MINUTES

Emery County Public Lands Council

June 4, 2019

Emery County Courthouse
Canyon Conference Room

PLC: Rod Player, Les Wilberg, Bruce Wilson, Sherrel Ward, Leon McElprang, Ed Geary, Randal Stilson,

PL Staff: Ray Petersen, Carol Cox, Commissioner Lynn Sitterud, Commissioner Gil Conover, Commissioner Kent Wilson.

Public: Brad Richman, Ferron City, Wayne Pahl, CCOHVA, Mark H. Williams, Bevan Wilson, ECSSD#1, Kent Petersen, ECSSD#1, Clay Crozier, Senator Romney, Jay Humphrey, EWCD, Steve Fluke, DOGM, Marc Stilson, Water Rights, Darren Olsen, USFS, Nate Roberts, UDAF, Ryan Jones, UDAF, Chris Wood, DWR, Jake Palma, BLM, Chris Conrad, BLM, James Wells, Goblin Valley State Park, Kim Christy, SITLA, Tim , SITLA

Excused: Kim McFarlane, Laren Huntsman, JR Nelson.

1. Welcome

2. Approval of Minutes: Les Wilberg made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 23, 2019 and May 7, 2019. The motion was seconded by Randal Stilson. The motion passed.

3. Chairman Comments: Rod commented that in the past in July it has been customary for the board to go out and look at projects in the county. However, this year PLC will hold a regular meeting the first Tuesday in July. PLC will look at going on a field trip out in the Swell in September or October. He reported that the wild flowers are amazing in the Swell due to all the precipitation we have been receiving. Utah has a Search and Rescue Assistance card that you can purchase that will cover the cost of search and rescue throughout the state. Emery County does not charge for this service due to federal regulations. The website is rescue.utah.gov Commissioner Kent Wilson is applying to be on the State BLM RAC. He has asked for a letter of endorsement from the Public Lands Council. Randal Stilson made a motion to approve a letter of endorsement for Commissioner Kent Wilson's appointment to the State BLM RAC. The motion was seconded by Les Wilberg. The motion passed.

4. Commission Report on Implementation of Legislation: Commissioner Wilson reported that there has not been much action to this point. But, today they have a Tele-conference call with PLPCO, the Governor's office, Emery County, and BLM. PLPCO has committed a full time employee for the next three to four months to assist Emery County and the State's goals to be protected as BLM goes through this process. The Emery County Commissioners feel that we

need to hire a consultant in Washington, D.C. doing the same thing for EC. PLPCO will be mainly looking out for the State's interest. Sometimes as state and county we differ in what we need and want. The Commissioners have reached out to one individual asking for a proposal on scope of work and cost. The goal is, for the next year or so, to have someone, with Utah ties, living in Washington, D.C. that can hold the Department of Interior to task. He stated, as we go down this path, we as a Commission, will bring everything before this committee that has to do with Public Lands.

5. Agency Reports and Council Member Comments

Kim Christy, SITLA Mineral Lease Presentation: Kim Christy, Deputy Director for SITLA and Tim Donaldson, Assistant Director for Strategic Planning provided an overview presentation of the Land Exchange Development Account (LEDA) and how it relates to Emery County with the recently passed Lands Bill.
He added that Bryan Torgersen, Manager SITLA/Moab office was recognized with the Governor's Award for Excellence. It is a well deserved award for Bryan.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Chris Conrad and Jake Palma. Chris reported that the Emery County Lands Bill (Dingle Act) is a formidable beast to work through. They are still working on an official map for the Dingle Act. There is a promise from congressionals that something should come out, fairly permanent, by the first of July. They have submitted many request for small changes on the map that help with specific management aspects. They hope to have something back fairly soon. There are still some issues regarding some of the cherry stem routes, especially in the Labyrinth. They will have to wait for congressional direction before things are finalized. Travel management is still on track. They are responding to comments. They are still working with Fish and Wildlife on the Good Water Rim Trail. One issue is the Dingle Act boundary encumbers some of that trail. Coal, they had a meeting last week with Lila Canyon to discuss some of the issues with their EA. Lila will incorporate some of the air quality aspects that were done in the air report for the William's Draw lease. They expect to have everything finalized in the next few weeks. Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry visitation numbers are up substantially.
Jake Palma reported that this will be his last meeting. He has been offered a new position and will be moving to a new office in July. He will be the new monument manager for the Bear's Ears National Monument. He is looking forward to the opportunity and the challenge. He added he will take a lot of the experience he has had with the folks in Emery County as well as the relationship that has been built over the many years and the amazing the partnership that has developed between BLM Price Field Office and Emery County.

Division of Water Rights DWRi): Marc Stilson indicated that there is not a lot of activity in Emery County at this time. Lila, Bronco, SUFCO, and Skyline have all filed temporary change applications for exploratory drilling and development. Millsite continues to come up but it will be a week or two before it spills over.

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM): Steve Fluke reported that the Wellington Dry Coal Plant will be a bond forfeiture site. They expect to have plenty of funding for the reclamation. The abandoned mine groups has put the Trail Mountain fire project/coal refuse fire in Rilda Canyon and Meetinghouse Canyon has gone out to bid and they are now reviewing the prospective bids. They expect to be on the ground in the next few weeks extinguishing those fires. They are planning the Big Bend Spring Collection System Project. They hope to start later this summer to replace spring collection systems.

Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR): Chris Wood reported that the habitat people will be meeting with grazers discussing options and issues of concern as a result of the Trail Mountain Fire. Cow Permits are on sale now. Time to put in for the draw to hunt cow elk in the fall. Duck Fork spawning will be the next couple of weeks.

Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF): Darren Olsen provided a review of the Canyons Timber Project. The target of the project is dead, beetle kill trees. He talked about the beetle kill event from 1998 into early 2000's. These trees have been dead standing for nearly 20 years. They will be targeting areas that will be affect drainages. He talked about the Timber Sale for Black Canyon for 2019 and Reeder Canyon for 2020. Most of the target is beetle kill trees. There is value in the wood. He talked about the various species of trees in the forest. He also talked about recent history of fires on the forest. If there is no opposition to the timber sales they will move forward with the first project in Black Canyon.
He also reported that there is still a lot of snow on the top of Cottonwood Canyon. There will be snow drifts all along the road. In Ferron Canyon, Willow Lake is still frozen over. Grazing will most likely be later this year. However, things are melting fast. They continue to monitor and watch for when they can open gates. Fuel wood permits are on sale now.

Utah Parks and Recreation: James Wells, new Manager of Goblin Valley State Park explained that the division is going through some structural changes. As visitation increases across the state, parks that used to be managed together are now split apart. Now they all have their own manager. Aaron Farmer is still manager of Green River State Park, Nathan Martinez has moved to Kodachrome, and James is manager for GVSP. Visitation is higher than in the past. The campground is full everyday. They are looking at a campground expansion.

Utah State Department of Agriculture: Nate Roberts represents the Grazing Improvement Program for Department of Agriculture. He reported on the grazing improvement program. Their mission is to improve the productivity, health and sustain ability of our rangelands and our watersheds. Their goal is to strengthen Utah's livestock industry as best they can, by working with federal and state agency partners to improve as much as we can. To improve our overall economies and enhance the environment. They have some projects for Emery County this summer. One will be on Cedar Mountain extending a pipeline and installing a new trough working with their grazing association. Another is to drill a well south east of

Goblin Valley on a water hole location for a permitee. Another is replacing a fence line that burned down for Trail Mountain and East Mountain Cattle Association. The funds will not be available until July for these projects. Applications for projects are available until the end of the year.

Washington Delegation Staff: Clay Crozier, new Eastern Utah Director for Senator Romney's Office introduced himself and explained that if you need something done federally, he is the connection to the Senator. He reported that NRCS has had a position change at the top. His number is 202-255-6152 if you need anything. Rod indicated that we need intent data for the Dingle Act, asap!
Larry Ellertson reported that he is pleased to hear that the BLM is working on getting a RAC Committee in place. Congressman Curtis is interested in seeing some movement on Bear's Ears National Monument. He is looking for some consistency in dealing with the antiquities act. On the 6th of September, Congressman Curtis is hosting a Rural Summit in Price. Larry stated he looks forward to working with the Public Lands Council on any matters you may need help with.

Jay Humphrey reported that they have been draining Joe's Valley in anticipation of a heavy runoff. He expressed concern that people use extreme caution on waterways as they are high and swift.

6. Additional Issues from Council Members:
Sherrel gave a reservoir data report. Emery County is 145% of normal for precipitation.

7. Concerned Citizens with Emery County related issues:

8. Adjourn