

Meeting Minutes
Emery County Public Lands Council
September 3, 2024
10:00 AM
Administrative Building
Canyon Conference Room

PLC: Les Wilberg, Ray Petersen, Varian Allen, Leon McElprang, Sherrel Ward, Ben Grimes, Kim McFarlane

Absent: Rod Player, Bruce Wilson

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

Visitors: Keven Jensen, Commissioner; Jordan Leonard, Commissioner; Lynn Sitterud, Commissioner; Travis Gray (DOGM), Chris Wood (DWR); Bryan Torgerson (SITLA); Jessica Mortenson (UDAF); Jay Humphrey (EWCD); Larry Ellertson (Rep. Curtis) Wayne Ludington (SRBCH); Jaydon Mead and Kyle Beagley (BLM); Darren Olsen (MLNF); Jessica Mortenson (UDAF), Ed Geary (Public), Julie Johansen (ETV)

Electronically:), Clay Crozier (PLPCO), Kathy Davis, (Legal Council) Joel Brown

1. Welcome

Ray Petersen opened the meeting in place of Chairman Player.

2. Approval of Minutes for Aug 6, 2024

Ben Grimes motioned to approve the Aug meeting minutes, and Varian Allen seconded it, and the motion passed.

3. Agency Reports and Council Member Comments

○ **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Kyle Beagley spoke about the Lawsuit RS2477. The solicitors are looking into it and waiting for a summary ruling. The Federal Judge stated that they are for the vested rights of the holders and to protect the title. They are going through all the letters of intent and taking them under advisement. The Dingle Act came first, and then eight months later, they provided the letters of intent that determine decisions.

Fossil Rock Mine has yet to announce a date for opening. They have purchased land to use as a parking lot. The mine will truck coal from the mine portal.

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

No one in attendance

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

Travis Gray reports that the Class 6 Primacy. The EPA developed the UIC program to protect underground drinking water sources as the Safe Drinking Water Act requires. There are six different classes of UIC wells. In 1982, OGM acquired primacy for Class II wells, which are used explicitly for injecting fluids associated with oil and natural gas production and reinjecting the CO2 back into the ground for use at different times and locations.

All the Well inspections have been completed for this area and are conducted every 3-5 years.

Brine mining involves extracting valuable compounds or elements from groundwater. There was a bad situation in Green River, and they are working to correct this issue.

Urban Oil and Gas has now picked up Buzzard Bench. They are an excellent company. A few months ago, they also bought out Conoco Philips.

The Carbon/Emery Meeting on the 5th at SERTA could be a complex issue, but moving forward.

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

Chris Wood reports that the hunts are getting underway, and they are also doing spawning. This fall, they will put a gill net to see what kind of fish are in the area.

They are putting fencing in Fuller Bottom, but it will not affect the pasture.

October 26 will start the youth pheasant hunts.

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

Bryan Torgerson reports that the Land exchanges will be finalized by the end of the year, working on a couple EAs.

Hornshadow by Moore and Green River cutoff are rerouting around BLM land.

They are getting ready to advertise for the land sale by Ferron & Moore on the east side by Oil Dome Road.

- **Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF)**
Darrin Olsen has been up north in Idaho and Oregon to help fight fires. We have not had fires in our area, yay!!
At Quitchenpaw, the mine has asked to put a vent and fan on their shaft.
Skyline, Bolger Canyon, North of Starpoint, and Meeting House all have mines fire that are smoldering; trying to get a better handle on some of those and just watching others.
We are coming into the big months for hunts getting underway. We have had a good year for rain. They will log in to the Upper Reader and Potters Pond— January discussion on Bears Ears.
- **Utah State Parks**
Huntington North is open again. It is unclear how the E-coli got into the lake, but they have it under control.
- **Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation**
No one in attendance
- **Utah State Department of Agriculture**
Jessica Mortensen has nothing to report at this time.
- **PLPCO**
Range improvements on Forest Bench. Kathy Davis, with the Attorney General's Office, explained the federal government lawsuit on unappropriated land. The State needs to acquire the lands and keep them in public hands. The Federal Government is required to dispose of the land.
- **Washington Delegation Staff**
Larry Ellertson reports on the legislation on firearm rights. Hoping that the locals will be happy if they can keep their gun rights. Joel Brown reported getting a passport office in SLC in the Federal Building in the next few years.
Kent Wilson wildfire mitigation to pass. We need regulations on what is considered dispersed camping in the desert, and we need to protect the historically significant sites.
They also discussed that a railway system would be a good decision in the area and the pros and cons.

4. Commission Comments on Public Land Items

Commissioner Jensen asked everyone to get involved with the RAC boards fighting for access. No one is fighting anymore. Update on Long Street: the certified letter was not delivered, so a sheriff's deputy will hand deliver it. They have been unable to do so.

Commissioner Jordan Leonard spoke about the private land owner at Cleveland Reservoir. It has been used for public fishing for many years, and this landowner wants to put cabins on it and keep the public out or make some kind of agreement with the County to not be on his side of the reservoir, but that is where the primary access is located.

The county would like to maintain public access. On Labor Day weekend, 60-80 people were in that area. The County would like a 20-foot allowance around the high water mark.

5. Additional Issues From Council Members

Ray Petersen reported that the Land Management is out for comment. Sherril Ward reported that the precipitation is 107%; it is great to be so blessed.

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.