

MINUTES

FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING June 12, 2019 - 1:30 p.m.

Beaver City Office Building
Conference Room #3
30 West 300 North, Beaver, Utah

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Gil Almquist, Chair
Mayor John Bramall
Becky Dunn
Mayor Nolan Davis
Carolyn White
Commissioner Jerry Taylor
Mayor Melanie Torgersen
Frank Houston
Commissioner Paul Cozzens, Vice-Chair
Dale Brinkerhoff
Commissioner Lamont Smith
Stephen Lisonbee

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

David Long
Mike Sarles
David Busk
Adam Snow
Henrie Walton
Bryan Thiriot
Allison McCoy
Courtney Sinagra
Ben Billingsley

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Mike Dalton, Excused
Mayor Robert Houston
Mayor Maile Wilson-Edwards
Lisa Livingston

REPRESENTING

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

Beaver County School District
USU Extension
Department of Workforce Services
Congressman Stewart's Office
Senator Romney's Office
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments
Town of Apple Valley

Beaver County Commission Representative
Kane County Mayor Representative
Iron 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 coming and acknowledged that a quorum was present. Commissioner Almquist asked Mayor Torgerson to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Almquist turned some time over to Beaver County School Board member Carolyn White to make an announcement. Carolyn White introduced the new Beaver County School District Superintendent. She said he starts officially July 1st but said he has been in the county for a couple of weeks or so. His name is Dave Long, and he comes from Cache Valley. Ms. White said that the Beaver County School Board is excited to have him and also said she was glad to be able to introduce him to the Steering Committee. Commissioner Almquist welcomed Mr. Long and asked him how many students were in the Beaver County School District. Mr. Long replied that there are 1,500. Commissioner Almquist acknowledged that there were other guests in attendance from senators and representatives' offices. He welcomed Henry Walton from Senator Romney's office and Adam Snow from Chris Stewart's office. He also acknowledged Stephen Lisonbee from Southern Utah University.

II. MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2019 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - REVIEW AND APPROVE

Bryan Thiriot explained that the minutes from the April meeting will be deferred and presented at the next Steering Committee meeting for their approval.

III. FY2019 FINAL BUDGET REVISIONS - REVIEW

The Chair moved on to Agenda Item #III, the FY2019 Final Budget Revisions review. Chief Financial Officer Allison McCoy stated that just a few programs were started, and a few programs have lapsed, but nothing major. She said that there's not much of an increase. She said that the packet that was sent included the final FY2019 budget showing those budgets which were amended. She asked for any questions the Board may have. A question was asked about the "Accounting Technician". Allison explained that in previous years a former employee handled all Human Resources and Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable. The management made a conscious decision to divide that into two positions. Carolyn White said it didn't seem like there were many changes in programs. Allison said that we are losing a couple of programs, most notably the fire prevention program that will be over the end of December, and then with some of the aging programs, we won't know if we'll receive that money until the new federal fiscal year. A short discussion took place on Weatherization. Allison explained that there's not necessarily an increase in salaries, but that there were more technicians hired because they operated for a long time without a full staff. She also said that they are receiving an additional \$90,000 in state money this next fiscal year instead of the regular grants. Further discussion took place on the amounts of the increases in the budget for the

Weatherization Program. Board Member Dale Brinkerhoff stated he was in opposition to weatherization but supported the rest of the budget.

IV. FY2020 PROPOSED BUDGET - REVIEW

Commissioner Almquist moved onto Agenda Item # IV., review of the 2020 Proposed Budget. The Chair turned the time to Allison to present the proposed FY 2020 budget. She explained that there was a net change down from our final budget of last year about a hundred eighty-six thousand dollars, part of that is the fire prevention leaving and some of the other programs like the admin account position goes back down. She asked for any questions on the proposed budget for 2020. She said it is very similar to last year's budget.

V. PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2019 FINAL BUDGET REVISIONS AND FY2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Chair moved to Agenda Item #V., a public hearing on the Final Revisions of the FY2019 Budget and the proposed FY2020 Budget. Commissioner Almquist, Chair, called open the public hearing to discuss the fiscal year 2019 final budget revisions and the fiscal year 2020 proposed budget. He asked for any comments from the public on those two items. No one spoke up, so he closed the public hearing and then moved on to Agenda Item # VI.

VI. BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE BUDGETS

Commissioner Almquist solicited a motion to approve those items and indicated it could be done with one motion for both together.

Mayor Bramall made a motion to approve the FY 2019 Final Budget Revisions and the FY 2020 Budget as presented. Commissioner Almquist asked if there was a second to the motion. Mayor Davis seconded the motion. Commissioner Almquist asked if there were any questions prior to the vote. All voted in favor and the motion was passed.

Commissioner Almquist thanked the Board for the discussion and action on the budgets, including the concerns and comments on Weatherization that Dale Brinkerhoff had raised.

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

Commissioner Almquist moved on to Agenda Item #VII-A. and VII-B., review of, and then approval of, the proposed revised Five County AOG Policies and Procedures Manual. He invited Courtney Sinagra, Human Resources Director at the Association, to cover this item. Courtney reminded the board members that she had e-mailed the draft document out to them about a month ago. She said that the Finance Committee met and discussed this at a special meeting in May. That Committee had a few additions including language from state law about the de minimis usage of equipment that has been incorporated into the revision. She asked if there were any questions about the policy manual that had been sent out. It was asked whether the new manual will be placed on the website. Courtney said that the current 2007 manual is on there and once passed, this one will replace it on the Human Resources page of our website immediately. Commissioner Almquist stated that we had talked before and that Courtney wanted to take a little time to get some of the actual language in it that would apply to the state law and proposed changes. He said that this is why it is back before us again. Commissioner Almquist asked for any additional comments, and seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve.

Commissioner Lamont Smith made a motion to approve the revised Five County AOG Policy and Procedures Manual, dated June 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paul Cozzens.

Commissioner Almquist asked if there were any questions and then called for a vote. The vote in favor was unanimous and the motion was passed.

Commissioner Almquist expressed thanks to Courtney and all that worked on this process. He said current policies and procedures are essential to have and he gave kudos to the her.

VIII. CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Almquist moved on Agenda Item #VIII., a discussion on the Corporation for National and Community Service. Commissioner Almquist turned the time over to Five County AOG Executive Director Bryan Thiriote to present this item. Bryan referred the Board to their packet. He said that the Corporation for National Community Service organization, for us it is in the Western Regional area and within this region they have not really worked with the state of Utah. He said that they just wanted to let us know of the program that's available. Bryan said he mainly wanted to get it out in packet so that cities, school districts and counties can look and see what kind of services they offer. He said there are usually between 12 and 15 Vista or AmeriCorps volunteers that come out and help communities. He said that they work anywhere

from universities, homeless shelters, and in other areas. Bryan said that they rotate through and it's never been utilized in southern Utah. He said that all of that information is in the packet for the board, and he just wanted to get it out and passed along to all. Commissioner Almquist asked the Committee members to take note that there is contact info there for five individuals that represent the United Way, SwitchPoint Dixie, etc. He said to use those e-mail addresses to address them.

IX. UTAH SALES TAX MODERNIZATION DISCUSSION / DEVELOP RESOLUTION LANGUAGE/ AND AUTHORIZE CHAIR TO SIGN LETTER/RESOLUTION

Commissioner Almquist moved on to Agenda # IX-A. and IX-B., the Utah sales tax modernization. He said that we had a discussion of this previously at the 30,000-foot level but asked Bryan to take this discussion down to earth. Bryan reminded the members that the board met two months ago at Bryce Canyon City, and it was not on the agenda, so he placed it on this agenda so that the Steering Committee can speak to the proposals for the tax equalization and reduction act, sales tax, for the state of Utah. Bryan said that the direction at that time was to get something written from this body, but he said he felt it would be very beneficial that the Steering Committee member's comments are written, and in a public document and be recorded. He said that after this discussion we will get a sent letter out reflecting the concerns raised. He said part of this agenda item is an authorization for the chair to sign the letter on behalf of the Steering Committee, stating its position on the proposals. Bryan said that he believes there are hearings already happening throughout the state. He said it's moving forward. He said that he just wanted to open it up for the Chair to bring this matter to this body. Commissioner Almquist stated that this is similar to the letter we wrote concerning the distribution of CIB funds and said the committee members may recollect that we felt that would be very unfair to our area, especially as to the source of those funds are from mining and oil and gas operations that we don't have a lot of, but we still deserve our portion of those funds. Commissioner Almquist said that this is a different step and that he was glad that Adam Snow and Henry Walton were there because this speaks to a type of taxation that you may know on a national level that has been tried and some have failed and some of succeeded but State economies actually adjusted and were not necessarily driven forward by this type of tax. Commissioner Almquist voiced that he is opposed to taxes on services because he does not think that they understand what it is going to costs, firstly, to avoid the cheaters. He said he comes from the landscaping industry and everyone cheats, except us, and it's hard

to go in when you have a bid for \$10,000 and the owner says he has a competitor's bid. Then the owner says if you will accept cash, they will take \$500 off. Commissioner Almquist said he told the owner he was not going to take cash and they went with the other company. He questions where that money went. The concern he expressed is that there is no documentation of the transaction and that's how they get away with flying under the radar. Commissioner Almquist fears we will be off to the races in so many industries where there will be an added black-market level of business going on in Utah, like never seen before. Bryan Thiriot said that he failed to mention that Mayor Houston called him yesterday and said that he would be unable to attend the meeting and asked to be excused from the meeting. But the one item on the agenda that Mayor Houston wanted to speak to was on this issue. Bryan said Mayor Houston asked him to emphasize that taxes be impact-neutral for taxes and not revenue-neutral. That's the principle that he wants to lay down. Mayor Bramall said he wants to go on record to agree with everything that has been said. He said that they tried it in the agriculture department and the sales of hunting in Utah dropped 30% because of taxes on it. He said that they can get the same hunt in five surrounding states with similar animals and no tax. He questions how many guides that are out in the middle of the mountains are going to say: "Hey, I'm going to add 600 bucks to your \$10,000 fee and send it into the state!" He agrees that we will open up a big black market and CPAs, accountants, everybody who's doing any service, like your lawn mower, or your babysitter is going to be taxed two-and-a-half or three percent, so all of a sudden, you've got to add tax on everything you do. He said when you give a waitress a tip, do you have to say I'm going to have to add two-and-a-half percent on this tip and send it in. He said it will be everywhere and on everything. Commissioner Almquist acknowledged that there are some school board members present on the Steering Committee, as was as a school district superintendent with in attendance, and said he was hoping that there might be some comments relative to their feelings on whether they would see any of that those funds. Commissioner Almquist said he hasn't seen where the distribution was going to come from, but mostly just the collection and the broadening of the tax base. He said that his feeling is that if you broaden it so flat that you push past the borders of the state, and that's not going to work. Commissioner Paul Cozzens said he is adamant against this bill. He said he thinks there's several things like Mayor Bramall said. Commissioner Cozzens said he spoke to someone at an accounting firm who said they'll just set up shop in Mesquite and suck all that business out of Utah and save 6%. He also said that when you deputize everybody in the state of Utah to be a tax collector, imagine how many more personnel the state of Utah is going to have to hire to process the returns. He fears that it's going to eat up a lot of the revenue they collect and we're going to grow government exponentially. he said he agrees with everything that has been said.

Carolyn White said that education gets most of their money from the income tax, so she doesn't know what this would do for education, but she agreed with what has been said, as far as services being taxed. She said that she thinks that would be harmful, not only to the businesses that perform those services but to the people that have to receive those services. Commissioner Almquist said that this will handcuff those that are trying to seek economic impact in the state. He said we will invite people to come to Utah to start a business and then have to tell them that, oh, by the way, your business is service oriented so there will be an additional tax. He fears that they may find that not too attractive. Mayor Bramall gave an example of how smart our legislature was a few years ago when they started to register and tax trailers in Utah but were only going to do like \$10-\$20 a year. He said if you drive around our state almost everyone trailers are licensed in either, Oregon or Idaho. He said most of them are Idaho licensed because they can line up, sign them up, and pay a permanent single lifetime fee. He said that is the same as in Alaska and Arizona and Oregon and we were so smart that now Idaho gets all those trailer taxes and Oregon and Arizona and anywhere else that they license with the permanent license. Dale Brinkerhoff added that we still have all those trailers on our highways here. Mayor Bramall said that paying an annual fee in twenty years you'd have paid in fees the cost of a new trailer. He said if it's a \$600 trailer and you're paying \$20-\$30 a year, in 20 years you could have paid for a new trailer, except because it is licensed in Utah, and that went to fees. Commissioner Almquist said that we have population centers in Utah, but it hurts the rural population just as much. He said we have a lot of population centers that are not far from the border so many may go to Idaho for something like that, or purchase over the internet. Commission Almquist asked for any other comments from the Board members. Mayor Bramall made a comment of a solution that was proposed three years ago. If the state of Utah followed up on what the University of Utah, BYU and Duke University study showed, that Utah can now handle our own state, and they transfer just half of the federal lands to Utah, the state makes \$5 per acre per year and the feds spend \$6 per acre per year. He said that's \$5.00 per acre, if we would just get paid for half of it, we'd have \$400 million for education every year, just at five dollars an acre, just if we transferred half. He said we could preserve those public lands that are scenic and beautiful, and hunting, but there's a ton of grazing lands that would be better off owned so that we get property taxes on them. He questioned why we pay the government \$50 per 3,000-acre lease and then they come and spend \$15,000 each year monitoring it with guys driving out through it. Commissioner Almquist asked for comments from anyone else.

Commissioner Almquist said that Senator Romney was very helpful in getting the power line across the river, in fighting off the Bradybaugh invasion of Zion, and all those things. Commissioner Almquist asked Henry Walton, from Senator Romney's office, if in some subtle way, see if he could have Senator Romney address Utah issues, and stay away from the national issues that affect things that we have no control over? Commissioner Almquist said this taxation issue would be a really handy item for him to weigh in on, the Senator having been in business himself, and negotiating the service industry and knows how that affects businesses and taxation. Henry Walton said he would pass it along, but said he thinks that you'll continue see Senator Romney weigh in on both nation and Utah issues. Commissioner Almquist said that they are trying to get comments so that Bryan, or someone, can draft a letter that we can all feel good about. He asked if there was anyone at the meeting who had an opposing opinion on the taxation matter. Commissioner Taylor said that he has been a lot of other meetings and has not heard anybody speak for this. Mayor Bramall said the only ones he has heard are legislators who decided it was a good thing to do. He said that chambers of commerce, businesses, brokers, real estate, health care, and every board and commission he can think of opposes this. Mayor Taylor said that we can't go to sleep on this, that we have to be vigilant with this, and the other things that we're doing, that if were not they'll run it at midnight sometime. Commissioner Almquist brought up that Senator Evan Vickers called him yesterday and said to please tell the Five County [Steering Committee] board that we're not trying to say that this is the end all, that this will be a start of the discussion. Commissioner Almquist added his own comment that they started the discussion when they introduced this idea. He said he wants to nip this idea in the bud. Commissioner Taylor said that the crazy thing about this is sales tax revenue is not declining, it's increasing. Commissioner Almquist said that one other comment from him, that Bryan may want to think about, is that Utah likes to say that we are producing state, and with ideas of an Inland Port, and with all the governor has said, that's all fine. He continued to say that we still rely on our services because we are a retirement state, we are at tourism state, we are a health care state and a lot of those things, and we are becoming a tech state. He raised the question of how are we going to say to businesses looking at coming to Utah to come here and then we can tax them to death. He said that we have to rely on our services to be as free and open and functioning as possible. He said that he thinks the Steering Committee member are all on the same page on this matter. Commissioner Almquist again asked for any other thoughts. Bryan Thiriot added a comment that he has read about is that there's quite a few groups that do not want to see this go in a special session, but rather a general session. There was consensus of the Steering Committee that they

agree with that sentiment. The Chair said he would accept a motion on that to authorize staff to write and then for him to sign the letter on the Steering Committee's behalf.

Mayor Bramall made a motion to authorize staff to prepare a letter and authorize Commissioner Almquist, as Chair, to sign the letter on the Steering Committee's behalf and send to all of our legislators and state House and Senate leadership. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jerry Taylor. A vote was called for and the voting was unanimous, and the motion was passed.

X. STATE AGENCY UPDATES

Commissioner Almquist moved on to state agency updates. David Busk explained what the Workforce Development Division is and how it fits into the big umbrella of the Department of Workforce Service (DWS). He said their objective is to increase the financial stability of those we serve. He said, in his opinion, that is the best part of the Department of Workforce Services. He said they have some good programs to help stabilize people they serve. He highlighted their Workforce Innovation Opportunity program which is federal dollars they receive to help people with career coaching. He said this allows them to bring somebody in, do a comprehensive assessment, help them understand labor market data, economic trends, who the largest employers are, what the job growth rates are in those occupations, what the median wage is, education and skill level required, and then take all of that that larger data and validate that locally with local demand. He said that they have Workforce Development Specialists that are networking with local employers with state employers and sometimes national employers and developing relationships. He described how somebody who is in their career planning, whether they've got a job, or whether they've recently been laid off, or they're just looking to get a better job, their staff can leverage those relationships, use that data, and then some funding to help somebody develop a viable career path. He said that the Workforce Innovation Opportunity funding they receive is what they do that with, and he thinks it's probably one of their most successful programs. He said they have well over an 80% placement rate with those programs and training completion rates are also above 80%. He said that he just wanted to let the Steering Committee members know that they have those services and can help somebody you know develop a career path, and if they don't have the skills, we can help offset training costs, by helping them with tuition through approved training providers. He also said that they can incentivize employers to do on-the-job training, all targeted at increasing that individual's financial outcome. He finished by saying that it

is one of the best kept secrets in Utah and that they have some funds available and they would like to see more people tapping into that those resources. Commissioner Almquist asked Mr. Busk how they work with early prison release programs. Mr. Busk said that they do that in multiple ways. He gave an example in Cedar City where they are working with the Drug Court to connect those that are in the Drug Court system to have them requires to come access the DWS services and let them help the client. He said that they can help somebody that has a background be more strategic in the way they approach an employer so the first thing they say isn't that they are in a jam and need to find a job. He said that they can teach them a better approach and how to be more effective. He said that they have been involved with the Gunnison Prison to do a pilot program there to teach resume writing workshops, job search skills, and similar kinds of things for those that are selected. He said they provide those services to them, and then, before their release, they actually set an appointment up with an employment counselor in the location that the are being released to, anywhere in the state. He said that they are working with correction facilities across the state. Mayor Bramall briefly described a mentoring program that he said has been successful; in other states. Additional discussion took place on hiring those who are released to fill positions in businesses looking for employees.

XI. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Commissioner Almquist moved on to Congressional Updates and he invited Adam Snow from Congressman Stewart's office to address the Committee. Adam Snow said that two weeks ago they had a summit in Reno regarding wild horses where they presented the coalition Congressman Stewart put together. He said that three of the five counties all have wild horses. He said a bill addressing this is moving forward and now looks like it should pass through Congress. He said now we're looking for additional funding. He said they asked for \$50 million, but really wanted a \$100 million. He said they gave \$6 million. He said a bipartisan agreement is being worked on, though it's not a perfect agreement, but at least it moves the ball forward and the first step is that we can pull the horses off the range. He said that is the biggest victory. He said that Congress is in the thick of the appropriation season and they are trying to keep in the things that Congressman Stewart put into the appropriation bills. He said he just got a text that for anybody who's in agriculture and uses seasonal workers, the visas, especially for herders, the visas that they can get they have always been either seasonal, and you had to be in the season to be here. He said for those out of season it was very difficult to get a visa. He said they just did away with any non-immigrant visa seasonal requirement for visas for anybody related to agriculture, but for herders, that's a big deal. Adam also said that they were victorious with the Forest Service on some grazing allotment issues and are working to get

nationwide regulation change through the Department of the Interior. Adam finished by telling the Steering Committee members if they have anything for either themselves or a constituent to give their office a call. He said they have the time to help people. Commissioner Almquist mentioned an issue that both Congressman Stewart and Senator Romney had to deal with a power line going over the Virgin River. Environmentalists argue that it's not that there are nesting willow flycatchers there right now, but the problem is that they "could" nest there. Commissioner Almquist asked rhetorically what danger that would impose upon the fact that an animal that's restricted or endangered or whatever "could be" anywhere, and that that would close up the land because they "could" live there, but they don't anyway. He thanked both Adam and Henrie for their help on that issue. Henrie Walton from Senator Romney's office spoke of three things that the Senator is working on. He talked about the wild horse and burro summit that Congressman Stewart's office put together. He thanked Congressman Stewart's office on putting together an excellent appropriations agreement. He said it's not perfect, but that it's a lot better than anything they've ever seen before and their office on the Senate side has pushed that forward to Senator Shelby who's the chair of Appropriations. He said that they requested \$50 million but they probably won't get that much, but hopefully will get a chunk. He said they want to make a dent in this issue and realize how it affects all of the counties here. Another thing Henrie mentioned is that Senator Romney introduced the permanent e-verify act bill. He said that right now the e-verify provision sunsets every six months. So, Congress has to reauthorize that to ensure that businesses are required to use e-verify. He said this bill by Senator Romney is a first step to ensure that everybody nationwide is required to use e-verify. He said that this is something that Senator Romney has been very passionate about for a long time. Henrie said that he didn't need to tell the Steering Committee members about the problem of the southern border with something like 145,000 people were apprehended last month. He said we have got to do something about it. He said the last thing he would mention is that last week Senator Romney met with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) chairman. He said they are very involved in the Lake Powell Pipeline. He said that Senator Romney had a frank conversation with the chairman of FERC and let him know about our support of the Lake Powell Pipeline and the FERC chairman reiterated his support. So, we just need the FERC chairman to help get that down to his lieutenants who are being a little bit problematic. Commissioner Taylor asked Henry if what the Commissioner read last week was true or not. Commissioner Taylor said that the article stated that Romney is looking at a Green-New-Deal-"lite" with some carbon taxes. He asked Henry if there was any truth to that. Henry said that the article was taken out of context. He said that the Senator is looking at

a variety of different options and the climate change is an issue and that we've got to address it, but he hasn't come to a solution. He hasn't figured out what it is he'd like to do and he's not honing it on any one thing. Commissioner Taylor asked if a carbon tax had been taken off the table. He then commented about how Glacier National Park has quietly taken down signs that said that the glaciers there in the park were going to disappear by 2020 but in-fact they are actually growing. Commissioner Taylor said he hopes that that is not on the table. Henry said that idea is not on the table and they are not interested in sponsoring or co-sponsoring carbon tax legislation. That direction came down from Senator Romney very clearly to Henry the day after that article is written. Henry said that there was a lot of frustration in their office with news media who misinterpreted what he had said. Mayor Bramall asked Henry to thank Senator Romney the Senator for helping to change the diesel fuel standards back to 15 parts per million of sulfur. He said that it lubricates engines better and we no longer are having bacteria in the diesel fuels plugging up and blowing engines nationwide. He said they made the diesel so clear and so clean that bacteria would grow in it and was plugging up filters and blowing engines. He wanted to thank them for bringing reason back in and now diesel can be stored for more than six months.

XII. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Commissioner Almquist turned some time over to Stephen Lisonbee from Southern Utah University. Stephen Lisonbee said he has worked sixteen years with state of Utah, the last six years as state director for the Workforce Development Division. He said prior to that he was in the eligibility services division and prior to that he was a region leader. He said he spent some of that time in Kanab and lives in LaVerkin. Stephen said he is really excited to be part of Southern Utah University and Cedar City, as well as Beaver and Garfield counties and do some great things. He said he replaced West Curtis. He covered briefly some highlights of happenings on the campus. Mike Sarles then made a short presentation on the activities and programs that the Utah State University (USU) Extension was doing in the area.

XIII. LOCAL AFFAIRS

The Chair moved the meeting on to Agenda Item # XIII. Local Affairs. Bryan Thiriot stated that there were no Area-Wide Clearinghouse reviews. Bryan had passed around a handout that was a list of the first trimester CIB applications. He said that there is almost a dozen here. He said there were applications from Antimony, Apple Valley, Cannonville, Cedar Mountain Fire Protection District, Elk Meadows Special Service District, Hatch Town, Kane County Water Conservancy District, Kannaraville Town, Panguitch City, St.

George City, and two from Springdale Town. Bryan referred the members of the committee to the columns on the list for the different requests these communities and entities are requesting.

Dale Brinkerhoff brought up how impressive it is that these small communities come up with local match to CIB funding, like Panguich City who is providing \$60,000 to match a \$60,000 grant request for CIB funding on a \$120,000 project to prepare studies on their capital facilities and infrastructure. He said that what is really impressive about this whole list is how these tiny towns can come up with that amount of money as their match. He said that is impressive. Commissioner Taylor stated to the committee members that as they go back to their communities, the cities and towns, and the county need to praise the CIB and where these funds come from. He said that a lot of people are fighting extraction and if that goes away, and thus CIB goes away, your communities will not exist anymore. He said as soon as the community's infrastructure breaks down they are done. He said it is important that we thank the CIB and let people know where those funds come from. Bryan Thiriote reminded the Steering Committee that Commissioner Dalton represents the Five County region on the CIB and said he needed to be excused from this meeting because he is there at the CIB at this time.

Dale Brinkerhoff made a motion stating the Steering Committee's support of all of the listed CIB applications. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor. The vote was called and was unanimous in favor and the motion was passed.

Commissioner Almquist invited Ben Billingsley from Apple Valley to tell about their project. Ben Billingsley said that Apple Valley is a fairly new town of about 800 residents just outside of Hurricane. He said that in the last five years they have had a significant storm water drainage problem with dirt roads washing out. He said that they might need more permanent fixes to some of the infrastructure. Bryan Thiriote indicated that there were no out state travel approvals and no correspondence. He said that there was one last item of discussion of local issues he was bringing up for Nathan Wiberg, Associate Planner at the Association. It has to do with the Community Development Block Grant program. Nathan said that there's going to be some minor changes to the policy and regional rating and ranking and that he would be sending out information and solicit comments and suggestions from the region's entities over the next month. He said that was the one thing Nathan wanted him to let the Steering Committee know. Commissioner Almquist

discussed one other local issue about the St. George Airport that was on the television news the previous night.

Seeing that there was no further business for the Steering Committee to address, Commissioner Almquist adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

DRAFT