

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Emery County Public Lands Council**  
**June 4, 2024**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Emery County Courthouse**  
**Canyon Conference Room**

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**PLC:** Rod Player, Les Wilberg, Kim McFarlane, Ray Petersen, Varian Allen, Leon McElprang, Sherrel Ward

**Absent:** Ben Grimes, Bruce Wilson

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

**Visitors,** Keven Jensen Commissioner, Jordan Leonard, Commissioner, Clay Crozier (PLPCO), Joel Brown (Sen. Lee), Larry Ellertson (Rep Curtis), Marc Stilson (DWRi), Wayne Lundington (SRBCH), Darren Olsen (USFS), Jaydon Mead, and Kyle Beagley (BLM), Dal Grey (DOGM), Branton Behling & Ashley Kennedy (DWR), Darren Olsen & Josey Muse (MLNF), Jay Humphrey (EWCD), Ryan Jones (UDAF), Ed Geary (Public), Brittany Anderson (ETV)

**Electronically:** Ryan Wilson (Canyon Fuel)

**1. Welcome**

Chairman Rod Player opened the Emery County Public Lands meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes for May 2024**

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

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

○ **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Kyle Beagley of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) He mentioned that the summer will be busy.

He said that the comment period for the San Rafael Swell Travel Management Plan will begin about the first of June and last for 45 days ending in mid-July.

Management Plan discussion will be held in GR on June 25, and Castle Dale June 26 and virtual June 27, all starting at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting will help you to write and submit a usable comment.

Out at the Dinosaur Quarry they want to put a new building over the dig site, this project will begin next year. They have problems with the snow and the water washing things out. The plan is to have buildings over 2 sites.

The Price office is looking for an exploration of uranium and oil shells.

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

Marc Stilson, spoke on a basin above Orangeville that the Cottonwood Irrigation used for settlement. The people living down below are worried because the outlet pipe is plugged. It needs to be a top priority before the monsoon season hits. They have two other basins that they are looking at in Orangeville, so the task is to take a look at this third one first, for cost and hazard. They have reached out to the NRCS for funds with this project.

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

Dal Gray, update on lithium pulling water samples and holding off on two other rigs. Waiting for approval for the junction project.

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

Branton Behling started with the Aquatic Western Toad Survey. A pond on East Mountain that has been fenced off to keep people and cattle out. They found 5 toads this year, doing that work this year and looking for the best breeding area and free range work to see if there is anything new there or around there. Nothing new in Emery County reported at this time.

Prepping for Duck Fork cutthroat trap, outside of County but lots of people go there. Tiger musky planted in Joes Valley, getting rid of the chubs. This Saturday is free fishing day. Huntington Game farm open gate, can not hold water this year, so the gate will be closed this year. Antlerless Elk permits need to be put in now for next year. River runners that can not camp on the river due to the river being clogged with logs and debris, What could we do to make the parking area larger at Fuller Bottom? They have made some improvements. This would have to go through the habitat committee for more improvements. T.J. Cook is the new manager. Have asked about a camping site down there, fire is a large concern for that area, not willing to do that.

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

No one in attendance

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

Forest Ranger Darren Olsen introduced Josi Muse to the Forest Plan team. Powerpoint presentation. Forest Revision notice of intent 900 comments 500 on wilderness evaluation then 6300 comments on draft plan. Last Oct 820 letters received 400 being unique, narrowed them down to 200/100 cut those down to be reviewed. Watershed help and protection, vegetation restoration, wildlife habitat, temper harvest. Summer and Winter use. Rod Player asked what is the National Oath, Growth Amendment? Analyst from Washington, signed by the Secretary of Agriculture, will amend all forest plans in the Nation, it will take in old growth. Not sure how it will affect the regulations. Can not cut a large tree, leave old growth. This will be done Nationwide.

Darren reports that we are opening up gates, Millers Flat on Monday, Gooseberry, Willow, Logging around Millers Flat and Potters Pond, later this fall may move into Reader. Fire burns this Thursday. Gravel along Millers Flat Road. Sufco is drilling holes up in the canyon this year. Littles Creek bike trail is almost complete.

Don Oldem is still moving forward on their plans and waiting to see how the County reacts to this. Commissioner Keven Jensen does not want to lose historical use on this. The Forest Service is in agreement with the Commissioner. All agencies want to maintain access to the public.

- **Utah State Parks**

No one in attendance

- **Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation**

No one in attendance

- **Utah State Department of Agriculture**

Nothing to report

The spillways are spilling, how long, it all depends on the weather temperature.

- **PLPCO**

Clay Crozier busy summer, They are working on the Flaming Gorge planning. Leon McElprang stated how impressed he was with the cleanliness of the Forest over there, The Forest Management is doing a great job with keeping it clean.

He stated the He along with Farm Bureau would be happy to teach others how to write a comment for the land trade. There is also an anti-flaring rule band.

- **Washington Delegation Staff**

Larry Ellertson working on undoing the BLM rules on conservation.

#### **4. Commission Comments on Public Land Items**

Regarding Long Street the commission has determined that they are sending a letter of action to have them reroute the road or Emery County to move forward with reclaiming the old road.

#### **5. Additional Issues From Council Members**

109 % of the mountains have precipitation. Low in the Valleys and out in the Desert.

#### **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.