

## **AGENDA ITEM # IV.**

### UTAH GOVERNOR'S RURAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATION

State Senator Tom Hatch sponsored the *Rural Planning and Development Act* in 2004. It was approved and signed into law, creating the Utah Governor's Rural Partnership Board. The Board was charged with improving the visibility of rural economic development issues across state agencies, to prepare and implement an annual strategic plan, and to formally engage state agencies and other entities in collaboration and coordination of rural economic development priorities.

Fifteen members serve on the Board, representing a variety of interests including:

- The Governor or his designee (traditionally the Lt. Governor)
- Utah Association of Counties
- Utah League of Cities and Towns
- Utah State University Extension Services
- Southern Utah University
- Utah Rural Development Council
- Agriculture
- Travel and Tourism
- Utilities
- Oil, Gas and Mining
- Five At-Large members appointed by the Governor

At-large members serve for a term of four years. The Travel and Tourism position and one at-large position are open and nominations have been requested.

Southwestern Utah has only one representative on the Board at the present time (Wes Curtis - SUU). The Governor's office and rural development staff are encouraging a nomination from this region.

Executive Directors from Associations of Government in Utah agree that regional programs and priorities have been lacking in Board deliberations and actions. The original membership of the Board included at least one AOG director in an at-large position. It is an opportune time to regain AOG representation on the Board.

We recommend Steering Committee authorization to nominate the Executive Director of the Five County Association of Governments to serve a four-year term in the open at-large position on the Governor's Rural Partnership Board.