

Meeting Minutes
Emery County Public Lands Council
October 1, 2024
10:00 AM
Administrative Building
Canyon Conference Room

PLC: Ray Petersen, Varian Allen, Sherrel Ward, Ben Grimes, Kim McFarlane, Rod Player.

Excused: Bruce Wilson, Leon McElprang, Les Wilberg

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

Visitors: Jordan Leonard, Commissioner; Lynn Sitterud, Commissioner; Dal Gray (DOGM); Chris Wood (DWR); Brian Kurta (OR); Larry Ellertson (Rep. Curtis); Clay Crozier and Nicole Nielson (PLPCO); Darren Olsen (DWR), Ed Geary (Public), Julie Johansen (ETV)

Electronically:

1. Welcome

Rod Player welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that the board has four open positions but has yet to fill some of the positions from the last couple of years.

2. Approval of Minutes for Sept. 3, 2024

Ray Peterson motioned to approve the September meeting minutes with a few changes, and Ben Grimes seconded it. The motion passed.

3. Agency Reports and Council Member Comments

○ **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Kyle Beagley could not attend. They are working hard on the Travel Management Plan and hope to have it by the end of this year.

Elijah Waters is the new manager in the Vernal Field office.

○ **Division of Water Rights (DWRi)**

No one in attendance

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

Dal Gray announced that information on the Primacy Class VI well permits will be presented to the public on Oct. 15 in Price at 6 p.m. at the South Eastern Regional Development Agency (SERDA) building. Recycled water use and pollution control of the oil and gas wells will be discussed at the Carbon Emery Collaboration Meeting on Dec.11.

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

Chris Wood announced a youth pheasant hunt on Oct. 26 at the Huntington Game Farm. He also talked about testing for Chronic Wasting Disease in our area. Incidences are very low in our area, but the LaSal Mountains are testing higher. He then reported on the Sand Hill Cranes in the area. He noted that they are migratory birds and cannot be hunted. They have tried to catch and collar them but have yet to be able to track their migratory patterns.

If someone has a big problem with them ruining their crops, some help can be received by contacting the Fish and Game office. They will, however, continue to monitor the situation.

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

No one in attendance

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

Darrin Olsen reminded the group that the logging is in full swing right now by Reeder, Black, and Potters Canyons. He also spoke about the controlled burn scheduled this fall on the Ephraim side of the mountain. The Forest Recreation Department has been very busy cleaning up the campgrounds and discouragingly found a lot of garbage as they cleaned Huntington Canyon.

Wood permits are only available until Nov. 30, but Christmas tree permits are now available online. The Forest Service has a new challenge with the hiring freeze caused by the budget crunch. They have been told there will be no seasonal hiring. The upcoming Forest Plan should be ready by next winter; only a slight change is expected.

- **Utah State Parks**

State Parks reported that Scofield and Millsite are pretty close to closing. They are beginning to prepare for snow by grooming, cutting hazard trees, installing signage, and checking equipment.

- **Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation**

Brian Kurta reported that, with more water, there have been many more people at Lake Powell this year. He announced a trial conference on April 28 and 29 next year. A new Trail Foreman has been hired in the Moab area and could be available to help in Emery County.

- **Utah State Department of Agriculture**

No one was in attendance.

- **PLPCO**

Clay Croizer introduced his new Program manager, Nicole Nielsen, who has a Natural Resources background and is excited to work with the county, living in Price.

Came out with the Grand Staircase Plan between the state and federal governments.

In West Mountain, they had a shooting closure, and houses and property were being shot at.

Railways ?

- **Washington Delegation Staff**

Larry Elertson reported the congressmen are co-sponsoring the Career for Mental Health and suicide prevention on college campuses.

GO-Thermo permitting resources more readily.

4. Commission Comments on Public Land Items

Commissioner Jordan Leonard stated that the update on Longstreet is that we are going into litigation, and they have let us know they want to fight it.

5. Additional Issues From Council Members

Sherril Ward reported that the precipitation is 99%.

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.