**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Public Lands Policy Coordination

**February 7, 2019**

**Department of Natural Resources**

**Room 112**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

**Members**

Bill James, DWR, *Chair*

April Abate for Jan Morse, DOGM

Susan Zarekarizi, State Parks

Barrett Anderson for Melissa Ure, UDAF

Laura Vernon for Jamie Phillips-Barnes, FFSL

Tom Chidsey, UGS

Allan Moore, WMRC

Chris Merritt for Don Hartley, SHPO

Hans Millican, DERR

Bradley Bartholomew, UDEM

Jodi Gardberg, DWQ

Tom Adams, UOOR

Wesley Adams, SITLA

Elisa Albury, UDOT

**Invited Federal Agencies**

Abbie Jossie, BLM

**Guest**

Maria Vyas, Fehr & Peers

**Staff**

Sindy Smith, PLPCO

Elizabeth Hora, SHPO

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Welcome**

Bill James, *Chair*, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. After round table introductions, Bill, welcomed everyone.

**Approval of Minutes**

The committee, by unanimous vote, approved the November 1, 2018 minutes.

**UDOT Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan: 2019-2050**

Elisa Albury, Environmental Program Manager, UDOT, introduced Maria Vyas. Maria Vyas, AICP, is a Senior Associate of Fehr & Peers with 20 years of experience in land use and transportation planning. Fehr & Peers is a UDOT consultant. UDOT is currently developing its 30-year Statewide Long-range Transportation Plan: 2019-2050. Maria is leading that effort. Maria used a PowerPoint presentation entitled “*UDOT Statewide Long-Range Plan: 2019-2050*” to report on the transportation plan and the planning process.

***The Long-Range Plan***

The process to develop the UDOT Statewide Long-Range Plan (LRP) is extensive and detailed. UDOT is currently generating the transportation project list and identifying the highest priorities. The LRP process involves:

* Forecasting ***rural*** transportation needs statewide over the next 30 years
* Identifying transportation solutions that strengthen Utah’s economy and enhance quality of life (UDOT’s Mission Statement)
* Organizing transportation priorities into three phases:
  + Phase 1: 2019-2030
  + Phase 2: 2031-2040
  + Phase 3: 2041-2050

***Creation of the Long-Range Plan***

* Develop growth projections for homes and jobs
* Establish consensus on plan approach
* Revise projections based on feedback and recirculate
* Review and prioritize projects
* Identify strategies and concepts
* Identify goals and needs
* Develop the LRP
* Finalize the LRP

***Role of the RDCC***

* UDOT is asking state agencies to provide environmental information and feedback up-front instead of later in the process. Up-front environmental feedback not only helps UDOT better understand the potential mitigation needs, but also helps program managers as they seek funding for projects.
* Agencies will continue to review individual projects at the environmental assessment (EA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phases.

***Webmap of Planned Projects***

The webmap of planned projects is being refined and will be available soon. The webmap includes line work of the proposed projects, the county, and the jurisdiction. You may comment anywhere on the map and write in text wherever you want in terms of what you think UDOT should know about the particular area or corridor. Comments concerning large regional scale issues such as endangered species and historic structures would also be helpful.

Maria and Elisa answered questions.

**Outdoor Recreation Grant Program**

Tom Adams, Director of the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation, used a PowerPoint Presentation to talk about the Outdoor Recreation Office and report on the Recreation Grant Program and some of the projects developed through the grant program. Tom provided a brief history of the Office of Outdoor Recreation, which started as a pilot program thanks to Utah Representative Patrice M. Arent and Senator Ralph Okerlund, who both have been champions for the office and its mission.

The office consists of a team of four with lots of partners who aim to establish a nationwide recreation management standard and ensure that the state’s natural assets can sustain economic growth for years to come. Statutorily the office is required to:

* help create and influence policy;
* work with corporate recruitment and keeping businesses here and happy;
* build infrastructure, which is the purpose of the grant; and,
* inspire Utahns, especially our youth, on the benefits of recreation.

Outdoor recreation contributes more than $12.3 billion to the economy and employs more than 110,000 people, and is the primary driver behind the tourism industry. Not only does Utah outdoor recreation create $737 million in state and local tax revenues, it is the reason for $3.9 billion in wages and salaries. Governor Herbert created Utah’s Office of Outdoor Recreation January 2013 as a result of the large contribution of the industry to Utah’s economy. It is the first office of its kind in the country.

The Office of Outdoor Recreation organizes and manages the Utah Recreation Summit, which is the largest state-based recreation summit in the country. This year’s summit is October 22-24.

***The Grant Program***

The Office of Outdoor Recreation creates the grant program guidelines and travels the state overseeing training programs and reviewing the grants. The Recreation Grant Program may be one of the most competitive grants in the state. The office receives about 100 applications. The current cycle ends February 28, 2019. The grant recipient must promote recreation. Applicants must be a non-profit, a local government, a city, or member of a tribal community and provide a 50/50 match. Most people on average match seven to one. Starting this year grant funds range anywhere from $10,000 to $150,000. An advisory committee, a large, diverse group, vets the grants every year.

Tom answered questions.

**Green and Colorado River Comprehensive Management and Mineral Leasing Plans**

Laura Vernon, Strategic Planner for the Division of Forest, Fire and State Lands (FFSL), used a PowerPoint presentation entitled, “*Green and Colorado River Comprehensive Management Plans – Mineral Leasing Plan*” to report on the draft Green and Colorado River Comprehensive Management and Mineral Leasing Plans and the planning process. FFSL is developing the first comprehensive management plans (CMPs) for state-owned, sovereign land sections of the Colorado and Green Rivers, and updating the existing Mineral Leasing Plan (MLP) for sovereign lands in Uintah, Grand, Emery, Wayne, Garfield, Kane, and San Juan counties. FFSL works with a team of consultants to help identify the resources in the rivers and various state agency colleagues to assist with the management planning process. Main discussion items included:

* Utah Admin Code R6552-2-100 authorizes FFSL to prescribe land management objectives for sovereign lands. The state’s sovereign lands—lands navigable at the time of statehood include: the Bear River, Bear Lake, Great Salt Lake, Jordan River, Utah Lake, and portions of the Green and Colorado Rivers. FFSL governs similar to the BLM and the Forest Service—multiple use, sustained yield. FFSL considers the balance of all of the resources when considering management actions.
* FFSL is revising the Mineral Lasing Plan to manage expired leases and outdated maps, and to address the changes in the mineral extraction demands and practices. Mineral leasing along the Green River is virtually nonexistent. FFSL does not allow surface occupancy, which the plan will reflect.
* The map shows sections of the rivers in blue where FFSL is developing the CMPs. All of those sections have been adjudicated in the court system except for the portion from the state line down to Canyonlands National Park where the BLM is asserting ownership as is the State. The attorneys are negotiating an agreement about that section of land; nonetheless it is included in FFSL’s management plans.
* FFSL oversees the bed of the state’s sovereign lands, but not the water that flows in it. The Colorado River near Bullfrog is completely submerged under Lake Powell. For the most part, federal lands surround the rivers of the Green and Colorado.
* FFSL is required to ensure that all uses on, beneath, or above the bed of the Green and Colorado Rivers are regulated to ensure the protection of navigation, fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic beauty, public recreation and water quality. The development of the CMPs will help make sure that FFSL maintains clear and consistent guidance regarding the management of the Green and Colorado River resources.
* FFSL has developed a baseline measurement and classified the rivers in terms of allowable uses. Through this planning process FFSL has generated a list of future projects that should be addressed. If the projects are identified in the plan, FFSL can ask the legislature for money for the specific projects as an issue impacting recreation or access.
* The classification process involves, among other effects, existing leases—how many structures do not have leases or permits and city and county zoning—how zoning affects the lands adjacent to the river, as well as the FEMA flood zone overlays. The plan also includes management goals and objectives such as who is responsible for management per resource; who is responsible for permitting; and who are the intersecting agencies who care about what is happening on the river.
* The public process has been extensive. FFSL held public meetings and open houses and met with some stakeholder interest groups. FFSL anticipates a final document and Record of Decision by the end of 2019.
* FFSL’s website will have a fully navigable PDF of the CMPs along with a ESRI story map and GIS spatial data viewer. You can go to the website now and add comments. Contact Laura if you have questions about the plan or the planning process.

Laura answered questions.

**Agency Reports**

* Chris Merritt reported the following from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO):
  + SHPO has updated its small scale BLM undertakings Programmatic Agreement (PA) to streamline projects under 50 acres with no historic properties—nothing significant in the national register. The PA update includes SITLA as a party in order to streamline joint projects and allow BLM, if thresholds are met, to easily proceed without splitting the joint project apart and making SITLA a separate party.
  + In the next couple of weeks SHPO will make available "*BLM-Utah and SHPO Protocol Agreement*" on the RDCC Project Management System for comment. Utah is the last state with a large BLM land base to have a protocol, which is under a national agreement. SHPO has worked for the past two years drafting procedures to establish efficiencies for implementing undertakings. It streamlines multiple types of projects including emergency fire stabilization, oil and gas leasing, and rock art documentation and management.
  + May is the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad completion. Hopeful you will join the activities and celebrations in Box Elder County. May is also Utah Archeology and Preservation Month, which celebrates Utah’s rich archaeological and historical resources.
* Elizabeth Hora reported the following from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO):
  + Many state agencies use e106 to consult with SHPO when undertaking projects on state land or when expending federal or state money or permits. SHPO rolled out e106 almost a year and a half ago to streamline and create efficiencies. SHPO is offering e106 training February 21st in person in Moab or online from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The first half of the training consists of e106 basics; a good refresher course for people who do not do a lot of consultation with SHPO. The second half of the training entails e106 master class. SHPO has added additional processes to e106 to make it more nuanced and helpful for some agencies. If you are an agency with a PA with SHPO, e106 now provides an easier way to manage and submit those projects. SHPO will provide information on those new components the same day after the refresher training. The training is open and available to anyone either online or in Moab.
* Bradley Bartholomew reported the following from the Division of Emergency Management (UDEM):
  + UDEM submitted its Hazard Mitigation Plan to FEMA. It is available for review and comment on UDEM’s website.
* Abbie Jossie reported the following from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM):
  + The comment period ended January 8, 2019 for the Final Environmental Impact Statement and proposed plan amendments addressing conservation of the Greater Sage-grouse on public land in Utah. BLM received a number of protests. Everything looks good in regard to the Governor’s Consistency letter. BLM will be making a few minor edits before the Record of Decision is published sometime in March 2019.
  + The proposed Monument Management Plans and Final Environmental Impact Statements for the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments are moving forward. BLM is under pressure to complete the NEPA documents by mid-spring. BLM is also looking at reorganization opportunities outside the monuments, as well as with other BLM public lands under new management plans.
  + BLM agreed to review and redo 13 Travel Management Plans (TMP) completed in 2008 under a settlement agreement. The 13 TMPs will be apportioned over the next eight years. This year BLM is surveying TMPs in its Price, Richfield, and Vernal Field Offices. The review consists of looking at all existing routes on the landscape to determine whether or not these routes should stay open and for what use, whether they should be limited and for what use, or whether they should be closed. BLM will not address counties and state right-of-way claims under R.S.2477. Cultural inventory is an important part of the TMP review process. BLM will be working with SHPO and SITLA with on the ground inventory. The decisions BLM will be making involves conflict between values and resources.
  + BLM no longer implements master leasing plans. Before master leasing plans were terminated by the Trump administration, they were considered for resource management plan decisions by the Obama administration. BLM’s oil and gas leasing program has also changed. Now all oil and gas lease sale parcels that come up anywhere in the state will be considered every quarter rather than separately, one district in one corridor. This is added burden for BLM people in the field, as well as the BLM State Office, the specialists, and state agencies who look at oil and gas lease parcel impacts. The March 2019 Oil and Gas Lease Sale in particular has a lot of controversial parcels. BLM had deferred all the sage-grouse related parcels from the December 2018 Oil and Gas Lease Sale to the March 2019 Oil and Gas Lease Sale. BLM expects some deferrals.
* Wesley Adams reported the following from the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA):
  + Wesley Adams, deputy assistant director, oil and gas section, introduced himself. He is the current RDCC representative for SITLA, replacing Sonja Wallace.
  + SITLA recently made available for comment on the RDCC Project Management System, “Proposed Sale Parcel – Tabby Mountain.” The Department of Natural Resources petitioned SITLA for the opportunity to purchase SITLA's Tabby Mountain Block, containing approximately 28,482 acres. The property is located west of Tabiona in Duchesne and Wasatch counties. Several county roads and other routes cross the property. The terrain is mountainous and the property is bounded by private property, UDWR property, and the Uinta National Forest. Issues among various groups is likely. The due date for SITLA’s competitive bid for the sale is February 15, 2019.
  + The proposed parcel sale is in the best interest of the trust and the lands under SITLA’s mandate. SITLA owns no minerals under the land. The only way to monetize the land is through hunting or timbering, which is marginal. The other component to the proposed sale parcel is the tribal mineral interest. The tribes may sue for ownership entitlement.
* Laura Vernon reported from the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL):
  + FFSL is asking for state funds from the legislature this year to redo the Bear Lake Comprehensive Management Plan. If FFSL gets the funds, it will start the management planning process at the end of spring early part of summer.
* Susan Zarekarizi reported the following from the Division of State Parks and Recreation (State Parks):
  + The 2019 Grant season is open from February 15through May 1, 2019. The grant applications and forms are available for download at the website.
  + The Recreational Trails Program, run by Chris Haller, has helped with non-motorized and motorized trail development and maintenance, trail educational programs, and trail-related environmental protection projects.
  + Susan oversees the Land and Water Conservation Fund established to assist government agencies with the creation of high-quality, public outdoor recreation facilities.
  + State Parks encourages anyone who is a governmental agency to apply.
* Jodi Gardberg reported the following from the Division of Water Quality (DWQ):
  + Jodi Gardberg, Manager, Water Protection Section, introduced herself. She is the current RDCC representative for DWQ, replacing Carl Adams.
  + DWQ is currently accepting applications for 2020 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grants through April 12th.
* Allan Moore reported the following from the Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control (WMRC):
  + WMRC expects some surprise legislation in regard to the proposed landfill at Promontory Point; an interesting conflict with lots of concerns.
* Hans Millican, reported the following from the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR):
  + DERR has a project to remove some munitions from Winchester Hills located in St. George. The area includes SITLA and BLM lands. The beginning stage involves vegetation clearance. DERR is working through access issues relevant to the Desert Tortoise. No explosives have been found yet, but DERR did find rocket fins.
  + DERR finished the underwater investigation project on Utah Lake at the Provo Encampment and found quite a bit of stuff under the water close to the marina. DERR has yet to distinguish what is what, but expects to find potential explosives.
* Tom Adams reported the following from the Office of Outdoor Recreation (OOR):
  + OOR created, and is watching a couple of resolutions this 2019 General Session:
    - H.C.R. 4: *Utah’s Every Kid Outdoors Initiative, which* describes the benefits of children spending time outdoors; and
    - H.C.R. 7: *Economic Importance of Outdoor Recreation for Utah,* which highlights the natural assets and benefits derived from the natural assets in Utah and recognizes the economic importance of Utah’s natural assets to Utah’s people; and,
  + Another resolution would make December avalanche awareness month. This resolution relates more to UDOT and the Forest Service in the Tri-Canyon area.
* Bill James reported the following from the Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR):
  + UDWR in partnership with FFSL is building a bid for SITLA’s proposed sale parcel of Tabby Mountain. UDWR will submit a bid to SITLA. UDWR is putting together a bid package, which requires earnest money in the sum of one million dollars.
  + The brine shrimp harvest this year on the Great Salt Lake, an annual event, regulated and monitored by UDWR, broke a harvest poundage of collection record.

**Other Business**

Next meeting: May 2, 2019

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m.