

**MINUTES**

**FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 21, 2019 - 1:30 p.m.**

**Garfield County Courthouse Building  
Upstairs Conference Room  
55 South Main Street, Panguitch, Utah**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Commissioner Gil Almquist, Chair  
Becky Dunn  
Commissioner Mike Dalton  
Mayor Nolan Davis  
Carolyn White  
Commissioner Jerry Taylor  
Commissioner Paul Cozzens, Vice-Chair  
Dale Brinkerhoff  
Commissioner Lamont Smith

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Locke Ettinger  
Ade' Nelson  
Adam Snow  
Scott Albrecht  
Henrie Walton  
Kim Clark  
Michael Clay  
Alicia Seeley  
Sarah Wright  
Heidi Goedhart  
Bryan Thiriot  
Gary Zabriskie  
Nate Wiberg  
Michael Day

**REPRESENTING**

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

Rural Health Association of Utah  
Kane County Resource Planner  
Congressman Stewart's Office  
Senator Romney's Office  
Dixie State University  
Move Utah Consultant  
Professor of Urban Planning at BYU  
Brigham Young University  
Brigham Young University  
UDOT Move Utah Program Manager  
Five County Association of Governments  
Five County Association of Governments  
Five County Association of Governments  
Five County Association of Governments

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Melanie Torgersen  
Frank Houston  
Mayor Maile Wilson-Edwards  
Mayor Robert Houston  
Lisa Livingston  
Mayor John Bramall

Garfield County Mayor Representative  
Garfield County Schools Representative  
Iron County Mayor Representative  
Kane County Mayor Representative  
Kane County Schools Representative  
Washington Co. Mayor 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 Dale Brinkerhoff to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Almquist explained that there are minutes from the April and June Steering Committee meeting that were ready for approval.

**Carolyn White made a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 10, 2019 and June 12, 2019 Steering Committee meetings as presented. Becky Dunn seconded the motion. Commissioner Almquist asked if there were any discussion prior to the vote. There was no additional discussion. All voted in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.**

**III. A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PRESENTATION OF RATING & RANKING CRITERIA AND PROGRAM POLICIES**

Nate Wiberg explained that the policies prioritization, and rating and ranking criteria was sent to all of the Mayors and County Commissioners in the five-county region and that email included a request for comments and suggestions for the proposed policy criteria. Nate indicated that no comments or suggestions were received. Nate indicated that one change was made in that the policy will allow for multiple applications from one jurisdiction as long as each does not exceed \$200,000. Nate indicated that in the criteria we award additional points for projects that are identified in applicable plans, such as a water master plan, or an affordable housing plan. Community and Economic Development Director Gary Zabriskie added that it's those specific [master] plans that are developed that identified critical needs and the eligible community applies for CDBG funding through the Association staff feels they should be awarded additional points for their proactive planning. That way funding requests are based on documented needs and not, as an example, a community saying it needs a new water tank when there is nothing to back that claim up. Nate and Gary explained the Ranking and Rating process as to how applications are reviewed objectively by the Community and Economic Development staff at the Association. It was explained that a funding recommendation is provided, based applying the approved scoring criteria to all projects, with the final results presented to the Steering Committee, which functions as this region's Rating and Ranking Committee.

**III. B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING FOR RATING & RANKING CRITERIA AND PROGRAM POLICIES**

The Chair opened the public hearing to solicit comments and any concerns with the Five County regional CDBG policies, prioritization, and rating and ranking criteria. No one in attendance had any comments and the Chair closed the public hearing.

**III. C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING FOR RATING & RANKING CRITERIA AND PROGRAM POLICIES**

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the Five County regional CDBG policies, prioritization, and rating and ranking criteria for the upcoming CDBG program year.

**Commission Mike Dalton made a motion to approve the Five County regional CDBG policies, prioritization, and rating and ranking criteria as presented. Commissioner Lamont Smith seconded the motion. Commissioner Almquist asked if there were any discussion prior to the vote. There was no additional discussion. All voted in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.**

**IV. A. COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM 2019 NEEDS ASSESMENT PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**

Michael day introduced himself to the Committee. Michael is the Community Action Program Director. He indicated that he is at the meeting to get the three-year needs assessment strategic plan of the action plan ratified and approved. He said the assessment is used to try to figure out where our region's greatest needs are. He said that CAP had over a thousand people who actually completed surveys. Michael said that the information received allowed the CAP to conclude that housing was this region's number one issue, employment was number 2, and use of income was number three. Michael discussed the survey and public forums with the committee and then covered the CSBG Scoring Sheet that had been approved by the Human Services Council. Michael then asked the Chair to entertain a motion approve, by ratification, the previous Human Service Council actions: 1. Ratification of the Strategic Plan Update; 2. Ratification of the Community Action Plan; and 3. Ratification of the CSBG Scoring. The Chair asked for a motion to ratify the Strategic Plan Update, the Community Action Plan, and the CSBG Scoring.

**Commission Mike Dalton made a motion to ratify the Strategic Plan Update, the Community Action Plan, and the CSBG Scoring as presented. Commissioner Paul Cozzens seconded the**

**motion. Commissioner Almquist asked if there were any discussion prior to the vote. There was no additional discussion. All voted in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.**

**V. REPORT ON THE CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING FIELD TRIP**

Commissioner Almquist asked Commissioner Jerry Taylor to discuss this activity which took place the previous week. Commissioner Taylor said that they had three great days with Congressional staff from not only within this state but also from Washington D.C. He said that they got a taste of our western culture, our heritage and way of life. Commissioner Taylor told an entertaining side story about an interaction with one young Congressional staffer and ride participant, during the ATV ride, while at a stop above the Panguitch/Hatch area. Commissioner Taylor said the staffer explained to him that he had come out to Utah many times to hike, but then said that he is not coming out to hike that area anymore. Commissioner Taylor asked him why, and the young man said he was buying an ATV. Commissioner said that the comradery during the “event” was great and he suggested that Five County take the lead next year. Commissioner Taylor recognized Congressional staff in attendance at the Steering Committee meeting that participated. Adam Snow gave some anecdotal information on this and previous congressional briefing activities. He said that they had 13 congressional staff, including a majority of them who are eastern state democrats. Commissioner Taylor informed the Committee that there would be a debriefing meeting the following day (August 22<sup>nd</sup>) in Richfield.

**VI. PRESENTATION ABOUT THE RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF UTAH**

Commissioner Almquist moved on Agenda Item #VI., a presentation on the Rural Health Association of Utah. Commissioner Almquist turned the time over to Locke Ettinger to present this item. Mr. Ettinger briefly introduced himself to the Committee saying that he has been in Utah for about 26 years and has worked with Intermountain Healthcare for 30 years. He said he recently left Intermountain Healthcare. He said he is a physical therapist by clinical background. He said he moved upstream to health and wellness. He said he has a doctoral degree in health and wellness and helped Intermountain bring out the LiveWell program, that you see in the commercials. He said that he decided to step away from Intermountain and while without job ran into Rita Osborne who is the executive director over the Office of Rural Health at SUU and she said they were looking for someone to help reset the rural Health Association of Utah. He said they started talking and felt that this was a really good fit. Mr. Ettinger said he is really excited about this opportunity.

He gave information on Healthy Utah as well as several other programs designed to help insure doctors, nurses and physicians assistants are available in our rural areas in Utah. He also said that they work closely with the Utah Hospital Association so that they assist small rural hospitals that are faced with significant problems as we see health care regulations change. He said there are nine independent rural hospitals in Utah and we are fortunate none of them have been forced to close. He said that has not been the case in other states. Mr. Ettinger discussed an opioid abuse program for Beaver County that was funded. Finally he discussed the growing need for improved mental health services in rural Utah.

**VII. PRESENTATION OF RURAL COMMUNITY PLANNING (BYU URBAN PLANNING)**

Commissioner Almquist moved on to Agenda # VII. Commissioner Almquist turned the time over to Mr., Michael Clay, Professor of Urban Planning at Brigham Young University. He said that BYU has been asked by the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to help them with some information gathering in rural Utah. He indicated that UDOT had recently hired four new regional transportation planner the help with the transportation planning needs of rural Utah. Mr. Clay said they are sending out a survey to determine how well jurisdictions are taking care of their current planning needs. He mentioned the previous discussion on the CDBG program about how having put plans in place makes it easier for them to receive funding. The BYU survey is planned to provide UDOT information on how it can serve rural Utah better and there is a legitimate interest in the results all the way up UDOT management. He said that their response rate of the survey has been only around 35% so they encouraged the communities to respond to the survey.

**VIII. ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION AND U.S. BIKE ROUTE**

Commissioner Almquist moved on to Agenda Item #VIII. He introduced Ms. Heidi Goedhart who explained that she is with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) in their Planning Division and is based out of Salt Lake City, but said she does a lot of work outside of Salt Lake City. She said probably 90% of her work is in non-metropolitan areas. She said she manages a program called Move Utah, and Kim Clark is one of their consultants and one of their core team members from the Utah program. She said that the idea behind this program is to help Foster active, healthy and connected communities through community planning collaboration with UDOT and other key stakeholders to advance active transportation and to consider multimodal approaches, first and last mile access, getting kids safely to and from school with the

safe routes to school program, and then comprehensibly looking at education opportunities with the public and travelers, and also looking at enforcement opportunities with law enforcement to make sure that we all have a really positive atmosphere on Utah's roads and sidewalks. She discussed some of the partners they work closely with including the tourism industry. They discussed a new bike route throughout the state and their collaboration with a number of local governments in implementing that. A short discussion took place and several questions and answers were shared.

**IX. STATE AGENCY UPDATES**

Commissioner Almquist moved on to Agenda Item # IX. State Agency Updates. He turned the time over to Mr. David Busk with Utah Department of Workforce Services. Mr. Busk provided a quick overview of the economy in the five county service area. He discussed unemployment rates in each of the counties. He also discussed wage growth (when wages rise) in the region. He said that they are doing a community needs assessment that is designed to connect those that are having a hard time "attaching" to work. He said that DWS wants to put processes in place to do a better job serving the clients right and helping them to "connect" to the work force. Finally he said DWS wants to increase their client throughput, but said they are not going to be hiring more staff to help more people "attach" to the workforce, they are going to serve more with what they have through better efficiency.

**X. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES**

Commissioner Almquist moved on to the Congressional Updates and he invited Adam Snow from Congressman Stewart's office to address the Committee. Adam Snow said two weeks ago yesterday Congressman Stewart had the Under Secretary of the Interior Ryan Habelton out to Zion National Park for some meetings to discuss the Park Service's capacity study. Mr. Snow said they brought them out to have them reset the capacity study. Mr. Snow said that the potential economic impact to the five-county region by implementing limits reducing by 20% the number of visitors to Zion National Park, is somewhere around \$250 million dollars per year. He said that would be about a \$100 million dollar impact in Washington County alone, and then if adding in Kane, and Iron counties as well as those traveling on to Garfield (Bryce Canyon National Park), Wayne County (Capital Reef National Park) and Moab (Arches National Park) the impact is expanded greatly. He said that visitors don't go onto Bryce Canyon National Park if they don't first go to Zion. He said this is a really big deal and Congressman Stewart feels this is very urgent and has spent a considerable amount of time on this matter. Adam discussed the current status of the Lake Powell Pipeline that is at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). He said that there has been some push back from mid-level employees because of oversight being done by members of

congress. Mr. Snow discussed timber sales, including one in the Manti LaSal where the record of decision was issued uncontested. Mr. Snow also announced that the grant for new Zion National Park buses was awarded, and a new suicide hotline number was approved that will be "988" across the country. Commissioner Almquist then recognized Scott Albrecht and invited him to introduce himself and provide an update. Mr. Albrecht introduced himself as the new Washington County area representative for U.S. Senator Mitt Romney. He explained that he most recently worked for Beaver County for the past 10 years, where he worked in an administrative role, and was involved in public lands issues, as well as economic development. He discussed town hall meetings that Senator Romney would be holding in various places in Utah during the upcoming weeks and said he would getting information out to everyone about them.

#### **XI. DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY UPDATE**

Commissioner Almquist turned some time over to Henrie Walton. Mr. Walton is the new Coordinator at the Dixie State University Institute of Politics and Public Affairs. He gave a quick update on Dixie State including that as the University transitions into Division 1 NCAA status they will be joining the Western Athletic Conference (WAC). He said that transition will occur in July of 2020. Mr. Walton discussed the approach that the University is taking with a dual mission approach. He said that they will still offer traditional baccalaureate degrees, as well as masters degrees, but said that the modern economy is changing and not every employment opportunity requires a bachelors degree. He said that the University is committed to also providing certificates and associates degrees in order to better serve modern workforce needs.

#### **XII. LOCAL AFFAIRS**

The Chair moved the meeting on to Agenda Item # XII., Local Affairs. There were no Area-Wide Clearinghouse reviews this month. Bryan Thiriot explained that a copy of the letter regarding tax reform in Utah, that was mailed out to the listed recipients in the letter, was in the Board's packets. The Board was complementary on the content of the letter and appreciative of Bryan for getting that prepared and sent. Gary Zabriskie provided one additional item for discussion of local issues. He handed out a spreadsheet showing the visitation to Zion National Park from 1979 through July 2019. Mr. Zabriskie brought to the Board's attention the fact that for the first 10 years (1979 to 1989) the total visitation at Zion N.P. was under two million. It had gone over one million for the first time in 1979. He went on to explain that for

the thirteen years from 1990 of through 2013, total annual visitation was in the two million range. He said visitation went over 3 million for the first time in 2014 and was in that 3 million range for only 2 years when it then exceeded 4 million annual visitors in 2016. Mr. Zabriskie concluded by explaining that it is anticipated this year, if it continues at the same rate it has been, this year's total visitation may be approximately 4.6 million persons.

Seeing that there was no further business for the Steering Committee to address, Commissioner Almquist adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

DRAFT