

MINUTES

FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 11, 2015 - 1:00 p.m.

76 North Main Street
Kanab, Utah

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff, Chair
Mayor Dutch Deutschlander for
Mayor Connie Robinson
Becki Bronson
Commissioner Tammy Pearson for
Commissioner Mike Dalton, Vice-Chair
Mayor Nolan Davis
Carolyn White
Commissioner David Tebbs for
Commissioner Dell LeFevre
Mayor Jerry Taylor
Commissioner Jim Matson
Mayor Robert Houston
LaRene Cox
Mike Olson for Frank Lojko

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bill Swadley
Bette Arial
Gary Webster
Lisa Taylor
Bryan Thiriot
Allison McCoy
Gary Zabriskie
Diane Lamoreaux

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Platt, Excused
Wendy Allan
Commissioner Victor Iverson
Donna Law

REPRESENTING

Iron County Commissioner Representative
Iron County Mayor Representative

Iron County Schools Representative
Beaver County Commissioner Representative

Beaver County Mayor Representative
Beaver County Schools Representative
Garfield County Commissioner Representative

Garfield County Mayor Representative
Kane County Commissioner Representative
Kane County Mayor Representative
Washington County Schools Representative
Dixie State University

Senator Hatch's St. George Office
Senator Lee's St. George Office
Congressman Stewart's St. George Office
Congressman Stewart's St. George Office
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments

Garfield County Schools Representative
Kane County Schools Representative
Washington Co. Commissioner Representative
Southern Utah University

Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff, Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance. Those asking to be excused include Mr. Ken Platt, Garfield County Schools Representative. Commissioner David Tebbs was representing Commissioner Dell LeFevre, Garfield County Commissioner Representative and Mayor Dutch Deutschlander was representing Mayor Connie Robinson, Iron County Mayor Representative.

Commissioner Jim Matson led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. MINUTES FEBRUARY 11, 2015 - REVIEW AND APPROVE

Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff, Chair, indicated that a quorum was present for conduct of business and presented minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting for discussion and consideration of approval. Commissioner Jim Matson reported that the legislation to provide \$50,000 to each county to develop consistent county resource management plans statewide is moving forward, and it appears that the bill will be accomplished tomorrow. The legislation requires the use of consultants rather than counties in this effort. It appears that the Public Lands Coordination Office will establish standards for the plans, but the Kane County Resource Management Plan will be utilized as a good example for plan development moving forward. Applications to the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board for the other \$50,000 to counties will be moving forward.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR NOLAN DAVIS, SECONDED BY MS. CAROLYN WHITE, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

II. FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTIONS - FEBRUARY 11, 2015 AND MARCH 11, 2015

Mr. Bryan Thriot reviewed actions of the Finance Committee for the February 11, 2015 and March 11, 2015 meetings as follows: **1) Out-of-State Travel Request for Mutual Self-Help Staff--** The travel request was denied. The Finance Committee will continue to monitor the Mutual Self-Help program to determine whether an application will be submitted to continue the program; **2) Out-of-State Travel in General--** A new out-of-state travel request form will be utilized for future requests to provide a vetting process by Gray Zabriskie, Carrie Schonlaw and Bryan Thriot. This will provide additional information that will be helpful in determining whether travel will benefit staff development and the organization as a whole; and **3) Promotions--** A promotion for Levi Roberts to Senior Planner was approved.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR ROBERT HOUSTON, SECONDED BY MS. LARENE COX, TO APPROVE FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTIONS AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

A. SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Brinkerhoff, Chair, declared the public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program open. Ms. Diane Lamoreaux explained that the hearing is held to allow citizens the opportunity to provide input regarding the project that was awarded FY 2015 CDBG funding. Funds are allocated to the state of Utah from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The state of Utah anticipates receiving \$4.5 million for FY 2015. The allocation provided to the Five County AOG for regional allocation will be approximately \$700,000. Each region receives a base allocation amount of \$300,000 and the remainder of funding is allocated through a formula which uses the region's latest population data. St. George City receives a direct allocation of CDBG funds from HUD as an entitlement city, population over 50,000. The St. George population is omitted from the Five County region's population numbers.

Funding in the amount of \$90,000 was pre-approved in August 2014 to the Five County Association of Governments to provide program administration, RLF technical assistance and program delivery, Consolidated Plan planning, and housing planning to develop and/or update affordable housing plans throughout the region. Previous work plans have included the following elements: 1) Direct planning assistance to income eligible communities; 2) Updating the Region's Consolidated Plan; 3) Rating and Ranking of projects; 4) Revolving Loan Fund program delivery and economic development technical assistance; and 5) Workforce housing assistance.

Community and Economic Development staff at the AOG have developed a draft work plan for FY 2015 which includes outcomes, measurements, activities, and budget amounts. Staff will be working with Iron County and Minersville Town to develop affordable housing plans, as well as several cities throughout the region to complete their biannual housing report. Specific elements of the work plan include: Consolidated Plan update, general program administration, rating and ranking, direct planning assistance for affordable housing plans, and RLF technical assistance and program delivery. Staff will also focus on workforce housing newsletters, ombudsman activities, as well as educational information and presentations.

Comments were solicited from committee members as well as those in the audience. Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff acknowledged there were no comments and closed the public hearing. Mr. Lamoreaux indicated that staff would proceed with the work plan as outlined.

B. CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Brinkerhoff, Chair, declared the Consolidated Plan public hearing open. Mr. Gary Zabriskie explained that all recipients of Community Development Block Grant or other HUD funding are required to develop and update a Five Year Consolidated Plan as well as an annual One-year Action Plan. The One-year Action Plan details capital improvements lists and projects that would likely occur during that year. The five year plan contains elements that are anticipated over the next five years. The five year plan also includes a list of CDBG projects funded in the Five County region from 1984 through 2014. Copies of the Five-year Consolidated Plan and One-year Action Plan are available on the Five County website for public viewing and input. A 30-day comment period which commenced March 1, 2015 will conclude on March 31, 2015.

Mr. Zabriskie indicated that these plans include information regarding Community Development, Housing and Economic Development and are similar to city and/or county general plans. The plans include a fair amount of tables and data that are required by HUD. Development of these plans allow funding to continue to flow from HUD to the state of Utah and each of the seven regions throughout the state. Mr. Zabriskie reported that Levi Roberts has been instrumental in the development of affordable housing plans for jurisdictions in the Five County region. He has also generated a large amount of information in the Consolidated Plan dealing with impediments to fair and affordable housing. The state of Utah is unique in allowing each of the regions to make decisions locally to determine which projects are

funded utilizing CDBG funds. Staff will present a resolution of adoption for these plans during the April Steering Committee meeting.

Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff, Chair, noted no comments and closed the public hearing. Those in attendance were encouraged to review the documents and provide comments.

IV. AGING AND NUTRITION SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

A. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NUTRITION AND AGING SERVICES PROVIDERS CONFERENCE

Mr. Bryan Thiriot referenced information contained on page 24 of the packet from Ms. Carrie Schonlaw requesting Steering Committee approval to cover costs for County Council on Aging Coordinators to attend a national conference. The Aging and Nutrition Advisory Council approved reimbursement up to \$1,500 per county to cover registration and travel expenses for each of the County Council on Aging Coordinators to attend the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Providers Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on June 3-5, 2015. Funds will be held aside in the aging budget to reimburse these expenses to counties. Commissioner Tammy Pearson indicated that the Beaver County Commission would be discussing this at their next county commission meeting. Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff requested additional information on the registration fee for the conference.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR DUTCH DEUTSCHLANDER TO TABLE THIS AGENDA ITEM, REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PRESENTATION AT THE APRIL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TAMMY PEARSON. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

V. REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Gary Zabriskie referenced information contained on page 25-26 of the packet outlining the membership of the Five County Loan Administration Board, which consists of nine board members. Terms of members are staggered to expire at different intervals. Staff is proposing that Mr. West Martin, Town and Country Bank, be re-appointed to serve an additional two year term as one of the banker positions. Mr. Martin has been a great asset to the Board and is willing to serve another term.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JIM MATSON, SECONDED BY MAYOR JERRY TAYLOR, TO RE-APPOINT WEST MARTIN TO THE REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION BOARD FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEAR TERM THROUGH MARCH 2017. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Mr. Zabriskie indicated the Mr. Paul Campbell, with Southern Utah SCORE, has expressed interest in continuing to serve an additional term on the Board. His knowledge and expertise have been very valuable to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JIM MATSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TAMMY PEARSON, TO RE-APPOINT PAUL CAMPBELL TO THE REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION BOARD FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEAR TERM THROUGH MARCH 2017. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Mr. Zabriskie reported that the Department of Workforce Services has recommended that Mr. Mark Tilby, Workforce Development Specialist at DWS, be designated as the Utah Workforce Services Representative.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JIM MATSON, SECONDED BY MAYOR NOLAN DAVIS, TO APPOINT MARK TILBY AS THE DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION BOARD THROUGH MARCH 2017. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff reported that Mr. Chris McCormick has been named as the new CEO of the Cedar City Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Gary Zabriskie explained that he has made an inquiry of another Chamber of Commerce in the Five County region offering them the opportunity of serving on the Revolving Loan Fund Administration Board. This individual must receive approval of their chamber board prior to presentation of the name to the Steering Committee for approval.

VI. STATE AGENCY UPDATES

A. GOVERNORS OFFICE

None.

B. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

None.

C. DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES (DWS)

None.

VII. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY AND DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. Mike Olson, Dixie State University, reported that DSU is doing very well with their athletic programs, and the basketball team will be competing in the first round of the NCAA tournament. He noted that some building projects will be proceeding in the near future. A 20,000 square foot addition will be undertaken at the Burns Arena providing additional offices and space for campus police. Meetings have been scheduled with the architect to move forward with design and construction of the new dorms. The dorms will be constructed on the grass area west of the old campus dorms. This is a very big project that includes a three story dorm facility. Construction of the dorms is anticipated sometime this summer. Mr. Olson also reported that the VITA tax preparation program is going very well at DSU. This is a great program that provides assistance to a lot of people and is operated in conjunction with the Five County Association of Governments. DSU will be touting the largest graduation class in May. Based on applications received, DSU will also have a record number of freshmen enrolled next year.

VIII. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Bill Swadley, Senator Hatch's Office, reported that Senator Hatch is focusing on efforts to develop legislation that will reform the tax code. Senator Hatch and Ranking Member Ron Wyden have launched an effort to solicit public input, comments, suggestions, data, etc. on Bipartisan tax reform. Comments and/or suggestions are being accepted by the Senate Finance Committee for the following areas of interest: 1) Individual Income Tax; 2) Business Income Tax; 3) Savings & Investments; 4) International Tax; and 5) Community Development and Infrastructure. Submissions will be accepted by the Senate Finance Committee until April 15, 2015. Working groups will perform an analyses of information provided and present recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee in May.

Mr. Swadley reported that the Senate was not able to gather sufficient votes to override a Presidential veto on the Keystone Pipeline legislation. This is very concerning to Senator Hatch who feels that there are serious problems with the regulatory process which creates unnecessary delays and burdensome regulations that clearly hold up projects and impact the economy. A prime example is the Keystone Pipeline that has been ongoing since 2008.

Ms. Bette Arial, Senator Lee's Office, reported that the Senator's office has received a lot of calls regarding the letter that was written in regard to President Obama's negotiations with Iran. Senator Lee feels that Congress is clearly the body that should be involved when deals are made with other countries. Senator Lee would like to eliminate the inheritance tax as well as corporate capital gains tax. A rather historic meeting was recently conducted at the U.S. Capitol involving the entire Utah delegation, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Utah, Kathleen Clark, representing the Governor's Public Lands Office, Kevin Carter, State and Institutional Trust Lands, and staff to discuss the public lands initiative and transfer of federal land to the state of Utah for management. The main objective of this action is to initiate a shift in management of these lands. Senator Ralph Okerlund, Representative Mike Noel, and Senator Ken Ivory have spearheaded this process and have kept the issue at the fore front. In part, this steady involvement has changed the game in terms of the federal government becoming engaged in this issue.

Ms. Arial reported that recent meetings were held with the Dixie National Forest Supervisor and Regional Forester in regard to allotments held by Jeremy Hunt of Beaver. These particular allotments have a large number of wild horses and burros that come into the area. Mr. Hunt provided a very good presentation to the Forest Service and others in attendance including photos of the allotment before and after, where the fence line exists, depictions of his allotment, the forest service allotment, etc. Where Mr. Hunt has been taking care of the allotment, there is grass and it is very desirable. The Forest Service managed land is down to dirt and cannot sustain wild, let alone domestic animals. Mr. Hunt shared documents initiated with the Forest Service where he was promised a certain number of animals on the allotment and that wild horses and burros would be kept to a low number on the allotment. The number of wild horses grazing on his allotment is three times higher than what was promised in the documents. This is because he is providing water and grass that is very desirable to the animals. As Mr. Hunt presented these facts, there was a shift in the attitude of the Forest Service employees. Staff was conciliatory and apologetic and even went so far as to admit that their management was inappropriate. Forest Service staff agreed that there were too many horses on the allotment and began to focus on finding a solution to resolve this matter. There seems to be a shift in attitude that will hopefully provide some type of resolve to grazing permittees. Some of this change

may be attributed to the fact that the entire delegation is focused and engaged in addressing issues of public lands management and this pressure is being felt by federal land management agencies. It is difficult for the public to understand that the wild horse population is growing at a steady rate and that these animals are starving. Commissioner Tammy Pearson commented that the problem of over population of the wild horses has been an issue for many years and it has not been dealt with over a long period of time allowing the herds to continue to expand. Over the past 20 years, there have been only two gathers of these animals and that was because of pressure that was put on the federal agencies. The HML on the Commissioner's allotment has been moved from 30 to 60 and there are still over 200 head of horses on this particular allotment. This is a huge problem with no end in sight.

Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff asked for an update regarding the Dan Love situation. Ms. Ariel indicated that she did not have any new information to share, but many of the public land managers are retiring and moving out of their positions.

Mr. Gary Webster, Congressman Stewart's Office, reported that Congressman Stewart was disappointed in the Department of Homeland Security's clean funding bill. The entire Utah delegation voted against this bill. It is now the middle of appropriation season and a lot of agency staff are approaching Congressman Stewart's office to request additional or sustained funding depending on their initiatives. There will be a number of hearings with cabinet level officials in the three subcommittees, of which the Department of the Interior will be something that Senator Stewart will entertain. The Forest Service will be pulling the plug on the three fourths initiative. When this comes up again, the Forest Service will be encouraged to take a more holistic approach rather than just focusing on grazing. There are currently a lot of questions regarding sequester caps and how things are funded. President Obama will only agree to less funding cuts for defense if there is additional funding provided for social programs. Congressman Stewart believes that social programs need to be addressed, but this should not be tied to national security. Hearings will be scheduled to specifically address Medicare and Social Security issues. He also noted that Secure Rural Schools is constantly being discussed, but it has been difficult to fit this into legislation before the school calendar year ends. He announced that Congressman Stewart will be attending the Escalante Health Clinic opening on April 8th.

Lisa Taylor, Congressman Stewart's Office, reported that the Utah Division of Natural Resources held a specific board meeting to approve the new rule to control prairie dogs on a state level. This rule is to go into effect by the end of March or mid April where people should then be able to trap the prairie dogs without consequences. The new rule is available for viewing on the Division of Natural Resources website. This will be a statewide rule for Utah Prairie Dogs. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will still have jurisdiction of the Prairie Dogs on federal lands. Larry Christ, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, provided some comments but agreed with the Utah state rule. Counties have been given the authority to issue county certificates of clearance. The new rule applies to state and SITLA lands only.

IX. LOCAL AFFAIRS

A. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

B. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Dutch Duetschlander announced that Brian Head Town will be holding their 40th Anniversary celebration of Brian Head becoming a town tomorrow afternoon. Those in attendance are invited to attend.

Commissioner Jim Matson indicated that he will be traveling to Flagstaff tomorrow to attend the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument process. This designation would go from south of the Grand Canyon Airport to the state line and would impact the Lake Powell Pipeline because of its route through Arizona. It encompasses 1.7 million acres of BLM and Forest Service lands and is being pushed by democratic senators from Arizona. The designation is targeting uranium mining and timber harvesting that are planned for this plateau. Further information regarding this coordination effort will be shared as it becomes available. This has huge implications on Washington, Kane, San Juan and Garfield counties. Local jurisdictions will likely be asked to provide resolutions opposing this large land grab.

Mr. Gary Zabriskie announced that Gordon Walker, Director of the Utah Division of Housing and Community Development, has announced that he is retiring at the end of June 2015. Gordon and his wife, former Senator Carlene Walker, have been called to serve as public affairs missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the LDS European Area Office in Frankfurt, Germany.

X. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

Mr. Gary Zabriskie reviewed one A-95 review contained in packet as follows: **1) State Trust Lands Administration, John's Valley Brush Removal, Range Improvement Project # 595--** This action would remove 92 acres of rabbit brush followed by treatment of herbicide on Trust Lands in John's Valley in Garfield County. The Garfield County Commission is supportive of the proposed vegetative treatment and improvement of habitat and feed for grazing of wild and domestic animals.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DAVID TEBBS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JIM MATSON, TO APPROVE THE A-95 REVIEW WITH A SUPPORTIVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Mr. Zabriskie indicated that information has been received regarding the Cove Fort Geothermal project scoping and environmental assessment process. Information will be provided via e-mail to solicit comments from Steering Committee members.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2015 in Cedar City at the Heritage Center.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.