

Five County Association of Governments

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**** M E M O R A N D U M ****

TO: ALL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: COMMISSIONER JIM EARDLEY, CHAIR

DATE; NOVEMBER 5, 2014

SUBJECT: STEERING COMMITTEE, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014, BEGINNING AT 1:00 P.M.** THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS OFFICE, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, LOCATED AT 1070 WEST 1600 SOUTH, BUILDING B, ST. GEORGE, UTAH.

MATERIALS ARE ATTACHED TO ASSIST YOU IN PREPARING FOR THIS MEETING. PLEASE REVIEW ALL MATERIALS AND ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS TO THE AOG STAFF, C/O BRYAN D. THIRIOT. THIS WOULD ALLOW TIME TO RESEARCH YOUR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PRIOR TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU AT 1:00 P.M. IN ST. GEORGE ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014.

BDT:DL
ATTACHMENTS

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** A G E N D A **

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2014
FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
1070 WEST 1600 SOUTH, BUILDING B
ST. GEORGE, UT - 1:00 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- I. MINUTES OCTOBER 12, 2014 - REVIEW AND APPROVE
- II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS - OCTOBER 12, 2014
- III. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs) APPROVAL
(www.fivecounty.utah.gov)
- IV. FY 2014 AUDIT REPORT
- V. DISCUSSION OF COUNTY TAX COLLECTION
- VI. SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT REALLOCATION
- VII. 2015 ANNUAL MEETING CALENDAR
- VIII. STATE AGENCY UPDATES
 - A. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
 - B. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 - C. DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES
- IX. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY & DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY - UPDATES
- X. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES
- XI. LOCAL AFFAIRS
 - A. CORRESPONDENCE
 - B. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL
 - C. OTHER BUSINESS
- X. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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Notice of Electronic or Telephone Participation: While board members are encouraged to attend in person, any Board member that is unable to attend in person may participate via a telephone conference call. To participate via telephone, Board members may dial in toll free: 1.800.444.2801. When prompted please enter session ID code: 3858200.

BEAVER

GARFIELD

IRON

KANE

WASHINGTON

MINUTES

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 8, 2014

Cedar City, Utah

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Jim Eardley, Chair
Commissioner Mark Dalton
Mayor Nolan Davis
Carolyn White
Commissioner Clare Ramsay
Mayor Jerry Taylor
Ken Platt
Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff
Becki Bronson
Commissioner Jim Matson
Wendy Allan
Cal Durfey
Mike Olson for Frank Lojko

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Senator Evan Vickers
Congressman Chris Stewart
Dell Smith
Gary Webster
Bette Arial
Bill Swadley
Courtney Brinkerhoff
Jake Hardman
David Busk
Bryan Thiriot
Allison McCoy
Gary Zabriskie
Diane Lamoreaux

REPRESENTING

Washington Co. Commissioner Representative
Beaver County Commissioner Representative
Beaver County Mayor Representative
Beaver County Schools Representative
Garfield County Commissioner Representative
Garfield County Mayor Representative
Garfield County Schools Representative
Iron County Commissioner Representative
Iron County Schools Representative
Kane County Commissioner Representative
Kane County Schools Representative
Washington County Schools Representative
Dixie State University

Utah State Senate
U.S. House of Representatives
Congressman Stewart's State Office
Congressman Stewart's St. George Office
Senator Lee's St. George Office
Senator Hatch's St. George Office
Senator Hatch's Office
Governor's Office of Economic Development
Utah Department of Workforce Services
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Connie Robinson, Excused
Mayor Robert Houston

Iron County Mayor Representative
Kane County Mayor Representative

Those in attendance recited the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Jim Eardley, Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance. Those asking to be excused include Mayor Connie Robinson, Iron County Mayor Representative.

I. MINUTES AUGUST 13, 2014 - REVIEW AND APPROVE

Commissioner Jim Eardley, Chair, indicated that a quorum was present for conduct of business and presented minutes of the August 13, 2014 meeting for discussion and consideration of approval.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. CAROLYN WHITE, SECONDED BY MAYOR NOLAN DAVIS, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 2014 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

II. FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTIONS - AUGUST 13, 2014

Ms. Diane Lamoreaux reviewed Finance Committee actions for Steering Committee ratification as follows: **1) Letter Opposing a Land Transfer to the Paiute Tribe**– Land near the town of Springdale is proposed to be transferred to the Paiute Tribe for economic development purposes. A letter was sent by the Five County Association of Governments prior to the deadline in opposition of the land transfer into trust lands for the Paiute Tribe. The town of Springdale and Washington County oppose this exchange of land because of hazards that are present in this area as well as tax implications; **2) Independent Contractor Option**– Approval was provided for the ombudsman and nurse case managers to be hired on a part-time basis with no benefits at or below their current subcontract rate. This change was provided because of liability insurance and worker's compensation requirements that were placed on independent contractors; **3) Personnel Merit Recommendations**– The Finance Committee approved shifting the anniversary date for all employees back to their original date of hire. The date was previously moved to July 1st for all employees, but this did not work well for budgeting purposes. Staff is recommending ratification of these items. Merit recommendations for employees will be from the Executive Director on a case-by-case basis.

III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FY 2015 1ST PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Eardley opened the public hearing. Ms. Diane Lamoreaux referenced pages 10-11 of the packet providing background information for the CDBG program. Funding for this program is provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development directly to the state of Utah Department of Workforce Services, Division of Housing and Community Development. Funds are distributed to the AOG's utilizing a \$300,000 base amount and the remainder of funding is based on population. The allocation to Five County AOG for FY 2014 was \$683,360. It is anticipated that approximately \$700,000 +/- will be available for FY 2015. The exact amount of funding is not available at this time. The range of eligible activities is broad and includes projects such as construction of public works and facilities, including water and sewer lines; fire stations; acquisition of real property, provision of public services such as food banks or homeless shelters; and housing projects to provide infrastructure and new construction of multi-family housing, housing rehabilitation for low income homeowners, etc. Other activities are identified in the CDBG Application Guide that is posted on the Division of Housing and Community Development website for review anytime.

The Five County Association of Governments has received funding in the past for planning and technical assistance, funding to establish and recapitalize the Revolving Loan Fund, 1st time homebuyer program provided through the Community Housing and Development Organization, construction of the Five County AOG office in St. George, and procurement of meals-on-wheels vehicles for each of the senior citizen centers in the Five County region. Proposed activities that may result in the displacement of low-moderate income individuals are discouraged. The Five County AOG regional planning and technical assistance

applications have previously included the following elements: 1) Capitalize and administer the Revolving Loan Fund; 2) Provide planning assistance to LMI eligible communities; 2) Provide program delivery for the HOME and RLF programs; 4) Prepare and update the Regional Consolidated Plan; and 5) Workforce housing assistance. AOG projects have historically been primarily of a “regional” nature.

Ms. Lamoreaux explained that set-aside funding of \$90,000 for the regional program administration and economic development technical assistance for FY 2015 was approved for a one year period in the August 13, 2014 Steering Committee Meeting as part of the Rating and Ranking criteria approval. The second year of funding for the Enterprise Fire Station in the amount of \$142,308 is also committed from the FY 2015 CDBG allocation.

Comments from the Steering Committee and/or audience were solicited. No comments and/or suggestions were provided and Commissioner Eardley closed the public hearing. Ms. Lamoreaux indicated that staff would proceed with development of a scope of work and budget for an application to continue planning efforts, technical assistance, and administration of the CDBG program on a regional basis. She also provided copies of projects funded through the CDBG program in southwest Utah 1982 through 2014. The handout depicts a regional summary as well as information county by county.

IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION - COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) 2014 - 2019

Mr. Bryan Thiriot indicated that information containing an overview of the CEDS for the Five County District was provided previously to the Steering Committee and the complete document was made available for review and public comment. A copy is available today for anyone interested in reviewing. The plan has been reviewed by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) staff in Denver. The plan outlines strategies for the next five years and highlights private sector priorities in the region. EDA has recommended that environmental and resiliency be included in terms of economic impact to the district. Copies of a map that will be included in the document were provided. Land owned by the Bureau of Land Management is depicted in yellow; U.S. Forest Service land is shown in green, and private land is white. The map includes roads, rail lines, etc. When the last two elements are incorporated into the document, an e-mail will be sent to Steering Committee members for final review prior to submission of the document to EDA. Committee members are encouraged to visit www.fivecounty.utah.gov to review the entire CEDS document.

V. MUTUAL SELF-HELP PROGRAM

Ms. Allison McCoy reported that the Mutual Self-Help program is going quite well. An open house is scheduled for October 15th at 200 South Main Street in Ivins for the first five homes that have been completed. Construction of another four homes is scheduled to begin on property located in Toquerville. There are currently six families approved and another two applications in process. The program is within budget and has not experienced many problems in moving forward. Commissioner Mike Dalton reiterated again that the Association of Governments will not procure property in support of the program. Ms. McCoy indicated that applicants are securing their own property as part of their loan for construction.

VI. HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL

A. COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2015 FUND ALLOCATION

Mr. Bryan Thiriot indicated that copies of the revised Human Services Council recommendations for allocation of FY 2015 CSBG funds were provided electronically via e-mail. Clint Cottam is in northern Utah for meetings and was unable to attend today's meeting. The state of Utah Community Services staff asked that Five County make some changes to subcontractors that would receive funding in the Five County area. Changes include the following: **1) Millcreek High School**-- Funding was dropped and a more appropriate funding source through the Department of Workforce Services will be used to fill this gap. **2) Canyon Creek Women's Crisis Center**-- The applicant withdrew their application; **3) Washington County Adult Education**-- This application was also withdrawn; and **4) Iron County Adult Education**-- State staff advised that this application be dropped and that Five County staff fill the gap with direct client services. Each of these agencies will continue to have a direct relationship with the Five County AOG staff in the provision of more direct client services to fill these gaps. The amount of funds for office supplies has also been reduced in order to channel additional funds into direct client services. Upon approval of the Human Services Council revised allocation, AOG staff will resubmit the CSBG application to the state of Utah for consideration. Funding to the Five County AOG for direct client services has increased dramatically since the initial funding approval. The total allocation for FY 2015 is \$292,937.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JIM MATSON TO APPROVE THE REVISED HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2015 COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FUND ALLOCATION AS PRESENTED. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF, AND CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

VII. STATE AGENCY UPDATES

A. GOVERNORS OFFICE

Mr. Jake Hardman, Governor's Office of Economic Development, reported that the new executive director, Val Hale, is in St. George today meeting with the Washington County Economic Development group working with their partners and touring industrial facilities. The Deputy Under Secretary, Doug O'Brien, for the U.S. Rural Development was in Cedar City yesterday to meet with the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to discuss help with economic development. Some good ideas resulted from this meeting with GOED, NRCS, USDA, and Farm Service. Iron County will be announcing the new Economic Development Director today at the Cedar City Council meeting. Beaver County is working on their strategic plan with the consultant Better Cities. Garfield County is also working on a strategic plan with this consultant. Meetings are scheduled for October 15th to discuss the planning effort. A meeting with the Boulder Town Council is scheduled to discuss how they can better use grants and non-profit tax credits that are available. Mr. Hardman will be

meeting with officials in Kane County on Thursday to work on their tourism initiative.

Mr. Hardman reported that the Rural Fast Track Grant Program which has been available in the rural parts of Iron and Washington counties to smaller more rural communities will no longer be eligible for funding. This program is still available to businesses in Beaver, Garfield and Kane counties. In order to be eligible for the program, the area must be under 30,000 in population and under \$60,000 in income. This program has taken a different direction with new management on board. Work is still proceeding to try and get the more rural areas in Iron and Washington counties included in this program. This is a program that works very well in partner with the Five County Revolving Loan Fund.

B. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Rick Torgerson, Region Four Director with UDOT, reported that the Cedar City south interchange is now operational with a new traffic pattern. An additional two lanes will be brought onto the system this Friday and a grand opening is scheduled for October 24th. Work is progressing north of Beaver where the old concrete has been replaced with asphalt pavement. Overall, the construction season is winding down. There are a lot of pavement issues on State Route 56 with the extra truck traffic that was placed on that route when I-15 was washed out by Moapa, Nevada. At one point during the I-15 closure there was 27 miles of backup in traffic between Panaca, Nevada and Modena, Utah. UDOT brought on some incident management teams in this area to assist in Utah and Nevada to keep the traffic moving. There is now 22 miles of road that is in very poor condition and an application has been submitted for emergency federal funds to address this situation. It is very difficult to predict this type of storm event and what situations might occur. UDOT was diligent in providing information to motorists and particularly truckers about different routes that were available. Other issues in the Virgin River were experienced with waterfalls and large falling rocks. UDOT shifted some of their snow plows to this area to assist the state of Arizona in clearing debris from the roadway. Mr. Torgerson pointed out that the I-15 system is fragile even on the Black Ridge when traffic has to be diverted because of weather and/or an accident. Detours are generally long distances when these types of events occur. Transportation funding is another issue with the expiration of Map 21 a week ago. An extension has been provided that will cover approximately 66% of the funding to May 1, 2015. This means that UDOT will be putting \$80 million dollars in project funding on hold in the state of Utah until federal aid is once again secured. UDOT is very cautious not to overextend their limited resources. Projects will be designed and put on hold until a transportation bill is passed. This also has a great impact on general contractors who depend on road construction for their livelihood. If funding is not secured early in the Spring, a lot of construction projects will be pushed into the next year's construction season. It also causes problems with increased costs for projects.

Senator Evan Vickers indicated that a lot of discussion occurred during the last legislative session. A number of concepts were presented for consideration including a local options tax, phase shifting of sales tax revenue to the gas tax, etc. It is difficult to work out a solution when the Governor's position is to not impose any tax increase. A task force has been working to develop a solution to this problem and the local options tax is not off the table at this point, but there are definitely

some challenges with each option that has been discussed. Some have suggested that shifting sales tax revenue would keep things revenue neutral. Mr. Torgerson indicated that it is a very difficult situation because the highway trust fund is broke at the federal level. He indicated that there is an \$11 billion dollar gap in the state of Utah Long Range Plan. Maintenance on more rural routes is kept to a chip seal every 10 years to keep those roads operational. There is no money stream to make major improvements to the more rural routes and counties are continuing to market tourism into these areas.

C. DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES (DWS)

Mr. David Busk, DWS, provided unemployment rates for counties as follows: **1) Beaver-- 2.3%; 2) Garfield-- 8.2%; 3) Iron-- 4.1%; 4) Kane-- 4.4%; and 5) Washington-- 2.9%**. DWS is working to provide services to employees of Blue Bunny Ice Cream who are losing their jobs because of the plant closure. Viracon, a glass coating manufacturer, is re-opening their plant in St. George. The company waited for the market to rebound and is now retooling their plant to upgrade equipment. DWS is working on small ad hoc incentives to target those individuals on unemployment insurance to get them back into the workforce. As mentioned in previous meetings, DWS has been focusing on assistance to veterans and the unemployment rate for these individuals continues to drop. A local insights publication depicting the current state of the economy in southwest Utah were provided to members.

VIII. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY AND DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY UPDATES

A representative from Southern Utah University was not in attendance.

Mr. Mike Olson, Dixie State University, provided copies of the Dixie State University magazine containing information about Dr. Richard "Biff" Williams, the new President at DSU. The university is providing leading technology in the digital forensics program through the utilization of chip optic examination. This is breakthrough technology that is only available at DSU. The forensics program is very popular with students, and they are able to gain employment in this field upon graduation. According to a press release from Utah Higher Education, enrollment at DSU has held steady with a slight increase (1.85%). Four of the eight universities in Utah saw increases in enrollment. The other four institutions actually had decreases in their enrollment.

IX. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Chairman Eardley indicated that Congressman Chris Stewart is expected to arrive soon and deferred the agenda item until his arrival.

X. LOCAL AFFAIRS

A. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

B. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

Mr. Bryan Thiriot referenced an out-of-state travel request on pages 12-14 as follows: **1) Cindy Rose**-- Travel authorization is requested for Cindy Rose and four YVC volunteers to attend a YVC Summit Training Conference on October 10-12, 2014 in Kansas City, Missouri. Funds are available from YVC fund raising and Americorps funding to cover travel expenses. Staff is recommending approval for this out-of-state travel request.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. KEN PLATT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JIM MATSON, TO APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FOR CINDY ROSE AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

C. PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND BOARD

Mr. Gary Zabriskie provided a handout outlining CIB funding that has been received in the Five County region for the past five years from 2010 through the first trimester of FY 2015. He explained that the Community Impact Board has two sources of funding: **1) Mineral Lease**-- These funds are awarded as zero percent loans and grants; and **2) Bonus Fund**-- Funding is awarded as interest bearing loans at 1.5%. A significant amount of CIB funding has been received in the Five County region for various projects. He reviewed information from the FY 2014 Legislative Report of the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board, including the amounts of funding contributed by each county as well as the amount of CIB funds that have been awarded to jurisdictions in each of these counties over the past five year period as follows: **1) Beaver County**-- Contributed \$771,000 and received \$5.2 million for various projects; **2) Garfield County**-- The county contributed \$1.2 million into CIB and received \$8.2 million for grants and/or loans; **3) Iron County**-- Contributed \$946,000 and was awarded \$14 million for projects; **4) Kane County**-- The county has not contributed into the CIB fund thus far, but jurisdictions have received \$17 million in funding for various projects; and **5) Washington County**-- The county contributed \$64,000 into the fund and received \$19.8 million for projects, the majority of which were interest bearing loans. He briefly explained a project from a seven county coalition to being a rail line into the Uintah Basin. This particular project will have some impact on the Community Impact Board and may impact how the board looks at projects in the future. It may result in some projects being deferred as necessary. Commissioner Jim Matson explained that the CIB receives approximately \$35 million in revenue annually. There has recently been a surplus of funds that have built up over time into the fund. The seven county coalition proposal is critical in terms of transporting energy from Uintah Basin. Projects submitted to CIB need to be senior level and jurisdictions must submit a very comprehensive application in order to be considered for funding. Projects should be well thought out and include local funding support. Commissioner Matson encouraged Steering Committee members to attend the November 6th CIB meeting that will be held in Moab to learn how the application process will work going forward. Mr. Jake Hardman announced that an energy rally is scheduled in about two weeks to gather support for coal/energy related projects. Those interested in attending can obtain information by contacting him directly.

Mr. Gary Zabriskie reviewed three applications submitted by jurisdictions in the Five County region for consideration this trimester as follows: **1) Iron County/Iron County Municipal Building Authority**-- This project will provide a new road realignment and reconstruction of the Cedar Highlands County Road to meet the increasing demands for year-round access on Cedar Mountain. The project will address major safety issues. The county is requesting a \$1.5 million loan @ 1.5% for 20 years and a \$1.4 million grant for this project; **2) Tropic Town**-- The town is proposing to purchase a new fire truck and is requesting a \$310,000 grant. Garfield County is contributing \$100,000 in match funds; and **3) Enterprise City**-- The City is in the process of building a new fire station utilizing Community Development Block Grant and city funds. The proposed fire station is undersized and unable to meet the needs of the city and surrounding area. In addition to and concurrent with the new fire station project, the City would like to construct a meeting/training room. The applicant is requesting a grant in the amount of \$227,000 and a 1.5% loan for \$227,000. The Steering Committee is asked to provide comments for all CIB applications submitted from the Five County region. The board has the option to support, not support, and/or remain neutral.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF, SECONDED BY MAYOR JERRY TAYLOR, TO APPROVE THE THREE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT BOARD AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Carolyn White, Beaver County Schools Representative, provided copies of a resolution prepared by the Utah School Board Association. A lot of input has been considered in crafting the resolution which addresses Utah's school trust lands and the Greater Utah Canyonlands. Steering Committee members are asked to review the resolution to be aware of the content. The School Board Association is very concerned about the Greater Canyonlands proposed designation as a national monument and/or national park and the impact that this would have on Utah State Trust Lands. A contingency of members of the Utah Schools Boards Association are considering travel to Washington, D.C. to talk with representatives and senators about the impacts of any designation. They are very concerned about the amount of federally owned land in Utah and the need to protect the State of Utah trust lands. The group would welcome comments as well as support of others in this very important matter. Commissioner Clare Ramsay indicated that it did not work out well for Garfield and Kane counties when trust lands were traded out of the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. Trust lands must be accessible by road, but once you lose the parcel the roads become more questionable.

Mr. Gary Zabriskie provided copies of the Southwest Utah Regional Broadband Plan that was recently completed by staff at the Five County AOG. He complimented Levi Roberts, Senior Planner who took the lead on this planning project, for his efforts to develop a comprehensive and detailed plan for the region. The plan contains strategic goals and recommendations.

Mr. Bryan Thiriot referenced information contained on the Bureau of Land Management, St. George Field Office, website referencing Washington County land

sale information. The six parcels being considered for sale encompass approximately 191 acres and are displayed on maps posted on the site. The purpose is to dispose of federal lands which are difficult and uneconomical to manage as part of the public lands and to generate revenue to purchase, from willing sellers. These lands are within Wilderness and National Conservation Areas pursuant to Subtitle O of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

Mr. Bryan Thiriot provided invitations to Steering Committee members for a special dinner to recognize Commissioner Jim Eardley and Commissioner Clare Ramsay. The no-host dinner will be held on October 30, 2014 at Ruby's Inn.

XI. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

Mr. Gary Zabriskie indicated that one A-95 review was included on page 18 of the packet. Three late arrivals were e-mailed separately to Board members and a handout is provided for those. Reviews were presented for Board consideration as follows: **1) Utah Trust Lands Administration, SULA 1793, sPower PV solar lease--** An application has been submitted to lease a sizable area in southeast Kane County south of Big Water to develop a 300 megawatt utility-scale Photovoltaic solar power project. Kane County has been contacted and indicated that they are working with SITLA and are supportive of this project; **2) Utah State Trust Lands Administration, Hatch Bench Commercial Christmas Tree Harvest TA #873--** SITLA has received a request to sell 60 Christmas trees on the Hatch block of Trust Lands to a commercial tree harvester. Garfield County is supportive of the proposed project to harvest 60 or so trees on the Hatch Bench; and **3) Utah State Trust Lands Administration, Road to Marble Mine--** An easement application for an access road to a marble mine has been received by SITLA. Beaver County has been contacted and is supportive of this easement application; and **4) Utah State Trust Lands, Homestead Stock Water Pipeline & Trough RIP #568--** A SITLA grazing permittee proposes to install a 0.5 mile pipeline and at least one water trough on trust lands for his livestock. Garfield County is supportive of the proposed project to support ranching and improvements for grazing. The Steering Committee has the option to approve staff recommendations, not support recommendations or remain neutral.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MIKE DALTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF, TO APPROVE THE STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FOUR REVIEWS AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Jim Eardley returned to Agenda Item # VIII.

VIII. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Congressman Chris Stewart and staff arrived to provide a brief update and field questions from the Steering Committee. Congressman Stewart mentioned the frustration with Washington, D.C. and not being able to accomplish anything legislative wise. He indicated that EPA regulations, public land issues and the growth of the federal government are all very concerning. One area where some success has been achieved is progress toward the de-listing of the Utah Prairie Dog from the Threatened and Endangered Species list. There has also been some success in Utah achieving control of the wild horses from the Bureau

of Land Management. Under the current BLM management, it would take about 10 years to get a plan that would actually provide management of the herds. Representatives of the Congressman's office have recently traveled to remote towns throughout Utah to talk with citizens about public land issues. Stories are abundant about the continuance of grazing allotments in exchange for water rights. Many ranchers seem to be at the mercy of the BLM who controls their livelihood through grazing practices. The Congressman's staff have worked with ranchers to resolve cases on an individual basis and have experienced some amount of success. Members of the Steering Committee are asked to refer individual cases where assistance is needed to intervene on the part of Utah citizenry. Commissioner Jim Eardley indicated that the committee was discussing the possible designation of the Greater Canyonlands National Monument and the impact on State Trust Lands. This would be yet another intrusion of the federal government on Utah. Congressman Stewart responded that Wyoming and Alaska have legislation in place that limits the Presidents from designating monuments in their states. A similar bill from the State of Utah will make it's way through the House of Representatives, but it will be a different story in the Senate. A bill sponsored by Representative Rob Bishop would tie the designation of national monuments to the NEPA environmental process prior to any designation. This bill will pass through the House, but it will need many allies in the Senate to move the legislation forward. Sally Jewel, Secretary of the Interior, has promised that there will be no designation of a national monument, but ultimately she will not be the one making the final decision in this regard. Members of Congress are fearful of what the President could do during his last year in office. Liberal eastern and California Senators are the ones pushing this proposed monument designation. It may be helpful to put together a delegation to meet with moderate republicans from the East and South to explain the impacts of federal monument designation to the state of Utah. Education of these senators would likely be more effective than anything else. It would be good for any contingent of individuals to work with Senator Lee and Senator Hatch to schedule meetings with senators.

Congressman Stewart reported that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) are both good for now. An earlier e-mail indicated that PILT could not be included in the Continuing Resolution, but it will be included in the Omnibus Act. It has been a hard fight to get some type of funding mechanism in place for PILT. The good news is that Senators Harry Reid and Dianne Feinstein both like PILT. It is good to have some Democratic support to provide funding to states that have vast amounts of land under federal control. Congressman Stewart indicated that he has worked hard to try to get a five year funding plan for PILT. Serving as a member of the House Appropriations Committee has provided some leverage on PILT funding. Congressman Stewart thanked the group for allowing him to have time on the agenda and urged committee members to refer people to his office who are having difficulty with obtaining services from the federal government and/or public lands issues.

Bette Arial, Senator Lee's Office, provided a report regarding the Honor Flights for World War II veterans. A short ceremony was held on their departure and another upon their return. The trip was fairly hard on these veterans due to their age. The lesson that emerges for everyone is that veterans should be honored earlier on rather than waiting until they are old. The case load of veterans with issues is very large at Senator Lee's office. Senator Lee was recently elected to serve as chair of the Conservative Senate Caucus, and has had an opportunity to give speeches on state's rights. Recent decisions of the Supreme Court have afforded the opportunity for Senator Lee to speak on the Senate floor regarding Utah's right to have a say in things governing our state as well as rights on public lands.

**Steering Committee Meeting
October 8, 2014**

Mr. Bill Swadley, Senator Hatch's Office, reported that the Senators have many challenging issues, one of which is the Environmental Protection Agency ruling for coal fired power plants. An extension for comments has been provided to December 2014. Senator Hatch is very concerned about the impact this will have on the coal industry. The comment extension allows extra time for states and other individuals to provide comments on the proposed rules. Congress is out of session right now, but Senator Hatch anticipates that the budget will be addressed when the session resumes in December.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2014 in St. George at the Five County Association of Governments office.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

DRAFT

Five County Association of Governments

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St. George, Utah 84771

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FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE - 2015

Date	Location	Address	Time
January 14, 2015	Five County AOG Large Conference Room	1070 West 1600 South Bldg. B.; St. George, UT	1:00 p.m.
February 11, 2015	Beaver City Office Conference Room	30 West 300 North Beaver, UT	1:30 p.m.
March 11, 2015	Kane County Emergency Services Training Facility/ Search & Rescue Building	30 West Airport Drive Kanab, UT	1:00 p.m.
April 8, 2015	Heritage Center Room #1	105 North 100 East Cedar City, UT	1:00 p.m.
June 10, 2015	Kane County Emergency Services Training Facility/ Search & Rescue Building	30 West Airport Drive Kanab, UT	1:00 p.m.
August 12, 2015	Garfield County Courthouse Conference Room (Upstairs)	55 South Main Street Panguitch, UT	1:00 p.m.
October 14, 2015	Heritage Center Room #1	105 North 100 East Cedar City, UT	1:00 p.m.
November 18, 2015	Five County AOG Large Conference Room	1070 West 1600 South Bldg. B.; St. George, UT	1:00 p.m.

The Finance Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet in January, April, June, and October. Additional meetings may be scheduled from time to time, as called by the Chair of the Steering Committee. Notification of these meetings will be posted on the state of Utah public meeting notice website <http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>. Any necessary changes in the above meeting schedule will also be posted on the Utah public meeting notice website, the Five County AOG website and posted at the main AOG office in St. George.