

MINUTES

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 13, 2014

Panguitch, Utah

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Jim Eardley, Chair
Commissioner Clare Ramsay
Commissioner Jim Matson
Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff

REPRESENTING

Washington Co. Commissioner Representative
Garfield County Commissioner Representative
Kane County Commissioner Representative
Iron County Commissioner Representative

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bryan Thiriot
Allison McCoy
Gary Zabriskie
Diane Lamoreaux

Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments
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MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Mark Whitney, Excused Beaver County Commissioner Representative

Commissioner Jim Eardley, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Commissioner Mark Whitney asked to be excused. It was noted that a quorum of members was present for conduct of business.

I. MINUTES JUNE 6, 2014 - REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Chairman Eardley presented minutes of the June 6, 2014 Finance Committee meeting for Board discussion and approval.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CLARE RAMSAY, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2014 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - PAIUTE TRIBE TRUST LANDS

Mr. Bryan Thiriot explained that the Paiute Tribe of Utah is in the process of completing a land transfer in Springdale into trust lands for the tribe. Information is included in the packet regarding this issue and public comment ends tomorrow. The Paiute Tribe has requested that Five County provide a letter in support of 274 acres transfer into Trust Lands. The property is located adjacent to the town of Springdale and the town has voiced opposition to the land transfer. Commissioner Jim Eardley indicated that Washington County will submit a letter protesting the land transfer. The County Commission is opposed to the transfer of land to the Paiute Tribe because it competes with private enterprise and any type of development on the land would not be subject to various taxes, including the transient room tax. The town of Springdale would be required to provide emergency services and other services for any development on the property. Washington County is asking that the Steering Committee write a letter in protest of the exchange because of the

various issues already expressed by Springdale Town. Commissioner Eardley noted that this type of land transfer could easily be undertaken in other counties as well.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JIM EARDLEY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JIM MATSON, INSTRUCTING STAFF TO SUBMIT A LETTER FROM THE FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE IN OPPOSITION OF THE LAND TRANSFER INTO TRUST LANDS FOR THE PAIUTE TRIBE PRIOR TO THE COMMENT DEADLINE. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Gary Zabriskie pointed out that geologic hazards may also be an issue on this particular property. Staff will research this and provide verbiage in this regard as appropriate.

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE AND STAFF BUSINESS

A. REPORT ON SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Ms. Allison McCoy indicated that the savings account has approximately \$890,000 at the end of FY 2014. The majority of funds in this account are restricted to various programs as follows: **1) Transportation Planning--** \$335,000; **2) Economic Development--** \$320,000; and **3) Aging--** \$150,000. The Revolving Loan Fund has \$934,000 in funds that are earmarked for lending to businesses in the Five County area. Loans receivable total \$987,000. Other cash on hand includes \$700.00 in the Southern Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC), \$12,000 in the Down Payment Assistance, and \$12,000 in the building operations and maintenance fund. All programs are on track for monthly billing of expenditures. This will assist with cash flow and provide required funds for accounts payable. Insurance expenditures for retirees will be cut about one-half with changes that occurred in the Select Health Insurance.

Commissioners asked about the default rate for the RLF program. Mr. Gary Zabriskie indicated that one loan is in default and one is delinquent. One loan was written off after receipt of a partial settlement amount. There is currently a large amount of funds available for lending to businesses in the Five County region. The program was established to provide gap financing or micro loans to businesses. A business can make application for up to \$200,000 in gap financing. A bank must also participate with these loans. The objective is to create jobs. A lot of funding is available if anyone knows of a business that may want to make application.

B. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR OMBUDSMAN

Mr. Bryan Thirirot referenced information contained on page 11 of the packet explaining options to independent contractors working under the aging programs. Those serving as ombudsman or nurse case managers will be required to carry their own liability insurance and workman compensation. Staff would like to provide another option to these individuals to be hired as part-time employees (up to 19 hours per week) with no benefits. The hourly wage would be at or below the current subcontractor rate so there would be no additional costs to the AOG or program budget. Commissioner Eardley has provided his approval but asked that the finance committee also take action in this regard.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JIM EARDLEY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JIM MATSON, TO PROVIDE APPROVAL FOR THE OMBUDSMAN OR NURSE CASE MANAGERS TO BE HIRED ON A PART-TIME BASIS (UP TO 19 HOURS PER WEEK) WITH NO BENEFITS AT OR BELOW THEIR CURRENT SUBCONTRACT RATE. MOTION CARRIED.

C. PERSONNEL - MERIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Bryan Thiriote read from minutes of a previous Steering Committee meeting where a change was made to move all merit system anniversary dates to July 1st. This means that all employees would be eligible for merit system recommendations at the same time versus the previous method of utilizing the employee hire date. This was initially instituted to soften the burden for employee participation of \$100.00 toward their health insurance premium. It was noted that the initial cost to the AOG in moving the anniversary date for all employees to July 1st was great. Staff would like additional direction from the Finance Committee in this regard. Merit recommendations are to be made on a case-by-case basis to the Finance Committee rather than providing an across the board method of distribution. Allison McCoy indicated that utilizing the previously approved July 1 anniversary date would have a large impact on the annual budget, whereas utilizing the hire date would spread the cost around throughout the budget year. She also noted that having evaluations due at year end is difficult on staff because of the work load associated with the end of year budget closeout. Mr. Gary Zabriskie indicated that management staff feels that it makes more sense for the anniversary date to revert back to the hire date for each employee. Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff indicated that employees are expected to do their job. Those employees recommended to receive a merit increase must be going above and beyond in order to be considered and employees are not eligible for more than one merit increase during a fiscal year.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JIM MATSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF, TO SHIFT THE ANNIVERSARY DATE FOR EMPLOYEES BACK TO THEIR ORIGINAL HIRE DATE, WITH MERIT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

D. NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Bryan Thiriote reported that he has been meeting with the Washington County Attorney office staff to review bylaws of the RC&D Council 501c3 organization. He is proposing to continue to work with staff to determine how to best utilize the non-profit status. However, the American Lands Council has proceeded in a different direction and is no longer in need of utilizing the RC&D Council 501c3 non-profit organization as a pass through for grants to support education and research projects. Commissioner Jim Matson indicated that the organization is still parked in place and may be used to pass through grant funds in support of AOG programs and activities. Some of the problems associated with the bylaws of this organization could be fixed once a new board is restructured.

IV. DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST, SECTION 216 NEPA PROCESS

Mr. Joe Harris, DNF, introduced other staff that would be presenting today including Paul Hancock, Powell District Ranger; Hope Woodward, Environmental Coordinator; and Kevin Schulkoski. Mr. Schulkoski indicated that the presentation today will cover information regarding a new Forest Service objections process. However, at this time the Forest Service has not made a decision about the 218 process. Handouts were provided outlining the project level pre-decisional administrative review process under 36 CFR Part 218. This finalized rule was imposed on March 27, 2013.

Ms. Hope Woodward summarized a short slide show outlining the objection process that will be utilized for all Forest Service Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Studies. Other decisions are categorical and do not fall under the 218 or 215 appeal rules. Once an EA or EIS has been developed there will be a legal notice publication that will include a 30-day comment period for an EA and a minimum 45-day comment period for an EIS. The EA and/or EIS will be completed and a draft decision document will be available to those who have requested or are eligible to object. Only partners with standing will have an opportunity to file an objection. Objections must have provided specific written comments and issues raised in objection must be based on previous comments unless they are based on new information that arose after the opportunity for comment. Objections are sent to Objecting Revisions Officials (ORO) to conduct resolution meetings with the objectors. A Forest Supervisor will have a 45-day period for review and to respond to objectors. This may be extended up to 30 days by the reviewing officer. The ORO issues a final objective direction within 90 days of the final draft and decision. Cooperating agency status would not provide the criteria or opportunity to object, unless specific comments are provided during the comment period. A verbal conversation or participation in the process will not establish a standing to object. This process has been established for comments and objections to be provided before a decision is signed. Specific comments must be submitted during the 30-day comment period for an EA and/or the 45-day comment period for an EIS in order to obtain standing to file an objection. Comments would be required even though counties may have cooperating agency status. The line officer must receive written comments outlining any concerns to establish an opportunity to object later in the process. The legal notice establishes the date that comments can be submitted. This process only applies to environmental assessments and environmental impact statements. All other lower scope projects do not fall under this process. All comments must be specific and provided during specified periods of time. Comments must also be within the scope of the project, have a direct relationship to the proposed action of any project, and contain supporting reasons in the comments.

The district ranger and forest supervisor have various options available to gather public involvement. All documents will be consistent with Dixie National Forest Land Management Plans (as amended). The 215 process has been taken out of play under this new process. The first project will fall under the new rule for the Dixie National Forest is the Escalante Upper Valley Decision. All forest service management plan amendments will be accomplished under a similar process.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.