

Meeting Minutes
Emery County Public Lands Council
August 6, 2024
10:00 AM
Emery County Courthouse
Canyon Conference Room

PLC: Rod Player, Les Wilberg, Ray Petersen, Varian Allen, Leon McElprang, Sherrel Ward, Ben Grimes, Bruce Wilson

Absent:

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

Visitors: Keven Jensen, Commissioner; Jordan Leonard, Commissioner; Lynn Sitterud, Commissioner; Wayne Ludington (SRBCH); Jaydon Mead and Kyle Beagley (BLM); Kevin Albrecht (MLNF); Ryan Wilson (CFC); Brandon Behling (DWR), Dennis Worwood, Brad Richmond, Randall Stilson and Ed Geary (Public), Julie Johansen (ETV)

Electronically: Kim McFarlane (PLC), Clay Crozier (PLPCO)

1. Welcome

Chairman Rod Player opened the Emery County Public Lands meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes for June 2024

Les Wilberg motioned to approve the June meeting minutes, and Ray Peterson seconded it, and the motion passed.

July was the Travel Management Program Field Trip. It went very well, and it was well attended. We went to different sites. Including Baptist Draw, Sinbad Routes, and Camping sites, looked over roads that have been cherry stemmed.

On August 13th, there will be a RAC Advisory Meeting. Gather at the Orangeville Fire Station at 8:30 a.m.

3. Agency Reports and Council Member Comments

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

Kyle Beagley mentioned that the RAC Field day will meet at the Temple Mountain Exit for the management plan.

On the Buckhorn Draw, there are submissions for three uranium claims.

There will be a Mountain Bike Riding Event in GR. This Friday at @Blue Castle, they do tricks on bikes and flips off cliffs. Interest in solar-approved federal lands and multi-use lands will be out the door.

The TMP comment period is over, and they should have a decision on this by November.

EA is being done on the Jurassic Park Monument for the building of the two covers is moving forward.

The land out at the Millsite Golf Course is still being worked on.

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

No one in attendance

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

No one in attendance

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

Branton Behling reports that they are checking Ferron Creek, streambed, to see if there are a native fish in there called Bluehead Sucker.

We are looking into a few law enforcement cases that have been happening, and there are two open cases at this time.

Doing Repairs on the fence at Fuller Bottom. RAC meeting on Sept 4, 2024, to discuss state regulation on fishing; everything will stay the same for this.

Randall Stilson asked about Julius Reservoir and if they are still stocking fish up there. It has fish, just not many; he needs to learn the stocking schedule up there.

Will the log block help Feren increase water levels? They will add another one if everything is good and there will be no leakage. New management is going forward with this.

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

No one in attendance

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

Kevin Albrecht reports that seasonal work is wrapping up, and we have had great success. Thank them for their hard work. Nationally, there has been a significant fire increase this year. Asking crews to stay near so they can catch this early. Lightning strikes here is one; below Willow, we are looking better than most.

The road up Julius gets blocked and pushes the public back and back; people are making these areas bigger than they should be, causing issues.

The Forest Service has received a grant for Chemical and Biological crews to study and collect seeds and bugs.

Get roads taken care of on State Road 29. They stopped the road work at the bridge; they never finished the streets they started. Loggers have driven through, not on the trails, and disrespected the process and limits of the roads. We need to meet with the timber company to have everyone on the same page.

Olsen Bench has been reported to have good feed up there. Wagen Road has a lot of feed up there. Will they allow the grazers to stay up there for extra weeks?

- **Utah State Parks**

No one in attendance

Huntington Lake has E. coli and is closed then; there is no swimming or pets.

- **Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation**

Brian Kurta, not much; grant cycles are closing, and we will be wrapping that up—an outdoor summit on the 27 & 28 of August in Ruby's End. Register on the website. Busy at Lake Powell, 8-9 feet higher than we have been, we have now reached our peak.

- **Utah State Department of Agriculture**

No one in attendance

- **PLPCO**

Clay Crozier has nothing to report.

- **Washington Delegation Staff**

No one was in attendance.

4. Commission Comments on Public Land Items

Regarding Long Street, the commission has determined they needed to get the letter out more quickly. Kim McFarlane states that the commission dropped the ball, and we have no resolution. Commissioner Leonard said, we did not drop the ball; we are within our 30-day notice.

The letter was returned. 8-12-24

5. Additional Issues From Council Members

Trail Mountain News has hired 60 people. They are doing this and that and are cleaning up the old works in the mine and getting in to start coal—bus the men up to the mine, but there is not enough room to park up there. We will be moving west in the mine. End of the year, we will be cutting coal. They will be trucking coal from the mine down.

Sherrill Ward reports that the reservoirs are still excellent, all in the 80 and 90%.

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.