MINUTES
Emery County Public Lands Council
May 7, 2019
Emery County Courthouse
Canyon Conference Room

PLC: Rod Player, Laren Huntsman, Les Wilberg, Bruce Wilson, JR Nelson, Kim McFarlane, Sherrel Ward.

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

Public: Brad Richman, Ferron City, Scott Jackson, Wayne Pahl, CCOHVA, John Anderson, Ryan Jones, UDAF, Nate Roberts, USDA, Roger Barton, USDA, Mark H. Williams, Jay Humphrey, EWCD, Doris Quinn, Steve Lund, Ben Heaton, Emery TelCom.

Excused: Ed Geary, Randal Stilson, Leon McElprang.

1. Welcome:

2. Approval of Minutes:

3. Chairman Comments: Rod Player commented that right now there is a lot going on with the federal agencies. They have a lot of planning going on and documents to review, public meetings that they have scheduled. The Forest Service has had to step back and deal with some things going on at Bears Ears. When they were shut down they got behind and are just now getting caught up with things going on. If anyone is interested look at their websites and see where there is opportunity to learn more and to comment. Ray Petersen talked about BLM advertisements for members for State RAC. Another advertisement was for council members for specific, different areas in the state. The advertisement will be similar to the advertisement for our lands advisory council board. Anyone interested in any of these boards should be working on that now.

4. Commission Report on Emery Land Bill: Commissioner Wilson reported on attending Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) meeting where they talked about a full time employee to help make sure that the intent of the Emery County Public Lands Bill is carried out. Everything on the Swell seems to be going well. Rod Player reported on the recently Spring Mountain Bike Festival and speaking with people from out of the state that most were not aware of the Lands Bill. People from Utah were aware of it, but there is still a lot of mis-information out there. Several comments came out about the new signs on the desert. Commissioner Sitterud reported that a letter has been

drafted that will go before the Commissioner for approval regarding Wildhorse overages on the desert. The letter will be sent to all senators and representatives.

5. Agency Reports:

A. Bureau of Land Management(BLM): A BLM representative was not able to attend today's meeting. Rod reported that the Public Lands meeting on April 23rd was sparsely attended by Public Lands Council members, but there was good representation by the agencies.

B. Division of Water Rights(DWRi):

C. Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM):

D. Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR):

E. School and Institutional Trusts Lands Administration (SITLA):

F. Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF):

G. Utah State Parks and Recreation:

H. Utah State Department of Agriculture: Nate Roberts talked about the Grazing Improvement Program. The purpose of the program is to improve productivity and sustain ability of range lands and water sheds. Their goals are to strengthen Utah's livestock industry, improve rural economies and enhance the environment. The Department gets cost share grants each year to do improvements. Ranchers can come to him and apply to get some of this money to do these projects. The program has been around for about ten years and they have seen some real progress. They would like to partner with agencies to bring in more money and make the program even bigger. There were three projects funded in Emery County this year. Roger Barton, Resource Coordinator for USDA, reported that he works with Conservation Districts. Conservation Districts have an opportunity through the Department of Agriculture and Utah Conservation Commission to seek grants to do irrigation type projects or natural resource projects. In Emery County they are helping to fund a project in Moore to replace a pipeline. He talked about the Millsite Rehabilitation Project. They are trying to minimize the amount of water that is coming over the top. It will spill over this year. Rod Player indicated that in the Trails Committee Meeting they discussed the possibility of using the canal routes with existing ROW's, that are now being abandoned, for walking, hiking, non-motorized, motorized trails. He asked for thoughts on this. Roger indicated that

when these ROW/easements are abandoned they go back to the property owner. Jay Mark Humphrey indicated that access roads are for maintenance only. He added that there is real danger in using these access roads for recreation.

I. Washington Delegation Staff:

6. Additional Issues from Council Members: JR Nelson asked Jay Mark Humphrey to report on the Chinese Delegation who recently visited Joe's Valley Dam. Jay indicated that he showed the delegation how they use the equipment at the diversion dam. Jay was able to show them how they operate the water flowing through the diversion from his cell phone. Everything is done in real time so anyone can see it. The delegation had a lot of questions. They were impressed. Jay reported that this has been an exceptional water year. By mid May to Mid June there will be a lot of water coming into the reservoirs. He talked about water delivery transparency. He provided a water projection for this years water delivery.

Les Wilberg provided a update of trail maintenance . Last fall there was 15 miles of trail work done Behind the Reef. This was an agency and Emery TelCom cooperative project. This year Emery County purchased a Mini Excavator. It expressed how amazed he was at how much can be done with Emery County's Mini Ex, a BLM Cat, and Emery TelCom's Mini Ex. He expressed his hope to eventually get to where Emery County will have developed enough trust with the BLM Price Field Office to go out there on our own to maintain trails. Emery TelCom is committed to help us with the trails. The only problem we have with BLM going out with them to improve trail systems is time. They do not have enough workers to go out with us to work these trails. They have to take time out of their work schedules to go out with us. All of Emery County's work is done by volunteers with help from Emery TelCom and an operator. Recently the CCOHVA held a Poker Ride on the San Rafael. There were 125 rigs with over 200 people. Mr. Pahl indicated that there were no incidents or problems with the trails. Mr. Pahl has committed to help with the ATV Jamboree this year. A big amount of things that get done in Emery County are done with volunteers. The Forest Service is working the lower Muddy. They are going to make a trail out of that. When they have finished with that they have committed to work on the Hole Trail. The 20th and 21st of this month Les will go from Swasey's Cabin to the Bridge to the top of Eagle Canyon where you go out to Red's Canyon. The Trails Committee's goal for this summer is to maintain the trail around the Eva Conover to Fix-It Pass Trail. Any time you would like to know what is going on with the trails in the county come to the Trails Committee meeting. It is at 8:00 am, just before this meeting.

Bruce asked if the State has abandoned their plans for a solar project on Cedar Mountain? Commissioner Wilson addressed the question and indicated that as a county we do not have much of a say in the process. We only have the ability to offer or not offer tax incentives. They are also working through a helium project.

7. Concerned Citizens with Emery County related issues:
John Anderson and Scott Jackson expressed concern for the extreme growth the Wasatch Front is experiencing. Their concern is for the impact on water issues around the state. John also expressed concern for fuels management on the forest in preparation for fire season.

The video Horse Rich, Dirt Poor was viewed.

8. Adjourn.