

MINUTES

FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING January 9, 2019 - 1:30 p.m.

**Southern Utah University
Dixie L. Leavitt School of Business Building
Main Floor Conference Room
351 W. University Boulevard, Cedar City, Utah**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Mike Dalton, Chair Pro-Tem
Commissioner Lamont Smith
Commissioner Gil Almquist for
Commissioner Victor Iverson
Mayor Robert Houston
Mayor Nolan Davis
Commissioner Jerry Taylor
Frank Houston
Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Dale Brinkerhoff
Mayor John Bramall
Terry Hutchinson
Donna Law
Mike Olson for Frank Lojko

REPRESENTING

Beaver County Commission Representative
Kane County Commission Representative
Washington County Commission Representative

Kane County Mayor Representative
Beaver County Mayor Representative
Garfield County Commission Representative
Garfield County Schools Representative
Iron County Commission Representative
Iron County Schools Representative
Washington Co. Mayor Representative
Washington Co. Schools Representative
Southern Utah University
Dixie State University

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bette Arial
Henrie Walton
Senator Don Ipson
Jordan Katcher
Brad Abrams
Suzette Bulloch
David Busk
Bryan Thiriot
Gary Zabriskie
Courtney Sinagra
Keith Carter

Senator Mike Lee's Office
Senator Mitt Romney's Office
Utah State Senate
Permanent Community Impact Board
Cedar City Economic Development
Southern Utah University - SPARC
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

Carolyn White
Mayor Jeff Stock
Mayor Maile Wilson-Edwards, Excused
Lisa Livingston

Beaver County Schools Representative
Garfield County Mayor Representative
Iron County Mayor Representative
Kane County Schools Representative

Mr. Gary Zabriskie explained that a flag was not available for the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ELECTION OF A CHAIR PRO-TEM FOR THIS MEETING

Mr. Gary Zabriskie acknowledged that the Chair (Commissioner Jim Matson who is now out of office) and Vice Chair (Commissioner Victor Iverson) were not in attendance. Therefore the meeting should proceed in accordance with Robert Rules of Order which indicate that if a quorum is present any committee member that is present can nominate a committee member in attendance to serve as Chair Pro-Tem for today's meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DALE BRINKERHOFF, SECONDED BY MAYOR NOLAN DAVIS, TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER MIKE DALTON TO SERVE IN THE CAPACITY OF CHAIR PRO-TEM FOR TODAY'S MEETING. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

II. MINUTES NOVEMBER 14, 2018 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - REVIEW AND APPROVE

Commissioner Mike Dalton, Chair Pro-Tem, acknowledged that a quorum was present to conduct business. He presented minutes of the November 14, 2018 Steering Committee meeting for discussion and consideration of approval.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DALE BRINKERHOFF, SECONDED BY MAYOR ROBERT HOUSTON, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2018 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

III. COMBINED FIVE COUNTY / SIX COUNTY CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING UPDATE - DISCUSSION

Mr. Bryan Thiriot referenced pages 8 and 9 in the packet which outlines the Six County Congressional Briefing Historical Summary of counties and locations visited each year from 2003 to 2018. Five County and Six County AOGs will host combined congressional briefings moving forward. The purpose of the briefings is to educate congressional members and staff members on public land issues. The proposed date for this year's event is August 11th through August 14th. Committee members are asked to schedule these days on their calendars. Proposed sites include the feed yard in Emery County where wild horses/burrows are housed, continue to Panguitch for a tour of the fire impacted area near Panguitch Lake, and the third day may include the ATV tour at Marysvale, as well as Johnson Ranch to discuss grazing issues. Other topics of discussion include catastrophic wildfires, air quality, water, logging, forestry, etc. Ms. Donna Law mentioned that SUU and Cedar City would be happy to work with the Shakespeare Festival to include the aspect of economic development as part of the briefing.

IV. EDA PROJECT SCOPE OF WORK - DISCUSSION

Mr. Bryan Thiriot referenced information provided on pages 10 through 14 of the meeting packet containing the FY 2018 EDA University Center Economic Development Competition grant in partnership with Dixie State University and Southern Utah University. This funding will be provided for work in rural areas in terms of entrepreneurship. Desired goals of the program are listed on the bottom of page 13 for year one through five. This is the first relationship between universities in Utah and the Economic Development Administration. Ms. Donna Law, SUU, indicated that they are very excited to participate in this joint venture.

SUU is in transition with the Regional Services Office and the Small Business Development Center with the retirement of staff. However, new staff will be coming on board to work on this project.

V. UTAH OPPORTUNITY ZONES - DISCUSSION

Mr. Bryan Thiriot introduced Mr. Brad Abrams who will speak about opportunity zones in Iron County. Mr. Abrams indicated that the program provides tax advantages to businesses for capital gains to be put into a fund over a ten year period. He provided a handout outlining the two census tracts offered as opportunity zones which include industrial parks in western Iron County that have access to a rail spur as well as the iron mines. The other zone is in the southeast area of Cedar City including the downtown area and other potential zone areas, i.e. the south I-15 interchange. The Governor's Office of Economic Development staff is in the process of establishing a fund that would be available for opportunity zones. Mr. Bryan Thiriot explained that Beaver and Garfield counties each have a designated opportunity zone area and Washington County has two zones. He also noted that Kane County did not qualify for an opportunity zone.

VI. TARGETED BUSINESS TAX CREDIT

Mr. Bryan Thiriot referenced information on page 17-20 of the meeting packet summarizing the Targeted Business Tax Credit program which encourages private investment and job creation in rural Utah counties with populations of less than 25,000 people. Applications to this program run from January 1, 2019 through February 1, 2019. Complete program information is available online at www.business.utah.gov/rural. Mr. Gary Zabriskie noted that the program is limited and cannot be used for construction, retail or public utilities. It also cannot be used if a Rural Fast Track grant has been awarded for the same business.

VII. NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Gary Zabriskie asked Mr. Keith Carter, who is replacing Mr. Clint Cottam, to provide an introduction. Mr. Carter indicated that he joined the Five County AOG staff as the Director of the Community Action Program in November 2018, and moved to St. George from Wyoming. He previously worked for 30 years for the Wyoming Department of Family Services.

Ms. Courtney Sinagra (formerly Brinkerhoff) mentioned that she knows most of the Steering Committee members having worked as staff for Senator Orrin Hatch until his retirement. She will be serving as the Human Resources Director for the Five County AOG, replacing Ms. Jo Seegmiller. This is a big job to step into, but she is excited to be taking care of 62 employees in the Five County area. Other tasks include updating the Policies and Procedures Manual for the AOG which will be presented to the Steering Committee for formal approval upon completion, making sure all training for employees is current, and working on the congressional briefing in conjunction with the Six County AOG.

Mr. Gary Zabriskie also noted that another individual, Ross Burton a former banker, has been hired part time to work on the fiscal aspect that was previously the responsibility of Jo Seegmiller. Splitting these tasks has provided the opportunity for Courtney to focus on Human Resources aspects.

VIII. STATE UPDATES

Mr. David Busk, Department of Workforce Services, reported that the department has restructured leadership roles and replaced Lis Labatto with Ryan Reeder as the manager in the St. George Center. A new manager has also be hired in the Cedar City Workforce Center who will cover operations in Iron, Beaver and Garfield counties. A followup email will be provided to Steering Committee members outlining the replacement staff and contact information.

Ms. Jordan Katcher, Utah Community Development Office, explained the structure and services provided by their office as well as the history of the Community Impact Board (CIB). Over the years a large number of infrastructure projects have been funded by CIB in the Five County region and throughout the state of Utah. Several years ago a planning division was developed with the use of CIB funds. Mr. Keith Heaton is the director and four planners serve under his direction. Each of the planners are assigned to different AOGs to provide support to the RPP planners at the local level. She distributed copies of resources provided in the past including guides for ordinances, general plans, code enforcement, capital improvements planning, other research projects, etc.

Mayor John Bramall mentioned that the Utah State Legislature reduced retirement benefit for public safety employees to 35% from 50%. A worker from the Hurricane EMS/Fire recently provided notice that he would be leaving his employment because he could not live on a 35% retirement allowance. It was also noted that it is 85% in Nevada and 50% in California. The Hurricane Valley Fire District proposed to develop a separate fund to make up the difference, but the County Commissioners indicated that all funding to the fire district would then be cut off. This is making it very difficult for fire districts to recruit employees and current employees are leaving Utah.

Mr. Gary Zabriskie indicated that Five County AOG staff will be working to assist jurisdictions with capital improvement planning. It is critical for communities to know where they are for example with aging fire trucks, the condition of their water system, and where capital things will be coming in the future in order to seek CIB funding. It is important to provide capital improvement planning that will be beneficial in developing better capital improvement lists for short- and long-term projects. Ms. Katcher provided specific information on the baseline survey that will assist to look at the capacity of systems to provide a better assessment of what is needed in rural communities. It helps to identify the biggest needs and challenges in rural Utah. Information collected from these surveys will be shared with communities and AOGs. She also noted that their office is creating a short training curriculum for planning commissioners. Work is also progressing on a rural coordinating council that will be launched in December. This will include resources for over 20 state agencies that are working in rural Utah. This is aimed to increase communication and coordination for actual projects on the ground.

IX. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Bette Arial, Senator Lee's Office, acknowledged and welcomed Mr. Henrie Walton who will be staffing the southern Utah office of Senator Mitt Romney. She reported that Senator Lee and Senator Romney will be instituting new processes and their offices will be working closely together. Senator Lee is particularly engaged in criminal justice and prison reform.

Minimum mandatory sentences for many minor infractions resulted in incarceration for 25 years. It appears that this bipartisan bill will pass through Congress. It is also anticipated that another Supreme Court nomination will be open during President Trump's term of office, and Senator Lee is very excited about this prospect. In terms of government funding, Senator Lee will study all proposed funding packages and will not vote for something that he is not comfortable with. Other staffing for Senator Lee's southern Utah office includes one case worker and an intern from Dixie State University, but it appears that another case worker may shift from Salt Lake to the southern Utah office.

Mr. Henrie Walton introduced himself and indicated that he is based out of St. George as Senator Romney's Western Utah Director working in both the Five and Six County AOG regions. He provided contact information for everyone to reach out for assistance, and noted that his priority over the next few months is to learn about all of the issues in the region. He announced some of the committee assignments for Senator Romney including the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee that will provide the opportunity to advocate for rural economic development. Economic Development and public lands issues will be among the top priorities of Senator Romney. Other committee assignments include the Health, Labor and Pensions, Senate Foreign Relations, and Homeland Security. State directors for Senators are working closely together and have encouraged collaboration between their southern Utah offices.

X. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY AND DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY UPDATES

Ms. Donna Law, Southern Utah University, welcomed everyone to the SUU campus and noted that both Henrie Walton and Courtney Brinkerhoff are alumni of SUU. The business building is the newest on campus, and the project includes the renovation of the former business building. She thanked Senator Don Ipson and the Utah State Legislature for funding the project. Investment and entrepreneurial labs are included in the building which have set SUU apart from other universities in the state as well as provided assistance in recruitment. There are now over 11,000 students enrolled at SUU, recruitment and retention of students is good, and growth over the last three years is at 34%. SUU will have eight student interns participating this year with the Utah State Legislature. A major focus of SUU is to assist in fulfilling the workforce needs throughout the region and state with entrepreneurial ship in terms of rural job initiatives, technology, etc. The NSA has designated SUU as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education teaching students to protect our region, state and country. Following today's meeting a tour of the building will be conducted for those interested in participating.

Mr. Mike Olson, Dixie State University for Mr. Frank Lojko, provided copies of their President's Report for 2017-18, and reported that a lot of great things are happening at Dixie State University. A new position is open for an Associate Provost for Student Success. The Health and Human Performance Building construction is on track for an opening in eight months for the beginning of fall semester. The campus is growing and new dorms are nearing completion for an additional 400 beds. New married and family housing will be constructed on the corner of 400 South and 1000 East.

XI. LOCAL AFFAIRS

A. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

Mr. Gary Zabriskie referenced pages 21-22 of the packet containing information from the state of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) regarding a proposed communications tower site on SITLA land. A copy of the notice was provided to Kane County and Big Water Town. The project is physically located within the borders of Big Water Town, but it is located on SITLA land. The tower will be located to the north of the towns water tanks which are also on SITLA land. The proposed tower is 300' tall for cellular-wireless communications and it will provide improved cellular phone service and related emergency communication service to this rural area. This is not an A-95 review, but more of a notification of action that will occur on SITLA land. The Board can respond with any concerns and/or comments. The only concern is maintenance of roads that may be impacted during construction of the tower. Commissioner Lamont Smith commented that this will be an asset because the area has typically been a dead spot for cellular phones.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LAMONT SMITH, SECONDED BY MR. DALE BRINKERHOFF, TO SUPPORT THE SITLA ACTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNICATIONS TOWER. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

B. CIB APPLICATION REVIEWS

Mr. Gary Zabriskie indicated that applications will be submitted in February 2019 and those applications will be presented to the Steering Committee for consideration during the February meeting.

C. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

None

D. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

E. DISCUSSION OF LOCAL ISSUES

Mr. Frank Houston mentioned that there has been no growth in Garfield County according to recent population data. The main reason for this may be that the county is 97% federally owned.

Mr. Bryan Thiriot introduced Commissioner Gil Almquist who will serve as the Washington County Commission representative on the Steering Committee, Commissioner Lamont Smith who will serve as the Kane County Commission representative and Commissioner Paul Cozzens who will serve as the Iron County Commission representative. Rotation of the Chair and Vice-Chair will occur during the February 2019 meeting. Mr. Terry Hutchinson indicated that there will likely be

a new school board representative from the Washington County School District for the upcoming year as new assignments are made. He reported that the proposal for a new technical college for high school students in Washington County will be forwarded to the board of Utah State Technical Colleges for coordination.

XII. ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2019 in Kanab. Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

DRAFT