

MINUTES

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

August 10, 2011

Panguitch, Utah

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Chad Johnson, Chair
Craig Wright for Mayor Mark Yardley
Carolyn White
Commissioner Clare Ramsay
Mayor Jerry Taylor
Superintendent Ben Dalton for Ken Platt
Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff
Mayor Connie Robinson
Commissioner Douglas Heaton
Commissioner Denny Drake

REPRESENTING

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 Mayor Representative
Kane County Commissioner Representative
Washington Co. Commissioner Representative

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marreen Casper
Ellen Schunk
Mike Empey
Jan Thompson
Nathan Lee
Art Cooper
Ken Sizemore
Sherri Dial
Diane Lamoreaux

Senator Hatch's Office
Senator Lee's Office
Congressman Matheson's Office
Department of Workforce Services
Utah Department of Transportation
Citizen
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Adams, Excused
Mayor Nina Laycook, Excused
Wendy Allan
Mayor Tom Hirschi
LuAnne Forrest, Excused
Brian Cottam, Excused
Frank Lojko

Iron County Schools Representative
Kane County Mayor Representative
Kane County Schools Representative
Washington Co. Mayor Representative
Washington Co. Schools Representative
Southern Utah University
Dixie State College of Utah

Commissioner Chad Johnson, Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance. Those asking to be excused include Mayor Nina Laycook, Kane County Mayor Representative; Alan Adams, Iron County Schools Representative and LuAnne Forrest, Washington County Schools Representative. He acknowledged Superintendent Ben Dalton, representing Ken Platt, Garfield County Schools Representative and Craig Wright representing Mayor Mark Yardley, Beaver County Mayor Representative.

I. MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2011 - REVIEW & APPROVE

Chairman Johnson indicated that a quorum was present for the conduct of business and presented minutes of the June 8, 2011 meeting for Board consideration.

Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff noted one correction on page 9, 2) Big Water Sewer System Project that should read\$2.95 million dollar grant. He also expressed concern with the Foster Grandparent Program budget amount of \$124,000 to fund only 30 volunteers. Another program cost center that seems out of proportion is the New Choices Waiver budget at \$184,987 that funds two FTE case managers. Mr. Sizemore explained that licensed social workers coordinate services for elderly clients in an in-home setting or in community based facilities.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CLARE RAMSAY TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2011 MEETING WITH THE ONE NOTED CORRECTION. MOTION SECONDED BY MS. CAROLYN WHITE AND CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

A. HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) AND SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (SSBG) ALLOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Ken Sizemore referenced Human Services Council allocation recommendations on page 11 and 12 of the packet included for information purposes. The Executive Committee approved these funding allocations during a July 21, 2011 teleconference meeting.

B. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

The Executive Committee approved out-of-state travel authorization for Mr. Sizemore to attend the Western Planner / APA Four Corners Conference in Santa Fe, NM on September 11-14, 2011.

C. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

Mr. Sizemore reported that the Executive Committee approved four A-95 reviews submitted by the Utah State Trust Lands Administration. All reviews had a supportive staff recommendation.

The actions outlined above are presented today for Board ratification.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CLARE RAMSAY, SECONDED BY MAYOR JERRY TAYLOR, TO RATIFY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS AS OUTLINED ABOVE. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Denny Drake commented on the quickness of the process utilized to allocate CSBG and SSBG program funds. Even though funding decisions were received in a delayed process, Human Service Council members have asked that additional time be provided for adequate review of application information prior to the scheduled meeting. Sherri Dial explained that staff is switching to electronic transmission of meeting information and some board members did not receive the information. Allocations were made on a percentage basis and needed to be expedited because of previous funding uncertainty. Staff will be mindful of this in transmitting future meeting packets.

III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM - RATING AND RANKING CRITERIA FY 2012

Ms. Diane Lamoreaux referenced information on pages 13-26 of the packet containing a copy of the Draft FY 2012 Rating and Ranking Criteria for Board consideration. Minor revisions are recommended as follows: 1) **Criteria #3, Job Creation**-- Tweaked wording to include *new permanent jobs*. Points are awarded only when jurisdiction can document that additional permanent jobs are created; 2) **Criteria # 4, Unemployment**-- Adjusted % scale above state average to avoid gaps that were in previous criteria. Unemployment data is only available for counties; 3) **Criteria #6, CDBG Funds Requested Per Capita**-- Changed to number of beneficiaries rather than jurisdictions population; 4) **Criteria #12, Project's Geographic Impact**-- Decreased point values to address concern that larger cities receive unfair advantage from projects of a larger scope in area to be served; 5) **Criteria #13, County Per Capita Income**-- Eliminated this criteria because of negative impact to poorer communities within richer counties.

Some concern was expressed in terms of the larger number of LMI housing units receiving more points. Staff determined that it is not reasonable to assume that 10 duplexes would be constructed in a given year at various sites throughout the region. Regional efforts have been to maximize the number of LMI individuals benefitted by a project through leveraging of CDBG funds. Because of CDBG program requirements, funds would likely only be used for infrastructure or to acquire property. The Executive Committee has concurred with the Executive Director that regional project priorities will remain the same for FY 2012. Those priorities include the following: LMI Housing Activities #1, Community Facilities #2, Public Utility Infrastructure #3, Public Safety Activities #4, Remove Architectural Barriers #5, and Parks and Recreation #6. Pre-approved funding included in the Rating and Ranking reflects \$90,000 for Five County AOG program administration, housing program delivery, Consolidated Plan Planning, Direct Planning Assistance and Economic Development Technical Assistance. Staff is recommending the FY 2012 CDBG Rating and Ranking Criteria for Board consideration with revisions as outlined above.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. CAROLYN WHITE TO APPROVE THE FY 2012 CDBG RATING AND RANKING CRITERIA AS PRESENTED. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DENNY DRAKE AND CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

IV. REGIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING DISCUSSION

Ms. Sherri Dial reported that Community Service Block Grant funds are utilized to help mitigate poverty and to assist individuals in becoming self-sufficient. While homelessness has decreased in northern Utah, the number of homeless individuals and families has increased in Iron and Washington counties. This is primarily due to increased foreclosure rates, reduced work hours and/or unemployment. At the same time, funding received from the state of Utah to address homeless issues has continued to decrease. A University of Utah research study concludes that the cost of homeless individuals to communities and counties is significant. Homelessness causes higher utilization of emergency rooms, police and ambulance response, and jail stays. Providing temporary housing and case management will help to stabilize their situation. AOG staff is proposing to work with various agencies and non-profit organizations to develop supportive housing to assist in addressing the needs of families and individuals facing homelessness.

Ms. Dial shared some experiences in Beaver and Garfield counties where staff have worked with homeless individuals over the past year. Each year the federal government requires that each state perform a homeless count called the "Point-in-Time" count. Counting these individuals is a challenging task and the number of homeless people varies based on how homelessness is defined. Services are provided to all five counties through the following programs: Dixie Care & Share, Iron County Care & Share, Southwest Center Behavioral Health, Canyon Creek and DOVE Crisis Centers, Erin Kimball Foundation, and the Veterans Administration.

Five County AOG staff has met with various non-profit organizations and agencies to discuss homelessness, especially the need for some type of supportive housing opportunities. AOG staff feel that they have the ability to spearhead the process to organize funding and resources to create a program to effectively compete for additional funding sources to address the growing needs in the area. The Volunteer Center and Five County Community Action staff are presenting a concept to the Steering Committee prior to moving forward to secure funding. The goal is to generate funding and resources for a supported housing project. Various non-profit agencies have offered help and Olene Walker, former Governor, will assist to obtain funding from the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund. There are also Housing Authority waivers available to assist with ongoing expenses for some of the units. Veterans Administration waivers could become available in the coming year to fund housing for homeless veterans. Staff would also pursue Balance of State Continuum of Care funding for a new transitional housing project. The state of Utah Division of Housing and Community Services has also provided support of this partnership to organize such a project.

Commissioner Clare Ramsay stated that he did not know of any homeless individuals in Garfield County. Craig Wright reported that several homeless individuals have been located in storage units, vacant trailers in back yards, as well as in a vacant motel in Beaver. Some of these individuals are transient but some are also local. Sherri Dial indicated that some homeless families are living in their vehicles on the Arizona Strip and coming into St. George for employment or bringing their children in to attend school. Some families have been located camping in Cedar Canyon. Some individuals choose to live this way, but others are merely surviving. Commissioner Douglas Heaton shared his concerns and belief that addressing homelessness is important but not a function of government. Efforts need to begin with the private sector and should not necessarily rely on federal funding sources. If this group were to perpetuate this program, it takes away the incentive for the private sector to become involved. Ms. Dial agreed that the private sector plays a very important role in the process of addressing homelessness. She also reported that Homeless Prevention funds will be eliminated after March 2012. Mr. Sizemore pointed out that most non-profit organizations do not have the ability to spearhead this effort because of the lack of accounting experience and availability of a CPA firm to conduct an audit. The Association of Governments is in a position to provide this accounting capacity. This project would be handled similar to Color Country Community Housing, Inc. whose beginning was at the AOG level. The organization was spun off from Five County as they gained the capacity to handle functions on their own. It was also pointed out that local Care & Shares do not assist clients after a 30 day period of time and most food pantries also limit assistance to a short term option. Staff is requesting Board approval to supervise and coordinate efforts in writing grants to obtain funds that would support this project.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF TO AUTHORIZE FIVE COUNTY STAFF TO ORGANIZE AND PURSUE FUNDING THAT WOULD SUPPORT A SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT TO SERVE THE FIVE COUNTY REGION, WITH PROGRESS REPORTS TO THE BOARD FROM TIME-TO-TIME AND PLACING NO EXPECTATIONS ON THIS BOARD TO DIVERT EXISTING FUNDS OR ULTIMATELY FUND THIS PROJECT. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MAYOR CONNIE ROBINSON. Commissioner Denny Drake commented that should this become a funding issue for the AOG, support for the project would be withdrawn. Commissioner Douglas Heaton explained that he has reservations in terms of what the Board is approving, especially if federal funding is involved. **MOTION CARRIED, WITH ONE OPPOSED AND ONE ABSTENTION.**

V. DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES (DWS) UPDATE

Ms. Jan Thompson, DWS, reported that DWS would also partner with the AOG, various non-profit organizations and/or agencies on the supportive housing project. She also noted that Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars that are available in the area could be used in conjunction with supportive housing. Today's discussion will highlight their Economic Services Area Plan which is really focused on employers. DWS provides a lot of supportive service programs and the plan does have to include those services. The department works to partner with employers, economic development, and educational entities to assist people in the workforce in trying to help them be more successful. Efforts are geared to not only increase economic development but to provide a workforce that will entice economic development. Customers are all viewed as a potential employees. Staff strives to help potential employees develop skills and abilities to become the employee that employers are seeking.

Information was shared in terms of a couple of projects that were undertaken last year in this region. The "Step Up Program" partnered with employers by taking unemployment insurance customers, helping them find employment, and reimbursing the employer for training provided to the individual hired by their firm. There were 30 participants in this program, all of which are currently employed and have retained their employment. DWS is looking for partnerships where they can be successful in helping people go back to work and retain their employment. A new project under consideration, in partnership with the University of Utah, is clinical opportunities to entice pharmacy students to come to rural Utah. Labor market information shows that there is a real need in the more rural parts of the region. It is anticipated that students that do their clinical work in a rural area would be more inclined to stay in that area after graduation.

Ms. Thompson provided copies of the economic analysis used to develop the Southwest Economic Service Area Plan. This includes data on job growth, demographics of population, poverty rates, etc. She reported that poverty rates in rural Utah have grown and in some of our areas poverty rates are well above the state average. The information provides a brief overview and each county also has an economic review.

Mr. Sizemore asked if over the last couple of decades there have been any major shifts in employment, demographics or social areas. Ms. Thompson explained that the economy plays a huge role, but there are jobs out there. As DWS gets more engaged with job seekers through various mediums such as electronically, or in person contact, they continue to see the attitude that because the economy is bad, there are no jobs. During the past

calendar year, DWS assisted 5,000 job seekers to successfully gain employment. Unemployment rates in each of the five counties are above the national average and this has never occurred in the past. DWS is also actively trying to engage unemployed customers to actively seek employment while drawing their unemployment benefits.

VI. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY REGIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

No representative in attendance.

VII. DIXIE STATE COLLEGE UPDATE

No representative in attendance.

Because representatives for these institutions were not present, Chairman Johnson provided some time for a report from UDOT. Future meeting agendas will allow time for monthly updates from UDOT.

Nathan Lee, UDOT Region 4, reported that their goal is zero fatalities on the highway. Over the past few weeks, four accidents have occurred in construction zones that have resulted in death. This increase in accidents is concerning to UDOT and as a result special safety training has been provided to all existing project employees. One other issue that is troubling in construction zones is people running out of gas. UDOT is trying to implement various mediums to remind drivers about safety practices. Mayor Jerry Taylor mentioned that UDOT needs to post signs on the Red Canyon Tunnel for motorists to not stop in the middle of the tunnel. This is very much a safety issue and should be addressed. Ms. Carolyn White indicated that she was contacted recently to participate in a UDOT survey. Mr. Lee explained that UDOT utilizes private firms to conduct surveys relating to the image of UDOT and whether they are meeting citizen needs. Commissioner Douglas Heaton indicated that in working with the private sector businesses, initiating extra safety regulations generally produces increased costs and slows down efficiency on projects. UDOT's strategy in this regard is to utilize contractor safety regulations which are generally more stringent than those employed by UDOT. Commissioner Clare Ramsay noted that a turn lane needs to be provided on Highway 12 to the Bryce Canyon airport.

Mr. Lee reported that UDOT received a ruling from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a couple of sections on the Southern Parkway. Those rulings are non-jurisdictional on two of the segments, but through this process the Virgin River has been defined as navigable waters. At this point, it is uncertain how this will impact Washington County and jurisdictions within the county. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will play a role in defining what impacts navigable waters and what is considered jurisdictional, but the agency allowed release of the two segments on the Southern Parkway. UDOT is working to release one section at a time for this project.

VIII. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Marreen Casper, Senator Orrin Hatch's Office, reported that Congress is out of session. Senator Hatch will be attending a family wedding in Washington, but will be in Utah next week. A town meeting is scheduled in Beaver County on August 18th, in Cedar City on August 19th, as well as meetings in the Salt Lake area. The Senator's Senior Conference is scheduled for August 29th at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City.

James Baker, former Secretary of State, will be the featured keynote speaker. Senator Hatch voted against the debt ceiling because of the lack of guarantee that budget cuts will be made over a 10 year period. He feels that this is not good enough because excessive spending needs to stop immediately. Things are very frustrating these days in Congress and the future direction is very uncertain.

Mr. Mike Empey, Congressman Matheson's Office, reported that the congressman continues to push for a balanced budget amendment in the House of Representatives. He would have liked to have seen that amendment tied to the debt ceiling. However, he did vote for the debt ceiling because funding cuts were included and he felt that this was a step in the right direction. Their office continues to receive a lot of calls in regard to specific programs and agencies encouraging no funding cuts to their programs. Congressman Matheson will also be in southern Utah during the recess and will be scheduling various meetings during that time.

Ms. Ellen Schunk, Senator Lee's Office, provided copies of a news release from Senator Lee responding to the S&P downgrade of the United States bond rating. The Senator voted against the debt ceiling because there was not a balanced budget amendment tied to the bill. His main focus is to have a balanced budget amendment in place going forward. Senator Lee will be in the area towards the end of August and will be conducting town hall meetings in Beaver, Cedar and St. George. She extended appreciation to the Board for the opportunity to participate in monthly meetings.

IX. LOCAL AFFAIRS

A. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Sizemore referenced correspondence on pages 28-30 from Senator Mike Lee and Senator Orrin Hatch to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar addressing concerns with the Master Leasing Plan process adopted by the Bureau of Land Management. Correspondence from Congressman Jason Chaffetz is also included in regard to creating economic conditions favorable to job creation. An announcement for Historic Preservation Commission Training is provided on page 34 for those who may be interested in attending the workshop scheduled for August 23, 2011 at the Panguitch City Hall.

B. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

Mr. Sizemore presented two out-of-state travel requests as follows: 1) **Curt Hutchings**-- Request to attend the 2011 Annual Peer Learning Conference of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) scheduled August 23-25, 2011 in Washington D.C. and 2) **Myron Lee**-- Permission to attend the 2011 Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations' Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas on October 25-28, 2011. Funds are available in the budget to cover costs associated with these conferences.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR CONNIE ROBINSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS HEATON, TO APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS FOR CURT HUTCHINGS AND MYRON LEE AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

C. PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND BOARD (PCIFB) APPLICATIONS

Mr. Sizemore reported that no applications are available for review because it is the middle of the trimester. He reported that previous Board discussion in terms of the interest rate being charged to non-producing counties was a topic of discussion during the last Community Impact Fund Board retreat. Commissioner Drake prevailed at being able to have the policy changed to a flat interest rate of 2.5% for any loan coming before the Board. Because this fund source is flush with funding, jurisdictions are encouraged to submit applications. However, funds allocated will most likely be in the form of a loan.

D. PLANNING ASSISTANCE

The Association of Governments has entered into an agreement with Kanab City for up to 30 hours a month to provide professional planning assistance. Darren Janes will be assigned to this project. The Association has also been approached by Leeds Town to provide assistance with a potential development for 2,800 units that would add approximately 8,000 people to a community of about 700. This would dramatically change the dynamics of this area. If Leeds Town submits a formal request for assistance, it will be presented to the Board for discussion and approval.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Sizemore reported that the Office of Government Relations and Regional Services at Southern Utah University (SUU) has been experiencing a lot of turmoil over the past year. Notification has been received that Dorian Page, Vice President of Finance and Government Relations, will provide representation for SUU on the Five County AOG Steering Committee. Brian Cottam will continue in his current role with the regional services office.

X. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

Commissioner Johnson referenced three A-95 reviews contained in the packet and two late arrivals for Board consideration. He noted that staff recommendation for all reviews is supportive and entertained a motion to accept the A-95 reviews.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CLARE RAMSAY, TO APPROVE A-95 REVIEWS AS PER SUPPORTIVE STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2011 in Beaver. Mr. Sizemore noted that this is one week later than the normal meeting schedule. Commissioners mentioned a possible conflict with the National Association of Counties (NACo) meetings. Board members will be notified in advance should it become necessary to shift the meeting date.

MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS HEATON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.