorations Landscape Funding – Melanie Oberhelman**

Melanie Oberhelman, BLM Project Manager, shared a presentation (see exhibit 4c) about some Inflation Reduction Act projects coming up in the Red Cliffs NCA. BLM identified 21 administration landscapes across the west to infuse funding through this act, and we were lucky enough to be granted one of those restoration landscapes locally (known as the Color Country Converging Restoration Landscape). A map on the exhibit shows two adjacent watersheds in the Escalante Desert and Upper Virgin River (including most of Iron and

Washington County). There are several projects within this landscape, two of which are within the NCA. One of the projects is for desert tortoise fencing, and the other is for an invasive annual grass treatment.

The MDT fencing project is partnered with the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative and UDWR (WRI project number 7043). BLM plans to provide funding to contract the installation of approximately 3.5 miles of Mojave desert tortoise fencing on federal lands through our WRI partnership. BLM has already started the process of purchasing the needed materials for the 3.5 miles. BLM is providing about \$130,000 for this project, which is about \$7/foot based on Ann's calculations. The project area will be in the Hurricane Zone 5 area. There may be additional funding to do more in SCSP and along Cottonwood Road. BLM will be following USFWS desert tortoise fencing specifications, and some of the fencing will be retrofitted to existing livestock fencing.

The invasive annual grass treatment project is partnered with the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative and UDWR (WRI project number 6995). The total treatment area is 1,016 acres. A pre-emergent herbicide, Plateau, will be applied at 6 ounces per acre. Targeted species are annual grasses (cheat grass and red brome) as well as Sahara mustard. The targeted areas are along Cottonwood Road and Cottonwood Trail as a fuel break to reduce the chances of a wildfire to start. BLM does have Assessment Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) data within the invasive annual grass treatment areas. Data collected in 2019 at one site sampled was 30.67% non-native annual grass cover. Additional sites have been established prior to treatment, and that data will be used to monitor post treatment. BLM has allocated approximately \$150,000 for this project.

#### **d. Discussion and possible action on restoration funding**

Commissioner Adam Snow inquired how long treatments are viable, to which Melanie answered that Plateau treatments can last 1-2 years, whereas Rejuvra lasts 4-5 years. However, Rejuvra has not been approved for use by BLM yet. Headquarters are finishing up their FWS consultation, and it is supposed to be completed in May. She expects a decision in June or July. If approved, BLM will use Rejuvra, but for now they are sticking with Plateau. One consideration with Rejuvra is that you can't plant/seed after applying it, as it inhibits seed germination. For this reason, it will not be desirable to be used everywhere.

As far as timing of these projects, Melanie will coordinate with Ann McLuckie on the fencing contract, but the invasive weed treatments are planned for November-January (before the winter germinations).

Cameron wondered if there will be future availability for this funding going forward? Melanie answered that the Inflation Reduction Act is one time only, but BLM can still request funding for fuel reduction through WRI funding sources. Kevin added that, although they come from different pots, WRI is ongoing and we

should take advantage of them as they come forward. Cameron offered to have the TC address this in the fire and fuels management plan currently being worked on.

**e. Desert tortoise monitoring reports – Matt Bandy/Ann McLuckie**

Matt Bandy, Resi, shared his presentation (see exhibit 4e\_MB) showcasing his findings from his drone monitoring efforts in the Reserve during the past three years. In 2023 Matt and Ann McLuckie paired drone and pedestrian surveys so an apples-to-apples comparison could be made between the two methods.

For some background on the history of the drone surveys, in 2021 Matt began working with Cameron by doing some experiments with surrogates. In 2022 a full survey of Zone 6 (as well as the USFWS training arena test in Las Vegas) was conducted. In 2023, Matt completed a large-scale survey of Zones 2-5.

The method was to fly a drone and take photographs of a large area, then train a computer vision model to find tortoises within those photographs. The tortoise model he is working with now has 562 tortoise photo examples, and a recall of 84% (meaning it finds that percent within the imagery). To date, 88,000 photographs have been collected on 7,100 acres of land in the Reserve. There have been 190 unique tortoise detections between the two seasons.

With the help of work done by DWR's monitoring of telemetered animals, one of the key things analyzed was the surface activity (when tortoises are up and available to be found by either method). The drone surface activity showed a big difference from 73% in the morning to 16% in the afternoon. Whereas, pedestrian monitoring had less of a difference (morning was 89% and afternoon was 77%). This shows that pedestrians can survey all day without as much risk of missing tortoises, but drones should survey from 9 am – 1 pm.

In Zones 2-5, fewer tortoises of the total present were found than there was in Zone 6. This is likely due to more vegetation and rockier terrain in Zones 2-5, whereas Zone 6 is more open and flat. The overall detection rate is about .3 (meaning we see 1/3 of total tortoises). In Zones 2-5 abundance is about 2,779, with a density of 20.1 per square kilometer. Zone 6's abundance is about 772, with a density of 28 per square kilometer. Total population of Zones 2-6 is about 3,550 tortoises. If we compare this to the pedestrian survey results, which surveyed the same transects in same season on different days, there was an 8% difference.

The drone/AI method is very successful at locating tortoises when they are available for detection. The surveys must be performed when animals are most available for detection: 9 AM - 1 PM. Pedestrian interactions can affect tortoise visibility to drones (tortoises seek shelter when encountered by humans), so drone surveys must not be performed at the same time as pedestrian surveys.

There are some advantages of drone/AI surveys, including no surface disturbance, it is approximately 10 times more time efficient (with better cameras this could be 25x or greater), quantitative density and abundance estimates can be gained with confidence, intervals are within 8% of pedestrian estimates, it can be used for more than one resource, further increasing cost effectiveness, and there is a permanent record that can be reanalyzed with improved models. However, no detailed observations or measurements can be documented using drones.

Ann McLuckie, UDWR, then shared her presentation which focused on the spring 2023 pedestrian tortoise monitoring efforts (see exhibit 4e\_AM).

The monitoring program was designed to estimate density estimates in Zone 3 and to estimate density and trends Reserve-wide. Tortoise demographics such as age class, sex ratios in adults, and overall health conditions are collected. As well as history, movements, long term survival, and growth of recaptured tortoises. Each unmarked tortoise gets marked upon their encounter.

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year that these monitoring efforts have been conducted, all spanning between 1998-2023. The distance sampling method was used, which allows for large-scale regional assessment or evaluation of density. Each of the squares on the map included in the exhibit represents randomly located transect areas. 160 transects throughout Zones 2-5 were completed. Each transect square is 2 kilometers in total distance. Zone 5, however, is conducted using straight line transects due to its small/irregular shape. The sampling areas are defined as being tortoise habitat in areas less than 4,000 ft. in elevation and with less than 45 degree slopes.

Transects are completed by a two-person crew. Each individual pulls out the transect line in 50 meter increments, looking twice for tortoises 3 meters out from both sides of the line along the way. Because adult tortoises can be confidently detected, but juveniles (less than 100 millimeters) may potentially be missed, only adults over 100 mm are used in the estimates. This is due to an assumption of the technique that all the animals on the line are accounted for, and that can't be ensured with juvenile tortoises.

There is also an important telemetry component. DWR has 13 tortoises that are currently radioed. These tortoises are really important to quantify the % of tortoises that are below ground and hidden. This provides a correction factor that helps to avoid underestimating tortoises on the landscape.

DWR surveyed 161 transects from April 3 – June 13, 2023. 178 (69 males/70 females) tortoises were observed, 163 of which were found on transects. 15% were juveniles. The majority of the tortoises appeared healthy, but 15 showed URTD clinical signs and 6 had burn injuries. 71% of telemetered tortoises were



visible and above ground. 30% of the tortoises were previously marked, four of which were marked with drill holes (the method used prior to 1985). Over 50% of the recaptured tortoises were found on the same transect as previously captured.

Population density data collected between 1998-2023 shows a decrease of population following the extreme drought in 2002 and the wildfires in 2005. However, 2007- current shows a stabilized population. When asked how the 2020 wildfires affected the population, Ann cautioned that you have to be cautious when you are extrapolating the data to answer questions that the study is not designed to answer. Basically we are getting a single estimate across Zone 3, so if you have impacts in one area and really good density in another area – those two can average the density out. Kevin added that the wildfires may have had an impact in smaller areas, but the overall population shows that there wasn't a detectible decline.

Ann reported that there was only a 1.4% mortality rate in 2023, which is the lowest it has ever been.

**f. Discussion and possible action on tortoise monitoring**

None.

**5. UTILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

**a. Pioneer Park interpretive trail**

Cameron shared an update on the Pioneer Park interpretive trail, which began 1-2 months ago. Initially the City had hired a biological monitor to assist with the project until the fencing was completed. That fencing is now completed and tortoises are excluded from project area entirely. The west side of the park is still closed. HCP staff are working with the city to make sure tortoises are staying out of the project area, as well as on the educational outreach messaging. Once complete, this trail will be a good addition.

**b. Grapevine trailhead**

This ongoing project is not in the Reserve, but it is immediately adjacent to it and affects the public access. It is still publicly open, but access has been temporarily re-routed to the east side of the construction area.

**c. Utility poles along Cottonwood Rd (fire hazard)**

This is a project not yet started, but the conversation has begun and work will likely be coming soon. St. George City contacted Cameron expressing concern about some poles coming out of their switchyard on Cottonwood Road that pose a fire risk. Cameron is happy to work with them and help facilitate the project in

order to eliminate any fire potential caused by the poles. He encouraged the city to also talk to BLM and loop them in. Dawna Ferris-Rowley said that Rocky Mountain Power has reached out, but not the city. BLM is waiting for them to get back to them and confirm what exactly needs to be done.

**d. Other utility projects**

None.

**6. SURVEYS AND CLEARANCES**

**a. The trails (south of Ledges) & SR-18 interchange**

Cameron reported that the HCP has been doing a pretty large survey clearance in an area that has previously been cleared 10-15 years ago. The developer had issues with the downturn of the economy and ended up abandoning the development of their land at that time. They are now ready to move on that development, and since so many years have passed, Cameron requested that HCP staff be able to go back and look for tortoises again. Approximately 385 acres have been cleared, mostly on the east side of SR-18. SITLA is going to be selling their land on the west side soon, and the interchange involves both sides of SR-18, so both sides have been surveyed. To date, nothing has been found on the west side, but 5 tortoises and 1 Gila monster were removed on the east side. Those animals were delivered to DWR for translocation.

**b. Ivins City near Black Desert**

A tortoise was found and removed from this survey area last year, so HCP staff are doing a follow up survey to make sure no tortoises are lingering in that area. So far, no tortoises have been found this time.

**7. OTHER REPORTS & BUSINESS**

**a. TC report – ~~Mike Schiff~~ Cameron Rognan**

The TC continued working on a 5-10-year fire and fuels management plan for Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. The plan identifies areas that should be treated with herbicides each year, and identifies potential funding sources for those treatments. The TC continued making progress towards the draft document, which included adjustments to priority habitat rankings and the addition of drones as a potential treatment method. TC members emphasized the importance of identifying the goals and objectives within this plan while also retaining flexibility from one year to the next. The TC expects to have this plan completed before the HCAC holds its 2025 budget discussion in September.

**b. HCP Administrator's Report**

## **1. Raven permit and egg-oiling update**

Cameron reported that FWS was awarded a permit to help control the raven population in the county. The HCP were recently able to treat 64 raven eggs at 12 different nest sites. The method for treating the eggs is taking each egg, dipping it in vegetable oil, and then putting it back in the nest. Hopefully the ravens will continue to sit on and incubate those eggs, guarding their territory, but the eggs will not hatch. Some of the eggs had hatched before HCP staff got to the nests. Lessons were learned, and they will try to time it earlier in future years.

11 new nests were identified that the HCP didn't know existed before. Efforts will be amped up each year, and Cameron anticipates the team will get better and more accurate with timing the critical period.

The HCP was awarded some funds through the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund (housed under WRI), so next year we will have \$12,000 available to continue these efforts.

There will be a more comprehensive presentation in the future, but HCP staff have been monitoring the raven population as a whole and will be tracking their numbers. They have been utilizing tortoise hatchling decoys to monitor the predation levels as well. If we continue to do these studies and treatments in the long-term, the original study can be compared to see if we are seeing improvements in the number of tortoises and/or a reduction in the number of ravens.

## **2. SUU recreation projects**

SUU has monitored our trails and the human impacts for several years. Briget Eastep has taken a position out of state. However, the HCP is still continuing partnerships with SUU, albeit moving in a different direction. Upon consultation with BLM and SCSP, the consensus is to put more emphasis on restoration projects and less on monitoring the impacts. The County has entered into a 5-year MOU with SUU, where each year different trail restoration projects in need of completion will be identified. There will still be some sort of a monitoring component, but the emphasis will be on fixing the impacts. This year SUU students have been working heavily in the Washington/Middleton area. The County has paid them \$3,000 this year to implement that project, and will look at future projects on a case by case basis. Funding each year will be based upon the work needed to be done.

## **3. Homeless camps in the Reserve**

The HCP has received a number of reports about homeless camps in the Reserve, mostly on St. George City property (Pioneer Park, Industrial Wash, and City Creek areas). Historically, there have been many homeless camps in these areas, and the city is addressing/handling them. Typically, officers leave a note that instructs the homeless to clean their camp up or they will come and remove it for them. To the best of Cameron's understanding, many of those camps have since been disassembled and removed already.

#### **4. SEIS update**

Commissioner Adam Snow began by expressing that the County is appreciative of the local BLM and FWS staff. However, he doesn't appreciate most of the stuff going on in Washington DC. The draft SEIS is out for public comment now. Yet the traffic modeling is still not complete (and it will likely be 1-2 more weeks until it is). Without it, it will be hard to comment on something for which we don't have all of the information. Millions of tax payer funds that have already been spent on this, and the County will continue to fight. The agreement we had before was the best thing for this committee, the Reserve, and the conservation of the Mojave desert tortoise. This is fraught with issues, and the fight we are in over this is asinine. The County will continue to fight, and wish that this was gone about in a much better way.

Cameron shared that the open house is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 - 7:30 pm at the Dixie Convention Center (Entrada Room). The 45-day comment period ends on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Jason West shared that, to date, 170 comments have been received by BLM thus far.

#### **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**This item is reserved for items not listed on this agenda. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this agenda item (three minutes per person).**

Richard Spotts was glad to get information on the Inflation Reduction Act amended funding through BLM to help with more tortoise fencing and invasive cheat grass control.

Having finished reviewing the draft SEIS, he wanted to address his concerns with the committee. First, he believed some of the key scoping comments were ignored by BLM and FWS. If the current proposal goes forward and the Northern Corridor highway is approved and constructed, one scenario that he is worried about is what would happen years down the road when development further circles around Zone 6. The question whether SITLA has the legal authority to further protect the land for conservation hasn't been answered. Even if SITLA wants to continue in good faith now, could beneficiaries successfully sue SITLA and compel development in Zone 6? Second, he is very worried about this traffic analysis not being available yet for public comment with the possibility that it

might come out after the SEIS public comment period has ended. He also urged BLM and FWS get an independent evaluation of it. If the County (the people pushing for the Northern Corridor) is paying for it, there is a potential for it to be biased and pose a conflict of interest.

Lisa Rutherford declared her support for Richard Spotts public comment.

**9. MEMBER REPORTS & REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**10. ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by: Steve Kemp  
**Seconded** by: Kevin Bunnell  
**Discussion**: To adjourn the meeting.  
**Vote was taken**: All voted aye.  
**Motion passed**.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:28 p.m.  
Minutes prepared by Randee Sanders.