

# MINUTES

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 18, 2012

St. George, Utah

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Chad Johnson, Chair  
Craig Wright for Mayor Mark Yardley  
Carolyn White  
Commissioner Clare Ramsay  
Mayor Jerry Taylor  
Ken Platt  
Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff  
Mayor Connie Robinson  
Alan Adams  
Commissioner Douglas Heaton  
Commissioner Denny Drake  
Mayor Darrin LeFevre  
LuAnne Forrest  
Dorian Page  
Frank Lojko

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

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marreen Casper  
Ellen Schunk  
Mike Empey  
Jan Thompson  
Dana Meier  
Suzanne Moore  
Aaron Ernest  
Lawrence Twitchell  
Denim Lyman  
Ken Sizemore  
Diane Lamoreaux  
Jo Seegmiller  
Susan Long

Senator Hatch's Office  
Senator Lee's Office  
Congressman Matheson's Office  
Department of Workforce Services  
Utah Department of Transportation  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Utah State Parks & Recreation  
Utah State Office of Rehabilitation  
Five County Association of Governments  
Five County Association of Governments  
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### MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Nina Laycook  
Wendy Allan

Kane County Mayor Representative  
Kane County Schools Representative

## I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Chad Johnson, Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance. Mr. Ken Sizemore introduced Mayor Darrin LeFevre, who will be serving as the Washington County Mayor Representative. Chairman Johnson acknowledged Mr. Craig Wright, representing Mayor Mark Yardley, Beaver County Mayor Representative.

## **II. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2011 - REVIEW & APPROVE**

Chairman Johnson noted that a quorum was present for conduct of business and presented minutes of the November 9, 2011 meeting for Board consideration.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS HEATON TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2011 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. CAROLYN WHITE. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **III. HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE TARGET (HEAT) PROGRAM SUMMARY**

Mr. Ken Sizemore referenced information on pages 11-12 of the packet providing a brief overview of the HEAT program. He introduced Susan Long, Program Supervisor, and Jo Seegmiller, Human Resource Director. Other staff providing service in conjunction with this program are listed on page 12 of the packet. Funding for the program is derived through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and is funneled through the Utah Department of Community and Culture. The program provides assistance to income eligible households to help offset the high costs of heating and/or air conditioning. This program has been administered through the AOG for many years serving clients throughout the five county area. Intake workers in each of the five counties assist in taking applications and determining eligibility for the program. Payments to the utility providers are paid directly by the state of Utah. However, a contract totaling \$100,000 is in place with Five County to provide energy crisis intervention in emergency situations where the AOG pays utility providers directly. Eligibility for crisis intervention is determined on a case-by-case basis, but it requires participation from the client toward their utility bill. The HEAT program is provided year-round in Washington County in order to assist with either heating or cooling costs. The current executed contract covers the period of October 1, 2011 through September 20, 2013. Intake workers processed 5,500 applications last year.

Mayor Connie Robinson indicated that a couple of households in Paragonah had applied for assistance in November but were still waiting for payment. Upon calling the HEAT office in Cedar City, they were informed that the office is currently processing November applications. Ms. Susan Long explained that each application has to go through an editing process to make sure that information is accurate prior to submission for payment to the state of Utah. Staff begins scheduling appointments in October and it does not take much time before the November and December calendars are full. In addition, staff works with the state of Utah to determine funding levels that will be available for allocation. Intake workers will assist with crisis funding in emergency situations, but the client must also fill out an application for regular HEAT funding. Mayor Robinson commented that utilities for both of these individuals were shut off for lack of payment. Mr. Craig Wright explained that it is an education process to make clients understand that they still need to pay their utility bills until the HEAT payment is made. Intake workers should impress on clients the amount of time it will take for the HEAT payment to be issued to utility providers. Mr. Sizemore reported that intake workers have struggled with new on-line software that is now being used in the application process. Other challenges include dramatic funding cuts to the program and a skeleton crew to work on processing applications. Income eligible households can receive a one-time payment of up to \$415.00.

Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff questioned the indirect cost allocation charged to each contract for administration. Mr. Sizemore explained that each contract is charged 11.1%

of salary and fringe to cover administrative costs for the Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer and Human Resource Director. Specific information outlining the process for determining the indirect cost allocation plan will be provided during an upcoming meeting.

#### **IV. AGENCY FISCAL ACCOUNTS STRUCTURE DISCUSSION**

Mr. Sizemore indicated that Board members requested a follow up discussion from the November audit presentation which indicated that a portion of funds in AOG accounts held at Wells Fargo Bank are uninsured and uncollateralized. He introduced Suzanne Moore, Wells Fargo Bank, and asked that she review the Association account structures as well as options that will protect these accounts. Ms. Moore provided a handout outlining the accounts held at Wells Fargo and services provided to each account. The three larger accounts have balances as follows: 1) \$210,000; 2) \$330,000; and 3) \$275,793. All funds in a "noninterest bearing transaction account" are insured in full by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) from December 31, 2010 through December 31, 2012. This is a temporary coverage change brought on by the current economic conditions and this is in addition to and separate from the coverage of at least \$250,000 available to depositors under the FDIC's general deposit insurance rules. Wells Fargo Bank provides an earning credit rate which offsets the rate charged for FDIC insurance. Information was also reviewed which depicts total assets of the bank, and it was noted that the bank is the fourth largest bank in the United States with an AA rating. Board members shared experiences in terms of poor service provided at some bank locations and user fees charged by Wells Fargo Bank. One option available would be to switch some of the savings account to a brokered CD. Other possible changes were discussed that may better protect account balances by splitting some of the funds from accounts and moving those funds to another bank.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS HEATON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF, INSTRUCTING STAFF TO MOVE SOME AOG FUNDS FROM WELLS FARGO BANK TO ANOTHER BANK IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FDIC INSURANCE ON ALL AOG FUNDS. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

#### **V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION SUPPORT**

Mr. Sizemore explained that the Association of Governments was designated by the Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District in 1980. Funding support has been received from EDA since that time to support regional economic development activities and coordination. EDA requires the Governing Board to review the proposed budget and scope of work for continued participation in this effort. A letter of support is provided on page 14 of the packet for Chairman Johnson's signature. This grant provides \$61,000 to support planning activities associated with tracking public land issues, participation with various organizations such as the Utah Economic Development Alliance, Southern Utah Planning Authorities Council, the Center for Education, Business and the Arts, and other similar types of organizations. It provides the opportunity for staff to review county economic development strategies and to meld those strategies into a regional economic development focus as outlined in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs) which is updated every five years. This contract also allows staff to continue with participation on state and federal economic groups, track public land issues, and administer the Revolving Loan Fund. Match funds in the amount of \$26,000 are

provided through cash contributions from each of the five counties participating in the Association of Governments. The letter on page 14 is presented for Board consideration to authorize the Chair's signature.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. CAROLYN WHITE AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE SUPPORT LETTER AS PRESENTED IN THE PACKET. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. ALAN ADAMS AND CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

**VI. UTAH DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURE / DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICED REORGANIZATION IMPACTS DISCUSSION**

Mr. Sizemore reported that approximately one year ago the Utah Legislature provided direction for the Governor's staff to explore ways to improve efficiency of state government both fiscally and organizationally. As a result of this effort, the Division of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will be moving to the Department of Workforce Services (DWS). This has raised some concerns in terms of service provision currently provided by the Associations of Government. Legislative action is still required to approve this organizational change. However, DHCD will be moving to a DWS facility sometime in the near future. AOG directors wrote a letter to Governor Herbert to express their concerns with melding this division with DWS. Over the past few months, a series of meetings have been held with DHCD and DWS to determine how this department shift will be handled. DWS senior staff have committed that no structural changes to DHCD will occur for a period of one year. In addition, DWS senior staff is in the process of visiting with each AOG to discuss service delivery provided by each organization. A significant amount of funds contracted to the Five County AOG are derived from DHCD. A steering committee has been created which is comprised of AOG directors, representatives of community action and the Governor's office to determine how the transition will look one year from now.

Ms. Jan Thompson explained that the Department of Workforce Services staff is following directions from Governor Herbert while waiting to see what the Legislature does. Mr. Sizemore also indicated that the Legislature is considering consolidation of state departments into four super departments based out of Salt Lake City. Local officials that drive service delivery through the AOG's are not involved in this discussion. The Utah Association of Counties is conducting meetings to discuss these proposals and trying to develop strategies to address their concerns. Both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are very supportive of the AOG service delivery model and do not want to see this change. Ms. Carolyn White expressed frustration with state government moving decision making away from rural jurisdictions. Commissioner Denny Drake suggested that Steering Committee members contact their legislators to express concern with these proposed changes. Ms. Thompson mentioned that even though DWS calls are routed through a statewide switch system, there are 40 eligibility specialists in St. George as well as specialists throughout each of the five counties. These employees work and live in the local area and are available to assist clients on a daily basis. Mr. Dorian Page reminded Board members that Rural Day on the Hill is scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup>. This provides an opportunity for elected officials to express their concerns to legislators. Mr. Sizemore indicated that the AOG directors will have a presence at this event.

**VII. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE UPDATE**

No representative in attendance.

**VIII. UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE**

Mr. Sizemore indicated that Dana Meier had a previous engagement and would be late arriving today.

**IX. DIXIE STATE COLLEGE (DSC) UPDATE**

Mr. Frank Lojko, Dixie State College, provided a map of the college campus and explained several projects and changes that will be occurring on the campus. The Rhodes Scholar Program provides a variety of field trips and other types of programs to visitors who spend a couple of weeks touring the area. This program is housed at the College Inn which is located on 123 East 100 South. The Taylor Health Science building provides cooperative programs with Intermountain Health Care (IHC). The campus footprint is expanding to the North and South to include five buildings for University of Utah programs to be housed where the Dixie Applied Technology College was previously located. The criminal justice program is expanding and provides a realm of technology to the area. He provided photos of the Jeffery Holland Centennial building that is currently under construction and slated for completion on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The Student Services building will be torn down and replaced with a new study hall that will be in conjunction with the Encampment Mall. Dixie State College will continue to focus on their higher education plan, retention, access and continue to provide economic growth to the area. Mr. Sizemore commented that the University Plaza currently houses the Dixie Business Alliance (DBA). Growth pressure at DSC makes a relocation of the DBA a high priority. The Association of Governments is working with the alliance to evaluate other locations for a stand alone presence of the DBA in Washington County.

**X. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY REGIONAL SERVICES UPDATE**

Mr. Dorian Page, Southern Utah University (SUU), reported that SUU is listed as one of the American 100 Best Colleges, which is a great honor. The nursing program at the university is experiencing a great amount of success having 100 percent of the students passing the national exam. The Southern Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) will be hosting a field trip on March 13 in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss jurisdictional waters in southern Utah. He encouraged Board members to participate in this tour and discussion. The baseball program at SUU has been discontinued, and SUU has joined the Big Sky Conference which will provide heavier competition. Mayor Connie Robinson encouraged Mr. Page to consider running for the Utah State Senate, noting that several individuals have expressed support of this campaign. Mr. Page announced that Wes Curtis has been hired in a reduced capacity to return to the Regional Services office, and Brian Cottam will return to his previous role in the organization.

**XI. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES**

Ms. Marreen Casper, Senator Hatch's Office, reported that the Secretary of Interior released his finding on the uranium withdrawal and read a statement issued by Senator Hatch in this regard. It is no surprise that his finding goes against all scientific data gathered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Senator co-sponsored the Southern Arizona Mining Continuity Act which requires actions to be passed through Congress. This will be voted on in the House but appears to be in a "dark drawer" in the Senate. Congress recently became aware of the introduction of additional protected

species for Sage Grouse and the Mexican Wolf. The Senator is currently coordinating with U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff and working to make sure that SB 249, the American Big Game and Livestock Act passes through Congress. This would permanently remove protection from wolves. Secure Rural Schools and PILT funding both expire this year. An attempt was made to include these items in the Continuing Resolution, but both were withdrawn in the House legislation. The push is to obtain a one year extension for both items. Questions have recently surfaced in regard to the Internet Protection Act which Senator Hatch co-sponsored. Because of the concerns expressed by small businesses and the need for additional study on this issue, the Senator will not support this legislation and is withdrawing his support as a co-sponsor on the bill. The Prairie Dog legislation is still on the table, but it is proving very difficult to get a hearing on the bill. Mayor Robinson commented that problems with the Prairie Dogs appear to be expanding to include other cemeteries.

Ms. Ellen Schunk, Senator Lee's Office, reported that their office is working very closely with Senator Hatch and other Utah Congressmen on the issues with uranium, wolves and Prairie Dogs. A press release was shared announcing the addition of retired Air Force Major General Pat Condon as a senior advisor on military issues. Senator Lee and staff will continue to work hard on issues that impact the state of Utah and country as a whole.

Mr. Mike Empey, Congressman Matheson's Office, reported that many of the issues in the House of Representatives are the same as those mentioned above. Information was shared on BLM meetings that will be held in regard to Sage Grouse. An open house is scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> in the Kanab Library. An open house in Cedar City will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Heritage Center. Both meetings will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Attendance at these meetings is encouraged to provide comment and express concern with this attempt to limit public lands access. The House of Representatives is back in session and currently dealing with raising the debt limit, but the Congressman is not in favor of an increase to the ceiling. Congressman Matheson has decided not to run for re-election in his current district and will instead run for the new 4<sup>th</sup> District seat. However, he will work hard on issues in this area for the remainder of his term.

## **VIII. UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE**

Dana Meier, UDOT, provided a brief update in regard to the landslide on SR-14 up Cedar Canyon. A Construction Management General Contractor (CMGC) team has been selected as the most effective option for moving the project forward. The Transportation Commission has approved \$3.1 million and an additional \$10 million will be provided from Federal Highway emergency funding. It is very optimistic thinking that the road will be completed by June. However, it is possible that a temporary road will be open sometime in early summer. He explained that the initial slide portion that was stabilized in 1990-1992 has not moved. This new slide is located above the previous slide area. Geologists are currently studying the area to ensure that whatever option is chosen will provide stability to the road. Mr. Meier also provided an update on the Southern Parkway phased project, noting that Phases 1 and 2 are complete. Phase 3A is the section from Airport Parkway to Warner Valley and Phase 4A is from Washington Dam Road to Sand Hollow Reservoir. There are onerous right-of-way issues in some phases with over 50 land owners where they are working through state condemnation issues. One piece of property, owned by Jeremy Johnson, was seized in court action. This may cause some delay in advertising some phases of the Southern Parkway.

Mr. Ken Sizemore announced that the Dixie Regional Transportation Expo is scheduled for February 7, 2012 at the Dixie Center from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Board members and the public are encouraged to attend and provide comments on future transportation issues and/or projects.

## **XII. LOCAL AFFAIRS**

### **A. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Sizemore introduced Mr. Lawrence Twitchell, Department of Natural Resources, who is replacing Larry Gray as the acting manager for the Southern Region State Parks and Recreation office.

Correspondence on page 17 of the packet contains information regarding nominations for a newly-formed advisory committee titled Forest Service Planning Rule FACA Committee. He asked Board members to review information provided in the packet for discussion at the February Steering Committee meeting, noting that representation from Southern Utah on this committee is very important. Page 20 of the packet contains an announcement for the Second Annual Rural Legislative Day scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2012. Mr. Sizemore reported that the AOG directors will have a booth at this event. He also announced the Milford Renewable Energy Fair which will be held April 26, 2012 at the Milford High School.

### **B. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL**

Mr. Sizemore presented an out-of-state travel request for Darren Janes and Justin Fischer to attend the 2012 National Conference of the American Planning Association. This conference is scheduled for April 14-17 in Los Angeles, California. Staff is recommending approval for these individuals to attend.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CLARE RAMSAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DENNY DRAKE, TO APPROVE THE OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL REQUEST FOR TWO FIVE COUNTY AOG PLANNERS TO ATTEND THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION 2012 NATIONAL CONFERENCE AS OUTLINED ABOVE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **C. PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND BOARD (PCIFB) APPLICATIONS**

Mr. Sizemore reported that there are no applications for consideration this month. However, this is excellent timing to make application for public works project loans at a 2.5% interest rate.

### **D. PLANNING ASSISTANCE**

None.

### **E. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Sizemore explained that since the packet was mailed out a request has been received from the Utah Association of Counties (UAC) for a Five County

representative to serve on their Board of Directors. Commissioner Douglas Heaton has served the final year of Maloy Dodds term and the Board could recommend that he serve an additional two year term.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF, SECONDED BY MAYOR CONNIE ROBINSON, TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS HEATON FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEAR TERM AS THE FIVE COUNTY AOG REPRESENTATIVE ON THE UAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Sizemore reported that Friday, January 20, 2012 is the closing date for the Chief Financial Officer applications. Approximately 47 applications have been submitted to date. The selection committee, comprised of the Executive Committee members, Dorian Page, Ken Sizemore, Bob Rasmussen, Jo Seegmiller and a representative of Hinton Burdick CPAs will meet February 2<sup>nd</sup> to conduct interviews.

### **XIII. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS**

Chairman Johnson referenced two A-95 reviews contained in the packet. Both reviews have supportive staff recommendations.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DENNY DRAKE, SECONDED BY MR. KEN PLATT, TO APPROVE A-95 REVIEWS AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2012 in Kanab. The meeting will be held at the Kane County Emergency Services Training Facility/Search and Rescue building located at the Kanab City Airport.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.