

**WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015**

A Special Meeting of the Board of the Washington County Commission was called to order by Chairman Alan D. Gardner at 1:30 p.m. on September 10, 2015, in the Commission Chambers, Washington County Administration Building, St. George, Utah. Those in attendance were Chairman Alan D. Gardner, Commissioner Victor Iverson, Commissioner Zachary Renstrom, County Administrator Dean Cox, Deputy County Attorney Eric Clarke, and Deputy County Clerk Nicholle M. Felshaw.

Commissioner Renstrom led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-1934, A RESOLUTION DEMANDING THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT WASHINGTON COUNTY AN EXTENSION TO THE 90 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE BEAVER DAM WASH AND RED CLIFFS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS AND THE DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE ST. GEORGE FIELD OFFICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME TO FULLY ADDRESS THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS THAT WOULD RESULT FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DRAFT PLANS**

Washington County Administrator Dean Cox read the Resolution aloud so the public was aware of the content.

Chairman Gardner reiterated that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) did in fact take six (6) years to draft the over eleven hundred (1100) page document, yet has only given 90 days to make comments. To read, digest and respond within 90 days is unreasonable. Through this Resolution, an additional 90 days is being requested for the opportunity to research and make educated comments. Chairman Gardner stated that this Draft Resource Management Plan is an outgrowth of the Lands Bill passed in 2009 and is concerned that as a primary party to the bill, the Resource Management Plan (RMP) has several inconsistencies that need to be addressed, and the County needs the time to do it right.

Commissioner Iverson expressed that the Draft Resource Management Plan is a betrayal by the St. George Field Office (SGFO); a betrayal of the spirit and letter of the 2009 Lands Bill; a betrayal of the County's right to be a cooperating agency; and a betrayal of common sense and good land management practices. Commissioner Iverson went on to mention that citizens need to join with the Commission in making extensive comments on the plan because this plan leaves no user group harmless. It impacts the water rights, the right to climb, travel, geocache, graze, motorize travel, camp, and hike. This plan is about

controlling human behavior rather than land management and a message needs to be sent to the BLM.

Commissioner Iverson spoke about three (3) ways to defend against this Plan: administratively, through this comment process; legislatively, as Congressional Leaders have been contacted and have given verbal commitments to be active on defending the County's rights; and legally, working with the County Attorney to exercise those rights.

Commissioner Iverson concluded by stating that public lands and the use of public lands are what makes Washington County such a great place to live. The citizens in the County should be able to continue to utilize the land.

Commissioner Renstrom stated that currently a 90 day extension is all that is being asked of the BLM. He went on to mention that he has read the majority of the Plan but it will now take months to go back through to make comments on what has been proposed. The public has the right for time to comment on this Plan.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Resolution No. R-2015-1934, a Resolution Demanding the United States Bureau of Land Management Grant Washington County an Extension to the 90 Day Public Comment Period for the Draft Resource Management Plans for the Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs National Conservation Areas and the Draft Amendment to the St. George Field Office Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement in Order to Allow Time to Fully Address the Potential Negative Impacts That Would Result From Implementation of the Draft Plans. Motion seconded by Commissioner Renstrom and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson, and Renstrom voting aye.**

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

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NICHOLLE M. FELSHAW  
DEPUTY CLERK

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ALAN D. GARDNER  
CHAIRMAN