MINUTES

Emery County Public Lands Council

July 2, 2019

Emery County Courthouse
Canyon Conference Room

PLC: Rod Player, Kim McFarlane, JR Nelson, Ed Geary, Sherrel Ward, Les Wilberg,

PL Staff: Ray Petersen, Commissioner Lynn Sitterud, Commissioner Kent Wilson, Commissioner Gil Conover, Deputy Clerk/Auditor Carol Cox

Public: Ryan Jones, UDAF, Myron Jeffs, BLM, Wayne Pahl, CCOHVA, Brad Richman, Ferron City, Steve Christensen, DOGM, Clay Crozier, Senator Romney, Jared Anderson, Emery TelCom, Nate Roberts, UDAF/GIP, Doris Quinn UTV Utah, Larry Ellertson, Congressman Curtis, Scott Jackson, Mining, John Anderson, Mining.

Excused: Randal Stilson, Leon McElprang, Bruce Wilson, Marc Stilson.

1. Welcome:

2. Approval of minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2019 meeting was made by Les Wilberg, seconded by Ed Geary, and the motion passed.

3. Chairman Comments: Rod commented that the county has an active Trails Committee. They have an application process for communities/families/groups/individuals who want to propose a motorized or non-motorized trail in the county. This way the Trails Committee is aware of what is proposed, what they can do to help and who will maintain it.

4. Commission Report on Emery Land Bill: Commissioner Wilson reported that the Emery County Commissioners approved the RFP process to find a consultant/representative in Washington DC to help us through the Department of Interior's process to implement the land use bill. They hope to get that person in place in the next couple of weeks. He added that they are waiting for the Department of Interior to advertise and select the RAC board.

5. Agency Reports and Council Member Comments:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Myron Jeffs formally recognized Les Wilberg, Les Thompson, Rod Player, and Jared Anderson/EmeryTelCom, who have played a big roll in the progress that has been made in trail work and Public Land issues. He added the BLM recognizes the Trails Committee's efforts through the many countless hours and days of

volunteer work. Not long ago Jared Anderson/Emery TelCom approached the BLM and expressed a desire to be actively engaged with the BLM on trail work. They have since contributed the equivalent of approximately $11,000.00 in time and use of equipment. Myron presented Rod, Les, Les, and Jared with plaques and awards. He thanked them for their efforts and the partnership that the BLM has with Emery County in the implementation of trail work in Emery County.
Don Stevens reported that helium is still of interest in Emery County. The price increase of helium has peaked the interest of three companies who have filed for exploration permits. They have scheduled a horse gather on Range Creek this fall. They proposed to gather 200 horses. The EA will be out on July 12th. They are still working on Goblin Valley State Park MOU's and the Dingell Act. They are still tweaking along the borders, but hope to have a map out soon.

Division of Water Rights (DWRi)

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DWR): Steve Christensen reported in Oil and Gas, they are completing an orphan well assessment. There are fourteen wells, thirteen in Carbon County and one in Emery County. They will begin plugging of the orphan wells this fall or possibly the spring of 2020. They have had one application for drilling exploration in the Carbon/Emery area in the last twelve months. He reported that the Hard Rock group has expressed interest in recreational digging for Septarian Nodules near Clawson. Apparently Utah has some of the finest Septarian Nodules in the world. They use hand tools for this digging. One group has had their application approved and a second group has applied. In Mining, the Rilda Fire Extinguish Project will be working on the coal and refuse pile from the old Helco Mine in Rilda Canyon that ignited last summer from the Trail Mountain Fire. This project is moving forward next week. Big Spring Collection Project is slow coming. Shooting for a start date of mid August. In Coal, Wilberg Mine has been reclaimed. The ten year liability time clock starts on Cottonwood. Deer Creek Mine reclamation is 40% /50% complete and they will try to complete the project by October. The permit for Kenney #2 Mine near Scofield is likely to be approved soon.

Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR);

School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA):

Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF): Troy reported for Darren Olsen. Roads, Ferron Canyon, the gates are all open now. Not passable over Twelve Mile yet. Millers Flat Road is open. Trough Springs Road and South Skyline gates are still closed. You can now get over Orangeville to Ephriam. Sanpete spent three days with a front end loader to open that road up. Nuck Woodard is closed due to runoff damage. Recreation, they are planning some road and trail repair projects. They are expecting a lot of recreational visitors to the forest in the next few weeks. Timber, the Canyon/fuels reduction project objection period has closed. They did not receive any electronic objections. The first sale will be in Black Canyon, hope to have the bid

out by September. Fire/Fuels, in the lower areas there is a lot of dry grass. They are seeing fires in the Fish Lake and the Moab area. They do not expect much on the mountain this year. Wood permits are on sale now. Grazing, some have started moving their livestock up, some have had to wait due to snow. They may look at extending the grazing season to make up for the delay.

Utah State Parks and Recreation:

Utah State Department of Agriculture: Ryan Jones, Conservation Planner for Department of Agriculture reported that Roger Barton has retired. Until Roger is replaced Ryan will be the contact for the Conservation Districts.

Washington Delegation Staff: Clay Crozier, reported for Senator Romney. He reported on fire mitigation efforts that they are doing in Utah County targeting Red Flag areas where they have allocated funds to be used to remove timber that causes risks for homes and cabins, etc. He talked about a bill for Ozone Reduction. Restore Our Parks Bill, Senator Romney will not co-sponsor the bill. He would like to see the federal parks find solutions to be more self sufficient. Larry Ellertson, Congressman Curtis's Office reported that Congressman Curtis attempted to sponsor legislation and prompt discussion on the floor, to alter the process of the Antiquities Act. He is looking to have a debate on an issue that would prevent funds to be used to implement any new, unilateral national antiquities act monument designation. The house leadership would not let him debate it. He is still working to get this fixed. He is supporting and working on legislation that would make public, known criminals that are in the United States from foreign countries that use their influence to try to change the way the US will operate. They continue to watch where the BLM goes on the map and things associated with the Dingell Act. The RAC board is supposed to be in place by September 1st. Larry indicated he was in a meeting yesterday where they talked about National Parks and deferred maintenance. Congressman Curtis thinks you should identify where the money is coming from before you spend it. They also talked about the issues that they are having with overflow of visitors to Arches, Canyonlands, etc. Larry informed the council of a just announced grant for Muddy Creek Irrigation Company through the Independent Pipeline Improvement Project.

6. Additional Issues from Council members: Ray reported that last week he and Kim attended a comprehensive management plan meeting for the Green and Colorado Rivers put together by the Forestry, Fire and State Lands. Discussions revolved around navigable waters in the state of Utah, sovereign lands, wild and scenic river designation, etc. Kim McFarlane reported on issues with Green River area flooding.

Sherrel Ward reported that every reservoir is full. It's an amazing year. JR indicated Millsite water is free until it quits spilling, then they will start metering.

7. Concerned Citizens with Emery County related issues:
Doris Quinn was asked by Jack Johnstun, Rock Hounds, to have rock locations on maps for rock hounders. Rod talked about the Travel Council's plan to have sub committees for recreation in Emery County with people who are passionate about that area of recreation.

8. Adjourn