

# MINUTES

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 9, 2013

St. George, Utah

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Clare Ramsay, Chair  
Mayor Jerry Taylor, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Mike Dalton  
Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff  
Mayor Dutch Deutschlander for  
Mayor Connie Robinson  
Commissioner Douglas Heaton  
Mayor Nina Laycook  
Commissioner Denny Drake  
Mayor Dan McGuire  
LuAnne Forrest  
Wes Curtis for Dorian Page

### REPRESENTING

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

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ellen Schunk  
Teresa Banks  
Dave DeMille  
Ken Sizemore  
Diane Lamoreaux

Senator Lee's Office  
Department of Workforce Services  
The Daily Spectrum  
Five County Association of Governments  
Five County Association of Governments

### MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Mark Yardley  
Carolyn White, Excused  
Ken Platt, Excused  
Vacant Position  
Wendy Allan  
Frank Lojko

Beaver County Mayor Representative  
Beaver County Schools Representative  
Garfield County Schools Representative  
Iron County Schools Representative  
Kane County Schools Representative  
Dixie State College of Utah

## I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Clare Ramsay, Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance. Those asking to be excused include Ms. Carolyn White, Beaver County Schools Representative; and Mr. Ken Platt, Garfield County Schools Representative. Those present at the meeting provided introductions. New members to the Board include Commissioner Mike Dalton, Beaver County Commissioner Representative and Mayor Dan McGuire, Washington County Mayor Representative. Mayor Dutch Deutschlander was representing Mayor Connie Robinson, Iron County Mayor Representative

## II. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 2012 - REVIEW & APPROVE

Chairman Ramsay indicated that a quorum was present for conduct of business and presented minutes of the November 14, 2012 Steering Committee meeting for Board discussion and consideration.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS HEATON, SECONDED BY MAYOR DUTCH DEUTSCHLANDER, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2012 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

**III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION(S) RATIFICATION**

Mr. Ken Sizemore provided an explanation of Executive Committee action for new Board members. In 2011 the Executive Committee was concerned about the potential future liability of the sick leave conversion policy that had been implemented at the AOG. The conversion policy allowed employees to convert a portion of their unused sick leave to pay for health insurance or as a cash out benefit upon retirement. Because of their concerns a new policy was adopted that included a window to sunset the program. For the first two years, employees could utilize the full benefit upon retirement. That window of opportunity ends on July 1, 2013. Employees electing to retire in the next four years from that point would have a 25% reduction to the benefit each year until the policy expires at the end of the sixth year. A number of senior employees have retired and a number are considering retirement. Due to the potential loss of significant income, Mr. Sizemore announced his intent to retire effective July 1, 2013. The Executive Committee has reached a decision to advertise the Executive Director position to provide ample time for training of the individual selected for the position. Advertisement will begin in January, with screening of application to follow and interviews scheduled during the month of March. The Executive Committee also decided to advertise the position with two options: 1) As a full-time staff position, and 2) As a contract employee which would reduce the benefit package. The Executive Committee is moving in the direction of utilizing contract employees to deal with escalating benefit costs for full-time employees. The job advertisement will advertise for both of the options outlined above, in-house and outside concurrently. The job announcement will be posted on numerous professional organizations advertising and not so much under traditional advertising mediums.

Mayor Dan McGuire asked if Mr. Sizemore would be eligible to contract for this position. Mr. Sizemore indicated that he would have to research this option taking into account all of the rules that are applicable under the Utah State Retirement System.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DENNY DRAKE, SECONDED BY MAYOR NINA LAYCOOK, TO RATIFY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IV. UTAH PRO BONO COMMISSION APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Ken Sizemore referenced information contained on page 8 of the packet summarizing a new commission that has been created by the Utah State Bar. This commission will be staffed by an attorney who has requested that the Five County AOG nominate a Steering Committee member to serve on the Sixth District Judicial Court Pro Bono Commission. It was noted that the Fifth District Court, which covers Iron and Washington counties, has not decided if they will establish a commission. The Sixth District Court covers Beaver, Garfield and Kane counties, and the Steering Committee representative would need to be from one of these counties. The effort is to encourage local government and local residents participation and perspective on the commission. Commissioner Mike Dalton indicated that Beaver County is actually a member of the Fifth District Court but will have an acting Sixth

District Judge hearing cases. He suggested that the representative designated should be from Garfield or Kane county. There is no indication how often the commission will meet or how much time this will entail. Commissioner Douglas Heaton indicated that Kane County has not made commission assignments for 2013 and Commissioner Jim Matson may be the Five County representative. This would also entail selection of a new Steering Committee member to serve as the representative to the Utah Association of Counties Board of Directors. He indicated that the Kane County representative could be designated to serve on this commission.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DENNY DRAKE, TO ACCEPT KANE COUNTY'S OFFER TO APPOINT THE KANE COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE SIXTH DISTRICT COURT PRO BONO COMMISSION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. SUB-COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

Mr. Ken Sizemore referenced information on pages 9-13 of the packet containing sub-county population projections for each county for the period 2010-2060. This process occurs on a regular cycle at the Governor's Office. In late 2012 the preliminary numbers were presented to the Steering Committee for discussion. The tables included in the packet contain population projections for jurisdictions and unincorporated county areas. The approach taken by OPB was to look at the 2010 Census percentage of proportion of total population and apply that percentage across the years. AOG staff have been in contact with each county and city to gather responses to the numbers. The most outspoken was Enoch City who feels that they will have a larger proportion of growth in the future. Others feel that Hurricane City, Washington City and St. George City will have about the same population in the future as growth continues in Washington County. It was noted that these population numbers are utilized in funding formulas for many grants and state agency funding allocations. Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff mentioned that it is important that numbers are as accurate as possible for funding allocations as well as billings by various agencies to the counties. Members were asked to contact Mr. Sizemore to voice any concerns they may have.

**VI. FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS UPDATE**

Mr. Sizemore referenced correspondence contained on pages 14-15 from the Utah Department of Transportation regarding the update to the urban boundaries and functional classified highway network in Utah. The process includes adjusting the Urbanized Area (UA) and Urbanized Cluster (UC) boundaries as well as updates to functional classifications. It is important to provide input because of funding implications associated with the different classifications. Previously this process was handled by UDOT in-house with little involvement of local government. This is the first time that recommendations have been sought at this level. Five County staff has been working with County Public Works Directors and communities to obtain recommendations. He reviewed some of the recommended changes as follows: **1) Kane County**-- Cane Beds Road moved from minor to major; **2) Washington County**-- A number of recommendations will be provided through the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization; **3) Garfield County**-- Brian Bremner has provided some recommendations; and **4) Beaver County**-- Information has been submitted by the GIS Coordinator.

**VII. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE UPDATE**

Mr. John Bennett, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, was not in attendance.

**VIII. UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. Sizemore indicated that Mr. Dana Meier had indicated that he would be in attendance.

**IX. DIXIE STATE COLLEGE UPDATE**

Mr. Frank Lojko, Dixie State College, was not in attendance.

**X. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY (SUU) UPDATE**

Mr. Wes Curtis, SUU, provided an update on enrollment numbers which have decreased by approximately 300 from last year's numbers. The major impact of this decrease is reflective of the LDS Church policy change for missionaries to serve at a younger age. This will have an impact on budgets, but this is about what the university's administration was expecting.

Pictures of the Southwest Utah Renewable Energy Trailer were circulated for viewing. The portable trailer has been traveling around the region between September and November. The major driver for this project has been Mr. Andy Swapp, a teacher from Milford High School, who opened the door for First Wind to expand operations into Beaver County. The Southwest Utah Renewable Energy Center is operational, but the portable trailer is the most unique aspect of the center. The trailer generates its own power with a wind turbine as well as solar equipment.

Mr. Curtis reported on the SUU Mountain Ranch forest demonstration project which has recently completed contracts for logging on the mountain ranch properties. This project will be used to show how to reduce fire risk around properties, and various logging techniques will also be reviewed. The University owns approximately 1,500 acres which is situated on both sides of Highway 14 and goes all the way up to Flannigan Arch on the Ashdown properties. A snow measuring site will also be built on the ranch property.

SUU Regional Services partnered to assist Kane County in development of the BEAR program. Ed Meyer has been contracted to administer this program. Numerous businesses have visited the site to seek assistance.

Mr. Curtis saved the big news for last. A new medical school will be locating adjacent to the SUU campus. This will be for osteopathic medicine administered through the Aqua Vista private school out of Denver, Colorado. The school is expanding to Cedar City because of the strength of science programs offered at the University. The school has agreed to admit the top 15 pre-med students from SUU without the MCAT test. This is a really big accomplishment for SUU. It is anticipated that this program will initiate the creation of four new master degree programs that will feed into the medical school.

Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff acknowledged that while renewable energy is a good thing, it cannot be looked at as the only source to where coal and nuclear energy are bypassed.

In actuality, renewable energy is a small part of the portfolio. Oil and gas production is beginning to utilize fracking and horizontal drilling methods which will provide increased production.

## **XI. DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES UPDATE**

Ms. Teresa Banks, DWS, reported that Jon Pierpont, has been selected to serve as the Executive Director of the Department of Workforce Services. He announced the four corner stones for the Department as follows: 1) Operational Excellence; 2) Exceptional Customer Service; 3) Employee Success; and 4) Community Connection. Mr. Pierpont is a proactive individual who is very concerned for the welfare of veterans returning from service to our country. A Hiring Heroes Job Fair is scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> in St. George which will serve the entire Five County area. The state is also working on a virtual job fair utilizing resources to connect with employers. She reported that the state unemployment rate is 5.3 percent. Rates for each of the counties are as follows: **1) Beaver-- 5.3%; 2) Iron, Kane and Washington-- 6.6% and 3) Garfield-- 10.1%**. Unemployment numbers are tied directly to insurance benefits and whether clients in Utah are eligible for extended unemployment benefits. At this time, the state of Utah no longer qualifies for extended benefits. DWS is striving to enhance worker skills through training and various workshops such as resume writing skills. The Work Success Program at DWS consists of a comprehensive four week program geared at building resume writing skills, work skills, etc.

## **XII. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES**

Ms. Ellen Schunk, Senator Lee's Office, reported that Senator Lee will be serving on four committees as follows: 1) Judicial; 2) Energy and Natural Resources; 3) Joint Economic; and 4) Senate Armed Service. The Senator and staff are working on the Sage Grouse issue as well as the Coral Pink Tiger Beetle potential listing on the Endangered Species List. However, spending and the federal debt are overshadowing most activities. Details on the fiscal cliff were worked out and presented to the Senate with only six minutes for review before the votes were cast. Senator Lee voted against the bill and will not support any legislation that he cannot read prior to a vote. The next big issue will be the debt ceiling and spending cuts that are looming. Ms. Schunk will continue to contact Board members to provide updates and to gather input on important issues. She can be contacted via telephone at 435-628-5514. Victor Isom is based out of the St. George office and is still working on public lands issues.

She reported that Senator Hatch has not selected the replacement for Marreen Casper. His intern, Heidi, is working out of the Cedar City office and all items are being referred to her at this time. Gary Webster, Representative Stewart's local office, was unable to attend today because of a staff meeting conflict.

## **XIII. LOCAL AFFAIRS**

### **A. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**B. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL**

None.

**C. PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND BOARD (PCIFB) APPLICATIONS**

Commissioner Denny Drake encouraged local jurisdictions to continue to submit applications. He noted that the mineral lease monies are depleted for zero percent loans and grants, but a lot of money is still available for loans at 2.5%. It is important for jurisdictions to get their projects on the capital improvements lists for the upcoming year. CIB project applications will be reviewed during the February Steering Committee meeting.

**D. PLANNING ASSISTANCE**

None.

**E. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Sizemore explained that billings will be mailed to counties requesting their participation in the amount of \$15,000. This billing cycle coincides with the county budget year. He also reported that Garfield County elected to employ Justin Fischer as a county employee. Justin has served as the Garfield County Circuit Rider Planner and has been employed through Five County. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, he was shifted over as a Garfield County employee. Commissioner Ramsay indicated that the commission will be meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday to discuss this transition.

**XIV. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS**

Mr. Sizemore referenced six reviews included in the packet and one late arrival from the State and Institutional Trust Lands Administration for Board consideration. All reviews have supportive staff recommendations.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DENNY DRAKE, SECONDED BY MAYOR NINA LAYCOOK, TO APPROVE THE A-95 REVIEWS, INCLUDING THE ONE LATE ARRIVAL, AS PER SUPPORTIVE STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2013 in Kanab at the Kane County Emergency Services Training Facility/Search and Rescue Building.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DENNY DRAKE.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.