MINUTES
Emery County Public Lands Council
April 23, 2019
7:00 P.M
Emery County Courthouse
Canyon Conference Room

PLC: Rod Player, Les Wilberg, JR Nelson

PL Staff: Ray Petersen, Carol Cox, Commissioner Lynn Sitterud, Commissioner Kent Wilson.

Public: SenatorDavid Hinkins, Chris Wood, DWR, Larry Johansen, State Parks, Wade Allinson, Sage Riders, Kelsey Berg, Deputy Chief of Staff for Senator Romney, Larry Ellertson, State Representative Curtis, Jake Palma, BLM, Darren Olsen, USFS, Peggy Wright, Doug Wright, Kasey Jensen, Cynthia Stocker, Julie Johansen, ETVnews.

Excused: Laren Huntsman, Randal Stilson, Leon McElprang, Ed Geary, Bruce Wilson, Kim McFarlane, Sherrel Ward.

1. Welcome:
2. Approval of Minutes: Les Wilberg made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 2, 2019. The motion was seconded by JR Nelson. The motion passed.

3. Chairman Comments: Rod Player commented on the recent passing of Gale Anderson. He stated that he felt that Gale knew the San Rafael Swell better than anyone. Gale is also the one who maintained the visitor's center at the Buckhorn. He will be missed.

4. Commission Report on Public Law 116-9 (Land Use Bill): Commissioner Kent Wilson reported on a meeting with Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO), where they announced that they have an employee that they will dedicate, full time, to helping Emery County implement our public lands bill. This person will be the liaison between us and the federal government and will help us be pro-active in getting things done in a timely fashion. We have started assembling names to submit for the advisory board. It is a slow process right now,

but will pick up next month. He indicated that he was out on the desert this past Easter
weekend and stated that he didn't see anything different from his perspective. Wade Allinson indicated that there were no Search and Rescue calls. Rod stated he saw a lot of people out at the San Rafael Swinging Bridge. Commissioner Kent Wilson expressed the concern of the Commissioners that, now that the bill has passed, that implementation of the bill not become an unfunded mandate for our local BLM staff. They are stretched thin. We are told that things are in the works. Commissioner Wilson talked about the interest from the public to attend the PLC meetings. We had talked about holding these evening meetings twice a year. In Trails Meeting we talked about holding evening meetings through the winter when the agencies are not as busy. Ray commented that during the spring and summer months, days are longer, the weather is good, so agencies work longer hours and people are busy with work, personal interests and other things. He suggested that holding meetings in the evening through the winter months makes more sense. Commissioner Wilson indicated he would like to try, for a year, holding meetings in the evenings during the winter months. Ray talked about the challenge that the Public Land Council will have in helping to implement the many components the Lands Bill. PLC is committed to being involved.

5. Consider/Approve or Deny Letter of Support for RTP Grant: Rod Player indicated that the BLM asked the Public Lands Council for a letter in support of RTP Grant. Rod read the letter of support:

"Emery County (EC) is very much in support of Bureau of Land Management, Price Field Office application for a Recreational Trails Program Grant. EC understands that the grant will be used to fund an Off Highway Vehicle Volunteer Coordinator.
We know there is a great need for this position, which includes working with user groups to complete much needed trail maintenance projects.
We also assume there may be a possibility to utilize the position in the San Rafael Swell Travel Management Process required by the SUWA vs. DOI Settelment Agreement.
Since the passage of the Emery County Land Use Bill (Public Law 116-9) there are some requirement over and above normal OHV use management, as well as anticipated visitation because of the associated publicity. This position will surely

be a valuable asset in addressing these requirements.
In the past PFO produced a "Recreation Insider" newsletter which helped communicate to the public current and upcoming projects and other activities. We would like to see that happen again.
EC believes awarding a grant for the OHV/Volunteer Coordinator position will be a wise and worthwhile application of resources."
He indicated that this is a position that the Price Field Office has had in the past. The RTP is a state grant, using federal funds. It is commonly used for trail work throughout the state. It has helped fund several projects in Emery County in the past. Les Wilberg explained that one of the issues he has run into is that the BLM staff has jobs to do, so they have to find time to go with us for trail maintenance. This coordinator will help us with this issue. Wade Allinson indicated that his group was asked to submit a letter also. He asked if the grant application specifies how much time the coordinator will be used to help with the settlement compared to whether it will be used for boots on the ground? As a user, he expressed concern that the fund will be used for the settlement rather than boots on the ground. Wade will be including dedication to OHV stuff in his letter of support for the program. Rod indicated that funding is usually good for two years so even if they get the grant, the funds will not be available until fall at the earliest. JR Nelson made a motion to approve and send the letter. The motion was seconded by Les Wilberg. The motion passed.

6. Agency Reports and Council Members Comments: Jake Palma, BLM reported the Price Field Office is asked to do a lot and they are doing the best they can with the limited staff and resources that they have. They have many staff retiring. On Easter Weekend Jurassic National Monument was open. They had over 300 visitors. They have a lot of volunteer projects ongoing. They will be at Family Day at the Museum of the San Rafael next week. They are focused at this time on travel management and implementation of the Lands Bill. Especially at this time they are focused on the San Rafael Desert Travel Management Plan. The deadline to have a plan in place is November 30, 2019. On May 9th they will have a Cooperative Agency meeting where they will review documents regarding inventory routes on the San Rafael Desert and how the routes are managed. They will share draft alternative maps and other required documents from the settlement agreement. They will share a scoping report and baseline monitoring report. They will clarify what some of these documents mean and what they are asking in terms

of comments. JR talked about the associated publicity with the passing of the Lands Bill and the draw of the public to the San Rafael. Jake reported on the San Rafael Swell Travel Management Plan, same topic, different area. They will start the evaluation process in September of this year. As far as implementation of the Lands Bill there is a lot of pre-planning. They are trying to figure out what does the bill mean, what type of planning do we need to do? The Resource Advisory Council, when it is in place, will help with this process. Rod thanked the BLM for quick turn around response to questions. Ray commented on the Cooperating Agency meeting and the process that takes place to get these travel plans implemented.

Division of Water Rights (DWRi):

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM):

Division of Wildlife Resources: Chris Wood reported that a good number of elk have been seen hanging out in the fields outside of Ferron. The Division is working with the land owners to get permission to do a division removal. So far they have removed one elk. The Division has a program that allows the farmers to apply for assistance due to damage to their field from the elk. They hope that they move back up the mountain soon. He reported on the Gil Netting event at Joe's Valley on May 14, 2019. This event gives them an indication of how well they are managing the fish. They have a Bison Committee meeting on April 30, 2019 to continue to address the issues with Bison on the Tavaputs. This time of year they are doing deer surveys, and sage grouse counts. Turkey season ends Thursday.

School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)

Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF): Darren Olsen, MLNF, reported on the Canyon Timber Project has gone to the regional office for a review. They are hoping for a decision before June 1st. Work continues on their forest plan. Range: sage grouse and eagle surveys going on now. Gates are closed in Ferron Canyon, Lower Miller's Flat Road, Horn Mountain. Cottonwood will be closed latter this week. As soon as the snow is gone and the roads are dry they will be open. There are no prescribed burns planned for this year.

Utah State Parks and Recreation: Larry Johansen, State Parks/Recreation reported Huntington State Park and Millsite State Park are up and going. They have a new manager, Brian Kurda. Goblin Valley State Park used to be a satellite park to Green River State Park. They have been separated and have a new manager also, James Wells. The official ribbon cutting for Fred Hayes Park at Starvation Reservoir has been scheduled.

Utah State Department of Agriculture:

Washington Delegation Staff: Kelsey Berg, Deputy Chief of Staff for Senator Romney, reported that they have found someone to cover eastern Utah and he will be joining them next month. He is a law student from Roosevelt, Utah just finishing up his law degree in South Dakota. The lands bill is on the top of their list and will keep a watch on it and be as supportive as possible. High priority is wildfires and the issues that come with them. They are looking at fixing things across the board. Please send recommendations. No idea is too far fetched. There has been an agreement on wild horse management. It is not everything they want but it is a start. Finding lower cost off range areas, adoptions, sterilization, etc. She commented that we have not been at management levels since management levels were set. Range management is high priority.

Larry Ellertson reported that they have had a change in Washington Staff. Jake is now the legislative director, as opposed to just Public Lands. He is still doing PL for now until they have a replacement. Jake wanted to convey a couple of things, first being the intent verbage that Emery County submitted. Jake says he is working on that and he will have a draft out to look at in a couple of weeks. He would like feedback on that asap. Another thing from Jake is information regarding the RAC for the Recreation Area. There has to be a notice by the BLM that they are looking for that. Individuals submit their interest to that.
Copies of the signed bill be available soon.
There has been an active conversation regarding Helium exploration on the San Rafael. The issue is not with the leases. The issue is working out the access with the BLM. Questions have been referred to Washington.

7. Additional issues from Council Members: Les Wilberg reported that Thursday

and Friday they have trail work planned for Twin Knolls. Emery TelCom will have their excavator with an operator there along with volunteers from the Sage Riders, and the mini excavator that the county just purchased. He had the opportunity to work for 7 days on the Behind the Reef Trail last fall. They will go back and reassess the work and work on any damage from the winter. The objective this summer is Eva Conover / Fix-it Pass loop. They have drafted an MOU with BLM to spell out the cooperation with the Cat and Mini-Ex and how they will work together. Myron is fine tuning the document. There is a place on the internet called Avenzamap.com it is free map that will follow you. You do not necessarily have to have internet connection to use it. Very simple to use. Look for Emery County motorized and non-motorized trails. You can also access it from the Emery County Travel Bureau website. Representative David Hinkins explained that half of the ATVs that are registered in Utah are in Salt Lake County. Salt Lake County was keeping all the funds in SLC. SLC only has hiking trails. Mike Noel ran a bill a couple of years ago that allows counties and entities to apply for these funds to use for trail work. It was determined that this is where Emery County got the funds to purchase the Mini-Ex and BLM got the funds to purchase a Cat.

JR Nelson reported that Emery Water Conservancy District, on Friday will host a delegation of seven Chinese people to tour Joe's Valley Reservoir dam monitoring system. They come from the largest dam in the world, the Three Rivers Dam in China. JR indicated that the delegation will also tour the Wedge.

Sherrell Ward provided water levels and numbers. The reservoirs are all down but will fill up.

8. Concerned Citizens with Emery County related Issues. Wade Allinson commented on holding a meeting in the evening. He thanked the Council for deciding to hold an evening meeting. He only has so many vacation days and to attend these meetings he has to use vacation days. He indicated he was sure that there are others who feel the same.

9. Adjourn