

MINUTES

FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING April 10, 2019 - 1:30 p.m.

**Bryce Canyon City Fire Station Training Room
70 West 100 North, Bryce Canyon City, Utah**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Gil Almquist, Chair
Mayor John Bramall
Becky Dunn
Carolyn White
Mayor Melani Torgersen
Frank Houston
Commissioner Paul Cozzens, Vice-Chair
Dale Brinkerhoff
Commissioner Lamont Smith

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Sarles
David Busk
Adam Snow
Henrie Walton
Dan Adams
J. Shea Owens
Trenton Willson
Russell Goorich
Bryan Thiriot
Courtney Sinagra

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Jerry Taylor, Excused
Commissioner Mike Dalton, Excused
Mayor Robert Houston, Excused
Mayor Maile Wilson-Edwards, Excused
Mayor Nolan Davis, Excused
Lisa Livingston

REPRESENTING

Washington County Commission Representative
Washington Co. Mayor Representative
Washington Co. Schools Representative
Beaver County Schools Representative
Garfield County Mayor Representative
Garfield County Schools Representative
Iron County Commission Representative
Iron County Schools Representative
Kane County Commission Representative

USU Extension
Department of Workforce Services
Congressman Stewart's Office
Senator Romney's Office
UCNS/BLU
PLPCO
USU Extension
USU Extension
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments

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

I. WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Gil Almquist, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He thanked everyone for being in attendance and noted that a quorum was present. Carolyn White led the attendees in the Pledge.

II. MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2019 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - REVIEW AND APPROVE

Commissioner Almquist, Chair, presented minutes of the March 13, 2019 Steering Committee meeting for discussion and consideration of approval.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DALE BRINKERHOFF, SECONDED BY MAYOR JOHN BRAMALL, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2019 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

III. UTAH LEGISLATURE REPORT

There were no state legislators in attendance to provide a report on the 2019 session. Mayor John Bramall provided a very comprehensive review of a wide range of legislative bills. Commissioner Almquist complemented Mayor Bramall for one of the best updates he has ever attended. The recording of the full presentation can be obtained upon request from the Five County Association of Governments.

IV. RURAL ONLINE INITIATIVE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION - RUSSELL GOODRICH, SENIOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR, UTAH RURAL ONLINE INITIATIVE, UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Mr. Russell Goodrich provided a presentation to the Steering Committee on the Rural Online Initiative program. He identified several success stories. The program is intended to make computer-based employment possible in rural areas in support of companies in the metropolitan areas.

V. BLU (BUSINESS LOANS OF UTAH) FUND PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION - DAN ADAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UTAH CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION

Mr. Dan Adams provided a presentation to the Steering Committee on the Business Loans of Utah (BLU) Fund. Mr. Adams said he is the executive director for the Utah Center for Neighborhood Stabilization. He provided the Board with a packet containing additional information about their organization. He said that Utah Center for Neighborhood Stabilization is an umbrella organization for four different entities: the Utah Center for Affordable Housing, Housing Plus, the Utah Small Business Growth Initiative, and the Utah Equitable Transit-oriented Fund. He said that the Utah Center for Affordable Housing was formed about 10 years ago when the country was going through the financial crisis. Mr. Adams similarly discussed the other portions of their organizations and gave a detailed description of their business loan program. He said their focus is on existing businesses that can't get access to traditional financing. He said that is who they

want to finance. He said they are not working with startups. He said that there's already a lot of capital within the state of Utah to help startups. They have access to angel Investing with small business investment company venture funds. He said they are looking for is those that are in a growth position that are seeking fifty to four hundred thousand dollars to expand their business.

VI. UTAH LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS DISCUSSION

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

VII. FIVE COUNTY AOG PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL - REVIEW

Courtney Sinagra, Human Resources Director, for the Five County AOG gave a quick overview, since there were so many new board members with us, about our association. She said that she came to these meetings for over three years and didn't know much about it. She said the AOG has 63 employees and a number of independent contractors. She said we have employees that live in each of the five counties and some have been with the Association for over 20 years. The Association has departments include an aging department that does case management. She said they connect our elderly populations with the services that they need. She said we have grants that encourage seniors to volunteer in a variety of capacities. She said the AOG provides Medicare Medicaid counseling. It has an ombudsman for long-term care facilities and a veteran's service officer helps out veterans to get their benefits. The AOG's Community Action Program has a lot of programs and different grants that they run to help people who are homeless or that encompasses food pantries, and also a court-ordered community service program. The Association just hired a brand new Community Action Program director who starts on Monday that is a former Five County employee. He has a lot of good accounting experience which will really help with those difficult grants and hope to get things turned around. She said that she is really excited to have him and we look forward to having him come to a future meeting. She said the Association has a Care about Child Care Program that trains home child care providers to make sure that they're providing excellent care for our children. She said the Association has a weatherization program based in Cedar City those folks go out and they do a lot of construction work on low income houses. Sometimes a lot of times they're working on mobile homes to make sure that they have low-cost energy as it they're energy efficient. She said there is a Home Energy Assistance Target (HEAT) program that offers annual one-time assistance to income qualified individuals and make sure that they don't have their power turned off. She also said that the Association has a

transportation planning department and a Community and Economic Development department. She said that this is some of the things that we do at Five County and it is so varied. She said that the Association has a policy manual, but it was last updated in 2007. She said it is not that it is really bad, rather that it is quite outdated. She said other AOG's have recently updated theirs. She said one of the first things in the new draft that is being worked on is a provision that it will be reviewed and updated every year so when that occurs management can just come to the Steering Committee, as the ratifying body for that policy manual, and update it. This could occur, as an example, if the state Legislature passed a new law, or there was this judicially mandated change, and we need to make sure that we are in full compliance. That way we just do minor changes over time rather than doing a massive overhaul 12 years later. She said that many things in the document are out of date and she worries about liability and lawsuits. She said the final parts of the update are in process and it's almost done. She said it will first go to the Finance Committee in May and then it will come to this Committee in June. She said that she will make sure that the Steering Committee members have copies of it well in advance so that they can be prepared to vote on it in June. She asked the members to contact her as they read through it and they can hash out specific concerns or questions that may arise. She stressed that the Association definitely needs to pass a new policy manual and asked if anyone had any questions about any of what she discussed. Commissioner Almquist said that he had spoken with Bryan and Courtney about making sure the new language of the 2019 House Bill 163 is incorporated.

VIII. STATE AGENCY UPDATES

David Busk, Department of Workforce Services, gave a brief update on market information. He explained that the state unemployment rate is 3.0 percent. In this region it is as follows: Beaver is 3.1%, Garfield is 7.2%, Iron is 3.3%, Kane is 3.1% and Washington is 3.2%. He then talked about job growth. He said Beaver County had a 5.9% a year change in job growth which is pretty healthy actually, and then Garfield County is actually shrinking a little bit with a negative 2.2%. He said Iron County is a 5.4% increase and Washington County is 6.3%. He said if you talk to economists today, they say that a healthy job growth rate is between three and five percent. There was a short discussion on the underground employment market and how DWS accounts for that. J. Shea Owens from the Governor's office gave an update. He said that they have a pretty good working relationship with most of the Commissioners in the room, but haven't spent much time at all with the Five County Association of Governments. So Kathleen Clark, director of their office, wanted him to stop by and make an introduction. He said that they do a lot of policy advising to the federal government on what the state would like to see happen on the federal public lands in our state. He said

they worked a little with Kane County on the RS2477 issue that is going on. He says he knows that they volunteer about half million dollars out of our state's surplus to help fund county's legal fees. He said they do a lot of commenting on all the public planning efforts of other projects go on in the state whether it's a BLM lease for oil and gas or it's a monument management plan for Bears Ears or the Grand Staircase, etc. He asked if anyone had any questions. Commissioner Almquist asked what the Governor's specific direction for federal lands was, was it roads or acquisition? Mr. Owens said that depends. He said that with roads, he's very much into preserving access, so he doesn't want roads closed down especially roads we need and want. He said the Governor wants very much to preserve access. He said he very much wants energy and oil, gas and mining, while at the same time looking forward to the future for wind and solar on federal lands. He also said he wants a healthy watershed for the communities. Additional discussion took place on housing crisis that is really a land crisis, with so much federal land and so little private land in the west. There was discussion of the recreation public purposes act that allows local governments to be given Land from the federal agencies for certain other purposes. A city could go through this process and housing can be one of the public purposes. Some discussion on the lengthy NEPA process also took place.

IX. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Adam Snow, Congressman Stewart's office, provided a short update. He has formed an anti-socialism caucus. He said that the push back has been enormous across the country with people saying ridiculous things on social media. He said some people say they don't want socialism but just want socialist practices and programs. Adam said the Congressman doesn't see a whole lot of difference between socialism and social practices. He said while there has been that push back, at the same time they are receiving an enormous amount of support from across the country. Adam spoke about the agreement on the wild horse and burro language in the appropriations bill. He said that they had finalized the agreement. He spoke about changes in permitting for commercial tour operators in national parks. He finished up his update by reminding everyone if they are having an issue with a federal agency or know of a constituent, especially she is if a widow whose husband was in the military and they are not getting their VA benefits or something, those are the issues they can help out with. Adam recognized the work that Courtney did with this when she was with Senator Hatch and there is no mission is really too small.

Henrie Walton, Senator Romney's office, provided an update. He said that the Senator held a Town Hall in St. George this past Friday and had a great turnout, expecting one hundred to one hundred fifty. Whe

said they had three hundred, so they ended up at the last minute having to move into a bigger room. He said it was an exciting experience for him to manage last minute. He said that Senator Romney and 13 other senators from the Colorado River Basin states last week introduced a drought contingency plan authorization act each state and a variety of several water districts have given the federal government their drought contingency plans and this legislation is essentially just a rubber stamp on those plans allows the water districts in the state to put into effect the plans that they have already put together. He said they are excited about that bipartisan legislation that was introduced. He discussed the Senator's recent meeting with the Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt. He also talked about the Zion Visitor Use Management Plan. He said that they are watching that very closely, and said something that he thinks most of Commissioners are aware, that Zion National Park is looking at reducing pretty dramatically the intake of tourists into the park on an annual basis, and implementing a reservation system. Henrie said that Senator Romney is very concerned about that, Acting Secretary Bernhardt is aware, as is Superintendent Jeff Bradybaugh aware of that, and they are having a lot of conversations to hopefully slow down that process. A few other items were discussed.

X. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY AND DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY UPDATES

Representatives of these institutions were unable to attend so this item was deferred to a future meeting.

XI. LOCAL AFFAIRS - AREA-WIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

Bryan Thiriot described the Areawide Clearing House review in the Steering Committee packet. He said that this is for a mountain ranch for a water pipeline and a letter of support from the Kane County Commission came in to the Association in support of this project at Zion Mountain Resort.

A motion was made by Mayor Bramall to be supportive of this project as presented. The motion was seconded by Carolyn White. The vote was unanimous and the motion was passed.

Bryan indicated that there were no CIB applications to review at this meeting. Finally in local discussion Bryan mentioned that higher education is going to be meeting Wednesday, April 17th in Cedar City and it's basically seeking input on the direction of higher education in the state.

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.