

MINUTES

**FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**OCTOBER 9, 2019 AT 1:30 P.M.
GLENDALE TOWN COMMUNITY CENTER, MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
90 EAST CENTER STREET; GLENDALE, UTAH.**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Gil Almquist, Chair
Becky Dunn
Mayor John Bramall
Commissioner Paul Cozzens, Vice-Chair
Dale Brinkerhoff
Commissioner Mike Dalton
Carolyn White
Mayor Nolan Davis
Frank Houston
Commissioner LaMont Smith

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Kelly Stowell
Adam Peterson
David Busk
Mike Sarles
Adam Snow
DeAnn Zebelean
Heath Hansen
Trevor Clingman
Scott Albrecht
Jordan Katcher
Mayor Dave Schmucker
Bryan Thiriot
Gary Zabriskie
Nate Wiberg
Courtney Sinagra

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Maile Wilson-Edwards
Commissioner Jerry Taylor
Mayor Melanie Torgersen
Lisa Livingston
Mayor Robert Houston

REPRESENTING

Washington County Commission Representative
Washington County School Board Representative
Washington County Mayor Representative
Iron County Commission Representative
Iron County School Board Representative
Beaver County Commission Representative
Beaver County School Board Representative
Beaver County Mayor Representative
Garfield County School Board Representative
Kane County Commission Representative

REPRESENTING

Kane County
Cedar Breaks National Monument
Department of Workforce Services
USU Extension; Rural Online Initiative
Congressman Chris Stewart
U.S. Census Bureau
Senator Mike Lee
Dixie State University
Senator Mitt Romney
Utah Community Development Office
Big Water Town
Five County A.O.G. Staff
Five County A.O.G. Staff
Five County A.O.G. Staff
Five County A.O.G. Staff

REPRESENTING

Iron County Mayor Representative
Garfield County Commission Representative
Garfield County Mayor Representative
Kane County School Board Representative
Kane County Mayor Representative

I. WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gil Almquist at 1:30 pm. Mayor John Bramall said the prayer and Garfield County School Board Representative Frank Houston led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Almquist let the group know that there was a meeting prior to the Five County Steering Committee Meeting with the Southwest Utah Public Health Department and Commissioners Almquist, Cozzens, and Smith. He asked the group to keep the Southwest Utah Public Health Department in mind when looking for services in the rural areas they represent. Southwest Utah Public Health Department has a mobile clinic they can use to travel to remote areas and provide medical care. Recently the health team went to Big Water and Ticaboo, Utah.

II. MINUTES – REVIEW AND APPROVE (AUGUST 21, 2019 STEERING COMMITTEE)

Commissioner Almquist asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2019 Steering Committee meeting. School Board Member Carolyn White made a motion for approval and Commissioner Lamont Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

III. 2019-2020 ESTIMATED STUDENT ENROLLMENT NUMBERS BY DISTRICT

Washington County School Board Representative Becky Dunn reported on the state of the Washington County School District. Becky reported that the school district continues to experience significant growth. Last year the district grew by 1,000 students and this year the district has grown by another 1,000 students. The district is trying to keep up with the growth by building more schools. Schools are currently very full. Utah Online schooling programs have also seen significant growth. There are currently 3,500 students enrolled in the online program, 1,700 of which are enrolled online full time; 18,000 classes are offered through the online program. A new high school, Crimson High School, and a new intermediate school just opened in St. George. Next, the District will build a new Career and Technical Education High School. The first graduating class for that school will be the 2023-2024 class. Chairman Almquist added that this new technical high school will work closely with Dixie Tech.

Beaver County School Board Representative Carolyn White reported on the state of the Beaver County School District. Current enrollment is 1,524. The five-year average is 1,535 students and in 2010-2011 it was 1,579. The numbers for the district seem to fluctuate in that range, so although they are in a bit of a lull, Beaver County School District officials are not overly concerned about their numbers.

Garfield County School Board Representative Frank Houston reported on the state of the Garfield County School District. Representative Houston shared that Garfield County currently has 901 students enrolled in their school district. The number has ranged between 896 and 915 students for the past 15 years. School Board Representative Houston shared that he feels the fact that the government owns 97% of Garfield County has contributed to the lack of growth.

Commissioner Almquist thanked the school board representatives for their reports. He remarked that Washington County faces an interesting problem in that they are having a hard time buying land at an affordable price and in a timely manner. The explosive growth in the area and rising property values are presenting a difficult problem for the Washington County School District. School Board Representative

Becky Dunn agreed and stated that the Washington County School District was trying to find land everywhere and anywhere. They just built an elementary school and will be starting another one this coming spring. Mayor John Bramall of Hurricane City agreed with Ms. Dunn's and Chairman Almquist's assessment of the challenges the growth in Washington County is causing.

Commissioner Almquist remarked that he was saving the best for last before inviting Iron County School Board Representative Dale Brinkerhoff to report on the Iron County School District. School Board Representative Brinkerhoff shared that the Iron County School District currently has 10,392 students currently enrolled and grows at an approximate rate of 6% each year.

There was no Kane County School Board representative present to report.

IV. 2020 U.S. CENSUS PREPARATION PRESENTATION

Commissioner Almquist moved on to the next item on the agenda which was the 2020 U.S. Census Preparation Presentation presented by Deann Zeberlean of the U.S. Census Bureau. Ms. Zeberlean shared that the Census Bureau wants to partner with community leaders as they roll out their 2020 efforts. She educated the group on the importance and objectives of the Census and what the Bureau hopes to achieve while conducting it. She shared that the Census allows us to have fair representation and fair distribution of funding. The Census will be conducted from March 12th to July 31st of 2020. By December of 2020 those results will be delivered to the President of the United States who will reapportion the U.S. House of Representatives.

All levels of government use the Census information for their districting. Individuals living in an area where mail is delivered to their street will be invited to participate in the census via the U.S. Postal Service. The 2020 Census is the first census to be conducted online. Participants can also call an 800 number and talk to a live person in order to fill out the census. Individuals who live in an area where street mail is not delivered will have a field representative come to their home and invite them to participate in the census in person as well as answer any questions. The non-response time begins in May where individuals, hopefully hired locally, will go door-to-door and encourage participant among those who have not yet done so. It is important to share that the Census is very safe and confidential. It is also important to know that no personal information such as Social Security Numbers, political donations, or banking/credit card information will be solicited. Ms. Zeberlean shared that hiring temporary Census Bureau workers is proving to be very challenging.

Mayor John Bramall asked how missionaries were being accounted for. Ms. Zeberlean responded with information about a 2000 court ruling that determined missionaries serving within the United States would be counted in the area they were serving in, rather than their home of record. If they are serving overseas, they are not counted in the Census. Similarly, college students are counted in the city where they are attending college. In 2010, the self-response rate for Beaver County was 58%, Iron County was 65%, Washington County was at 75%, Kane County had a 37% self-response rate, while Garfield County had a 40% rate. Ms. Zeberlean's goal for the 2020 Census is to have all five counties in the Association at an 80% self-response rate. She mentioned that Beaver County Commissioner Tammy Pearson has led efforts in her area to increase Census participation. In closing, Ms. Zeberlean again asked the group to help the U.S. Census Bureau find temporary employees.

V. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (CDO) COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Jordan Katcher, from the Community Development Office (CDO), and Five County Association of Governments Associate Planner, Nathan Wiberg, presented the State of Rural Utah Report. Ms. Katcher showed a video entitled “Why do you love rural Utah?”. She and Mr. Wiberg then shared some findings that indicate rural communities in Utah want more localized training. It was discovered that there is a great need for planning basics training in many of Utah’s communities; 50% of communities need to update their general plans. One major barrier to this is capacity, specifically the manpower available to create and execute these general plans. The study found that every community surveyed had an active city council that was meeting at least once a month, which shows citizens are engaged and trying to manage their cities with the little training and resources they have.

Mr. Wiberg shared that 45% of communities needed a Capital Asset Improvement List, a detailed and comprehensive list that chronicles what projects the communities need, a timeline of when they will need them, cost, etc. Mr. Gary Zabriskie, with the Five County Association of Governments, remarked that sometimes people get confused about what a Capital Asset Improvement list is and end up sending in a list of projects they want funded, in other words a funding list. In closing, Ms. Katcher and Mr. Wiberg shared that they were looking forward to going out and continuing to work with Utah’s rural communities.

VI. HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Chairman Almquist then turned the time over to the Five County Association of Governments Executive Director, Bryan Thiriot, who led the Steering Committee in a discussion regarding the Higher Education Strategic Planning Commission. School Board Representative Carolyn White shared she feels the term “college bound” needs to be shifted away from and more efforts should be made to promote technical skills. She shared concern that there are not enough people in rural areas with skills to do the work that needs to be done. School Board Representative White feels it is important to let young people know that a traditional university attendance is not the only way to make a good living or contribute meaningfully to the community or economy. Executive Director Thiriot agreed and suggested that was why Washington County decided to build a technical high school. School Board Representative Becky Dunn agreed that encouraging more trade skills is a huge need.

Chairman Almquist offered his strong opinions on an issue he had been studying in detail, which was the proposed Utah Postsecondary Education Commission. Chairman Almquist is on the Dixie Tech board and has met with Dixie State University President Biff Williams about the issue. Chairman Almquist said that he and President Williams are very much opposed to options 2 and 3. Chairman Almquist encouraged his fellow Steering Committee Members to research the issue and give feedback to Five County staff. Chairman Almquist feels the Board of Regents system is working well. He mentioned that other tech schools have already gotten behind the proposal but shared that some of the Presidents of those schools were offered prestigious positions within the proposed structure. Chairman Almquist feels this proposal is a mistake, it will cause problems, and has underhanded motives. He feels he cannot endorse it in anyway. He then asked for other comments.

School Board Representative Brinkerhoff asked if the Chairman would like to take a vote and create a formal position on the issue. Chairman Almquist asked everyone to conduct their own independent

research first so they are not swayed solely by his opinion. The issue will be included in the next Steering Committee Meeting agenda.

VII. 2020 FIVE COUNTY AOG MEETINGS SCHEDULE DISCUSSION

Executive Director Bryan Thiriot shared that the Steering Committee meets approximately eight times a year and the meetings rotate around to each of the five different counties. Meetings have been being held on the same days as the Southwest Behavioral Health Center board meetings for the convenience of the county commissioners who serve on both. That has been working well. Dates and meeting locations for year 2020 need to be set. School Board Representative Brinkerhoff suggested allowing each County Commissioner to choose meeting locations in their respective counties. Commissioner Dalton shared concerns regarding venues that lack electronic capabilities and restaurant access. Mayor Bramall would like to do site-tours. Commissioner Almquist has enjoyed getting out to rural Utah. The commissioners will let Bryan know where in their counties they would like to hold the meetings.

VIII. STATE AGENCY UPDATES

David Busk with the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS) gave an update on the Rural Economic Summit in September where the Salt Lake Chamber, DWS, and the Economic Development Corporation of Utah (EDCUtah) signed a memorandum of understanding regarding a new initiative called the Chamber Rural Workforce Network. The goal of the plan is to add 200 remote jobs a year to rural Utah. The first objective with this plan will be training employers on how to manage remote employees. The second objective is a marketing campaign and referral pathway. David said these efforts are in the works and will tie into overall strategic plans. Commissioner Dalton asked if David had a list of which communities had or still needed the infrastructure to be part of the initiative. David said he does not have a list but commented that strong fiber networks and fast internet connections have become a selling point for many rural communities. Mike Sarles from USU Extension added that USU Extension is helping with this effort by reaching out to businesses and offering to help them learn how to manage a remote workforce. He asked the Steering Committee to make him aware of any businesses that might be interested in this service. He went on to share that USU Extension and Panguitch City were awarded a coworking space grant of \$60,000 dollars. They will build a coworking space in the back of Panguitch City Hall. Although representing a federal agency as opposed to a state agency, Adam Peterson of the National Park Service went next. Adam is the facility manager of Cedar Breaks National Monument. They are working on a new visitor's center with a design completion target date of May 2020.

IX. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Adam Snow from Congressman Stewart's office shared that Congressman Stewart had been in Utah that week speaking out against impeachment and misinformation in the media. Congressman Stewart has been working with Zion National Park and the Department of the Interior is supportive of his efforts. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has been removed from the Lake Powell Pipeline process; FERC had been a large barrier to moving forward. Alton's coal permits at the Bureau of Land Management solicitor's office in Denver. The BLM is being cautious with those to avoid losing any related court battles. Congressman Stewart is working with Southern Utah University's Aviation Program and the Federal Aviation Administration. The University is training 20% of the nation's helicopter pilots and need funding. Regarding, wild horses and burros, the U.S. Senate is helping with funding the PATH FORWARD Program. They appropriated \$35 million dollars toward that cause whereas the House

appropriated \$6 million. Conference Committee will decide the final number. Congressman Stewart is also working on a National Forest issue in Garfield County. Adam shared that Six County Association of Governments is pushing to have Rural GOED separate from regular GOED. He suggested Five County reach out to Six County and assist with this effort.

Scott Albrecht representing U.S. Senator Mitt Romney presented next. He shared that Senator Romney is cosponsoring a bill for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding for next year. He is pushing for a two-year renewal as opposed to a one year. He is working with Senator Murkowski on wild horse funding. He is also helping SUU Aviation expand their program to include an aviation mechanic program. Senator Romney is continuing to support Kane County Commissioners in their advocacy for more local input on The Wave. SUU has an intergovernmental internship program. The program has come under scrutiny at high levels of government agencies. Senator Romney is working with the agencies to try to preserve the program. School Board Representative Brinkerhoff expressed appreciation for the majority of Senator Romney's work, but also strong disagreement with the senator's combative relationship with President Trump. Senator Romney does not have a physical office in Southern Utah set up yet.

Heath Hansen, U.S. Senator Mike Lee's new Southern Utah Director, addressed the Steering Committee next. Heath is from Cache County but has been working for Senator Lee in Washington D.C. for the past five years. Heath is excited that Five County will be joining with Six County again for the Congressional Briefing. He felt the last one was very successful. On October 25th and 26th Senator Lee is hosting his own Congressional Briefing in Utah. An agenda has not yet been set but he hopes to show some other members of congress what Utah is about. The focus will mostly be on the Eastern side of the state (Bears Ears, Dead Horse Point, etc.). Senator Lee has been in contact with Larry Cudlow who has been assigned by President Trump to work on the uranium mining issue on the Arizona Strip. The goal is to increase domestic uranium supply and Senator Lee recognizes Kane County's interest in the issue. Working on a piece of legislation to reform the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. This effort includes the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) reform.

X. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY AND DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY UPDATES

Trevor Gleanum, from Dixie State University, presented next. Trevor works at the Atwood Innovation Plaza's Business Resource Center. The Business Resource Center ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 2pm on November 8th. Trevor brought invitations for the Steering Committee. The Business Resource Center is working on an Economic Development Administration Grant. They will be working to identify the top 25 industries in the Five County region. It is a five-year grant. They are building a website to act as a resource guide on their efforts. There was not a representative from Southern Utah University present.

XI. LOCAL AFFAIRS

A. AREA-WIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

Five County Association of Governments Deputy Director Gary Zabriskie shared information about an issue in Motoqua in western Washington County. SITLA is proposing to lease approx. 47 acres of land in which 25 acres will be used for growing irrigated crops. Due to a misunderstanding, the property is

already being used for farming. The lease would allow the farming to continue. Mayor Bramall moved to support the lease. School Board Representative Brinkerhoff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. CIB APPLICATION REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Gary Zabriskie led a discussion about the Community Impact Board's efforts. All projects that applied for funding from the Board in the last trimester were fully funded, including the St. George City Hall and Police Station expansion as well as the Swain's Creek Fire Station in Kane County. Gary went through the seven current applications included in the Meeting Packet. School Board Representative Brinkerhoff motioned to recommend all the applications to the Community Impact Board. Mayor Bramall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. CORRESPONDENCE

Bryan Thiriote received from the State Auditor's office. He thought it pertained to the Steering Committee Board, but upon further review it was determined the letter pertained to Five County's associated 501-C3.

Bryan Thiriote shared a letter from a Five County Association of Government's client. The client wrote to Five County to praise the efforts and conduct of Five County's Weatherization Program team members who recently serviced her home. Bryan wanted to publicly acknowledge the good work of the team.

D. DISCUSSION OF LOCAL ISSUES

Nate Wiberg shared information on the upcoming Community Development Block Grant workshops on October 24th in St. George and Wednesday October 23rd at the Bryce Canyon City fire department.

XII. ADJOURN

Commissioner Almquist adjourned the meeting at 3:48 pm.