

# MINUTES

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

April 17, 2013  
Parowan, Utah

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Jim Matson, Chair  
Commissioner Clare Ramsay  
Mayor Jerry Taylor  
Ken Platt  
Commissioner Mike Dalton  
Carolyn White  
Mayor Connie Robinson  
Shane Adams  
Commissioner Denny Drake  
Mayor Dan McGuire  
LuAnne Forrest  
Donna Law  
Susan Perschon for Frank Lojko

### REPRESENTING

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

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Senator Evan Vickers  
Representative John Westwood  
Ellen Schunk  
William Swadley  
Gary Webster  
Teresa Banks  
Wes Curtis  
Ken Sizemore  
Sherri Dial  
Gary Zabriskie  
Levi Roberts  
Diane Lamoreaux

Utah State Senate  
Utah State House of Representatives  
Senator Lee's Office  
Senator Hatch's Office  
Congressman Chris Stewart's Office  
Department of Workforce Services  
Southern Utah University  
Five County Association of Governments  
Five County Association of Governments

### MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Bryan Sherwood  
Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff (Excused)  
Mayor Nina Laycook, Vice-Chair  
Wendy Allan

Beaver County Mayor Representative  
Iron County Commissioner Representative  
Kane County Mayor Representative  
Kane County Schools Representative

Commissioner Jim Matson, Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance and introductions were provided. Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff, Iron County Commissioner Representative, asked to be excused. Ms. Donna Law is the new representative for Southern Utah University, and Ms. Susan Perschon is representing Mr. Frank Lojko, Dixie State University.

## I. MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2013 - REVIEW & APPROVE

Chairman Matson indicated that a quorum was present for conduct of business and presented minutes of the March 13, 2013 meeting for Board discussion and consideration.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DENNY DRAKE, SECONDED BY MS. CAROLYN WHITE, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2013 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **II. LEGISLATIVE REPORT - STATE SENATOR EVAN VICKERS**

Senator Evan Vickers provided an update of the recent legislative session that had many interesting issues as well as the dominating task to craft and approve a budget. He noted that a few years ago the state cut many of their programs by 25% because of the economic conditions and decreases in revenue. There was some additional revenue this year to appropriate. However, state legislators are very conservative given the tenuous revenue projections and federal sequestration that is beginning to impact many programs. He explained that education is always a priority. Additional funds were appropriated to public education (2% into Weighted Pupil Unit) and other additional funds went into higher education for the UCAP and ROTC programs.

Dixie State University received additional funding because of the new university status. He reported that some of the legislators feel that higher education can make up and differences in funding from tuition increases. It is hard to convince these individuals that an educated workforce works hand in hand with economic development. There was an appropriation of \$2 million into the Shakespear facility and some funding for the Summer Games hosted at Southern Utah University. Ralph Okerlund was successful in securing \$35,000 for Garfield County for dusting of Prairie Dog with the intent of keeping them alive. The appropriations committee also addressed funding for two other important projects for southern Utah as follows: 1) Purchase of East Elementary and 2) Construction of a new Southwest Advanced Technology Center(SWATC) building in Cedar City. It was also recommended by the committee that the state of Utah bond for \$55 million for a facility at Utah Valley University. However, the Executive Appropriations Committee determined that the state should not bond for any projects and allocated funds to the UVU building. This eliminated funding for purchase of East Elementary, a building project in Price, the SWATC building in Cedar and a rural lab. Elimination of the rural projects creates an impact for all of southern Utah. The Dixie Applied Technology College needs to be able to construct facilities at the old St. George Airport site and it is important for the SWATC to have facilities in place to help accommodate some of the DATC students while this shift occurs. It is also important for Dixie State University to purchase the old East Elementary School from the Washington County School District for expansion of their campus.

A resolution was also passed which is aimed at allowing the State of Utah to manage the Prairie Dog issues on the local level. The resolution will be forwarded to the federal government. This resolution also succeeded in creating dialogue with Greg Sheehan, Director of the Division of Wildlife Resources, who will be visiting with county and city leaders to develop a solution to Prairie Dog issues. Mr. Sheehan has educated himself regarding the issues and is trying to move forward with some type of dialogue and solution.

Representative John Westwood expressed his appreciation to elected officials for input provided during the recent legislative session regarding their concerns on various bills under consideration. County commissioners provided a lot of input regarding jail funding, which resulted in some additional funding. Commissioner Jim Matson indicated that counties were able to get the attention of legislators and noted that many counties favor increasing prisoner populations in county jails. In addition, many counties are willing to

increase the capacity of their facilities in order to accommodate additional state poisoners. This opened up a very important dialogue that will continue into next year's legislative session.

Senator Vickers indicated that retail sales seem to be softening nationwide. The topic of federal sequestration was also mentioned throughout the legislative session. The impacts of sequestration will play out over time but will likely have a large impact on military spending as well as education. Decreased funding for research projects will have a direct impact on the University of Utah and Utah State University. These institutions have large research grants from the National Institute of Health as well as NASSA.

Ms. Carolyn White acknowledged rural legislators as the best in the state of Utah and thanked Senator Vickers and Representative Westwood for their willingness to meet with constituents to listen to their concerns and input. Both Senator Vickers and Representative Westwood indicated the importance of local elected officials, school board representatives and higher education representative providing input on various pieces of legislation. Senator Vickers indicated that local legislators, referred to as the "Sunshine Caucus", work very well together. It was also noted that it does not appear that there will be enough votes to warrant a special session to override the Governor's veto of gun control legislation.

Chairman Matson thanked Senator Vickers and Representative Westwood for taking the time out of their busy schedules to provide a legislative report to the group.

### **III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

Chairman Matson provided an update on the Executive Director position to replace Mr. Ken Sizemore, who elected to retire. There were 116 applications submitted, which was narrowed down to 12, of which three declined to interview and one did not show for the interview. Eight individuals were interviewed by the Executive Committee members. Mr. Bryan Thriot has been selected by Executive Committee members to serve as the new Executive Director. Bryan has a degree in Public Administration and is very familiar with governmental processes. The Executive Committee recommends ratification of the Steering Committee for Mr. Bryan Thriot to begin employment on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DENNY DRAKE TO RATIFY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE BRYAN THRIOT AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2013. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MAYOR CONNIE ROBINSON. MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Matson reported that the Executive Committee voted in theory to increase the county participation contribution provided to the Association of Governments from \$15,000 to \$20,000 and for each county to provide an extra \$3,000 to be set aside in the administration cost center for work on public land issues. Each of the county commission representatives will present this proposal to their respective county commissions for discussion and consideration. Chairman Matson will work with Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff, Iron County Commissioner Representative, to explain this proposal. He explained that the county's match contribution to the AOG comprises a small amount of the budget. It was also determined that each county will contribute the same dollar amount. These funds are utilized to provide match for various grants. This item will be discussed for approval during the May Executive Committee meeting.

Chairman Matson indicated that a revised personnel policies and procedures and other internal policies were presented to the Executive Committee for review and comment. These policies will be approved by the Executive Committee in May and forwarded to the Steering Committee for review and consideration during the June 2013 Steering Committee meeting.

In addition, the Executive Committee discussed the use of a not-for-profit organization utilizing the Color Country Resource Conservation and Development non-profit that is still in place. The Committee proposes that the 501c3 will operate on a parallel track to the Five County Association of Governments. There is approximately \$60,000 currently in the bank account for this organization that can be utilized as seed money. The challenge will be to make sure that the 501c3 can generate sufficient funding to support itself with no financial burden to the counties. The Executive Committee is requesting ratification to move forward with this endeavor.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. CAROLYN WHITE, SECONDED BY MAYOR CONNIE ROBINSON, TO RATIFY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 501C3 ORGANIZATION TO RUN ON A PARALLEL TRACK TO THE FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

##### **A. FY 2013 PROJECT RATING AND RANKING**

Ms. Diane Lamoreaux referenced information contained in the packet on pages 12-13 which includes a list of CDBG applications received for FY 2013. It was explained that the state of Utah has not received notification of the funding amount that will be provided for FY 2013 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. State staff has instructed regions to proceed with allocation of funds based on the same amounts that were received in FY 2012. The Five County AOG is anticipating approximately \$600,000 in funds for regional allocation. Pre-approved funding in the amount of \$90,000 has been allocated to the AOG for program administration, Consolidated Plan update, rating and ranking, economic development technical assistance and planning, and RLF/housing program delivery. As has been the case in prior years, many more applications have been submitted requesting 2013 funds than what the region will be able to allocate funds. Five County staff from the Community and Economic Development Division conducted a site visit to each of the applicants to better understand the project and to gather additional pertinent information about each project. All of the applications are for very good projects and staff is very pleased with the quality of projects applied for in the Five County region. A number of applications were submitted this year for housing related projects from three different counties, as opposed to last year where no housing applications were received. Copies of the staff recommendation for regional allocation of CDBG funds for FY 2013 were distributed and reviewed. A copy of the scoring tabulation sheet was also displayed on the wall.

Ms. Lamoreaux explained that the #1 ranked project is the most mature project in the Five County Region. The Erin Kimball Foundation has purchased an

approximately 4,200 square foot home and has started the rehabilitation effort. Abatement for lead based paint and asbestos has already been addressed, architectural plans are completed, and the project is ready to move forward immediately. The #2 ranked project is the Milford City, on behalf of the Beaver Housing Authority. This project is for the acquisition of low-income housing in Milford. A large number of employers are located in Western Beaver County and there is a great need for additional housing for low-income individuals. The #3 ranked project is Panguitch City for acquisition of a new fire truck. This project has a large match contribution from Garfield County, Panguitch City and the Panguitch Fire Department. The #4 ranked project is Cedar City on behalf of the Cedar City Housing Authority for acquisition of low-income housing. Ms. Lamoreaux explained that anticipated funding will be available to fund the AOG pre-approved \$90,000; the #1-3 ranked projects in full and a portion of funding will likely be available to apply to the first year of funding for the Cedar City Housing Authority project. If approved, the Steering Committee would commit the remainder of funds from FY 2014 to the second year of funding for a total project cost of \$300,000. Because the actual amount of funding is still undetermined, there may or may not be funds to apply to this project.

Ms. Lamoreaux reviewed the scoring for other projects on the list as follows: #5 Washington County on behalf of the Utah Food Bank to procure a refrigerated box truck; #6 (tied) Kane County for acquisition of two meals-on-wheels trucks; #6 (tied) Washington County on behalf of Angell Springs SSD for a culinary water line looping project; #7 LaVerkin City for a water and road infrastructure project in the Silver Acres Subdivision; and #8 Big Water Town for a culinary water project for a backup generator and tank repair. Ms. Lamoreaux reported that all applications received are for very needed projects, but there is not sufficient funding available to fund every application. Some of the projects that were not funded had very little match, proposed the use of CDBG funds for grant administration, served a small number of beneficiaries, and/or were not mature projects. CED staff is working with several of the applicants to make application to the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board for design/engineering or planning.

Commissioner Denny Drake asked about the viability of the Erin Kimball Foundation going forward. A recent article in the local newspaper indicated some problems with funding. Ms. Lamoreaux indicated that staff had a conversation with Erin Kimball because this was a concern. Ms. Kimball reported that a Department of Justice grant in the amount of \$80,000 was not received. This has resulted in the layoff of staff members and scaling back of services until another source of funding can be identified. Completion of the home in Washington City will provide relief because all of their offices and support functions will be operated on the first level of the facility and they will no longer have to rent office space. The second level will provide temporary housing for victims of domestic violence that have exhausted their stay at the Dove Center. All clients are eventually moved to permanent housing once they have been stabilized through training and case management.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CLARE RAMSAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MIKE DALTON, TO APPROVE THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT RATING AND RANKING OF PROJECTS AS PRESENTED, PROVIDING FUNDS TO THE HIGHEST RANKED PROJECTS**

**UNTIL ALL FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED. THIS MAY INCLUDE PARTIAL FUNDING TO CEDAR CITY, ON BEHALF OF THE CEDAR HOUSING AUTHORITY IN FY 2013, WITH THE BALANCE OF FUNDS TO THIS MULTI-YEAR PROJECT TO BE ALLOCATED OUT OF FY 2014 CDBG FUNDS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**B. CONSOLIDATED PLAN ADOPTION**

Ms. Diane Lamoreaux explained that the Consolidated Plan One-Year Action Plan, appendices, and Excel tool were available for public comment between March 1, 2013 and March 31, 2013. Comments provided during the March Steering Committee public hearing were incorporated into the draft plan prior to submission to the state of Utah. She referenced the Resolution of Adoption provided on page 14 of the packet and indicated that staff is recommending adoption of the Plan.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DENNY DRAKE, SECONDED BY MS. LUANNE FORREST, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION FOR THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN AND ATTACHMENTS AS PRESENTED. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Clare Ramsay, Aye; Commissioner Mike Dalton, Aye; Mayor Dan McGuire, Aye; Mr. Ken Platt, Aye; Mayor Jerry Taylor, Aye; Ms. Carolyn White, Aye; Mr. Shane Adams, Aye; Ms. LuAnne Forrest, Aye; Mayor Connie Robinson, Aye; Commissioner Denny Drake, Aye; Commissioner Jim Matson, Aye. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

**V. COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

Ms. Sherri Dial, Director of the Five County Community Action Partnership, provided tabulated survey information compiled for the Five County Community Needs Assessment for 2013. The questionnaire was designed to develop a better understanding of the needs of communities within the Five County region. The survey closed on Friday and there may still be some paper surveys that will need to be entered into the tally. Copies of the initial data report were provided. There were 798 people in the Five County Region that responded to the survey which provides a good statistical significance for the area for a 95% confidence level at 1.5 margin or error interval. Charts depicted on the handout include information for employment, education, housing, nutrition, income, transportation, health care, and youth. This information will be broken out by county for presentation and discussion at meetings that will be scheduled in each county. The survey also provided a section for comments to be shared. These comments will also be compiled for presentation at the meetings. Committee members will receive notification of upcoming meetings once the exact dates and locations are confirmed. A report will be assembled once the meetings have been completed for inclusion into the Community Services Block Grant 3-year plan.

The remaining agenda items were presented in no particular order.

**XII. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES**

Ms. Ellen Schunk, Senator Lee's Office, reported that several amendments are anticipated to be attached to the gun control legislation that will be debated beginning this Friday. Senator Lee is concerned about background checks and language that may be added to

this bill. The immigration bill that has been introduced is very lengthy. Senator Lee feels that Senators need to be able to read the entire bill details prior to any vote being taken. She also reported that a lot of concern is being expressed in regards to the Affordable Health Care Act and the impact to small businesses. It is also very concerning that a letter containing Ricin was sent to Senator Wicker. Mayor Connie Robinson mentioned that she is still counting on legislation on the Prairie Dog which would exempt cemeteries completely.

Mr. Bill Swadley, Senator Hatch's Office, reported that Senator Hatch is also concerned about the amendments that are being added to the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013. The major concern is that the U.S. Department of Justice does not prosecute laws that are already on the books. Hearings on immigration legislation will begin on Friday and will likely continue into Monday. Senator Hatch is currently reviewing this legislation. Because of the length, complexity, and importance of this legislation, the review will take some time. The guidelines and general framework were released earlier, but the actual text of the bill was just released. One area of concern is the high skilled and educated workforce that is unable to qualify for work visas. Even though the demand in businesses exists, many workers are not able to stay in this country. There are many issues in this complex piece of legislation that need to be reviewed. Ms. Ellen Schunk reported that Senator Lee is not supportive of comprehensive legislation but favors legislation that will secure the borders and outline a process for entry and exit rather than one big approach. This is because of the worry about details that may be contained in the legislation.

Mr. Gary Webster, Congressman Stewart's Office, reported that the Congressman also supports the Senator's on the ground level approach toward immigration reform. Congressman Stewart serves on the Homeland Security Committee and is in favor of developing a comprehensive strategy that includes border control. Another issue that is forthcoming regards the Antiquities Act and Utah Lands Sovereignty Act. There is also a desire to simplify tax processes. Major events scheduled in Utah include the Salt Lake City Marathon, the Ironman Competition and the St. George Marathon. The Congressman is concerned that security be in place for these event.

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

Ms. Teresa Banks, Department of Workforce Services, reported that Jan Thompson was unable to attend the meeting today. DWS is also seeing a softening in retail sales and some backing off in terms of the unemployment rate. With the exception of Garfield County, other counties in the region are close to the state average of 5.2%. The unemployment rate in Beaver County is at 5.1% which is below the state average. DWS is hopeful that the federal sequestration will not have a negative impact on the training programs offered through their department. A handout titled "Smart Start" was provided to committee members. Various other publications are available on the DWS website at [www.jobs.utah.gov](http://www.jobs.utah.gov)

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

Ms. Susan Perschon, Scholarship Coordinator at DSU, reported that the LDS Church change in the age for missionaries to serve has impacted the enrollment at the University. As a result, a large amount of recruitment is being done in southern Nevada and California. The university is also continuing it's push to recruit non-traditional students. An important

piece of legislation this session is allowing the University to keep their non-resident tuition waivers in place. This allows students in close proximity to the University to pay in-state tuition, plus one-half. The University has more waivers of different types that are available. Several seasoned staff have retired during the past year, but the University has been successful in recruiting new staff to replace these individuals. A discussion pursued in terms of the tuition rates at DSU versus SUU. Mr. Wes Curtis, SUU, indicated that the tuition rate at SUU is a considerable amount higher than DSU in both undergraduate and graduates programs.

**X. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY REGIONAL SERVICES UPDATE**

Mr. Wes Curtis, SUU Regional Services, reported that John Harja has indicated that the Arizona Strip and Canyonlands expansion proposals do not seem to have much traction of a serious nature at this point. It was noted that the federal sequestration will have a dramatic impact on the Head Start Program which is managed by SUU with a 5% cut totaling approximately \$160,000. This will result in the closing of four classrooms. Specific details will be provided at next month's meeting.

Ms. Curtis acknowledged that President Benson will be leaving SUU for Eastern Kentucky University, which is about two times larger than SUU with some doctoral programs and satellite campuses. The process to select a new president at SUU has started, but an interim president will likely be on board by July 1<sup>st</sup>. A full presidential search could take from six months to one year. Ms. Donna Law, Director of Development at SUU, will be the University's legislative liaison and will also be the Steering Committee representative for SUU. Copies of the Southern Utah University Alumni Magazine were provided.

**VII. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE UPDATE**

No representative in attendance.

**IX. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE**

No representative in attendance.

**VI. UTAH ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. Ken Sizemore explained that in January the Kane County Commission changed assignments to the Five County AOG Steering Committee. Commissioner Douglas Heaton was serving as the representative from Five County on the Utah Association of Counties Board of Directors. Kane County is requesting that Commissioner Jim Matson replace Commissioner Douglas Heaton in this capacity.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR CONNIE ROBINSON, SECONDED BY MAYOR JERRY TAYLOR, TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER JIM MATSON TO THE UTAH ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO REPLACE COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS HEATON. MOTION CARRIED.**

**XIII. LOCAL AFFAIRS**

**A. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

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

None.

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

Mr. Sizemore referenced a copy of one late arrival for an application submitted to the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board. Mr. Gary Zabriskie provided a brief explanation of the Beaver City application which is being considered out of the normal application cycle to address additional water system improvements. An initial water project was undertaken and completed in 2009, but there were some excess funds when the project was finished. Because a water study was underway and some well issues were discovered, the City requested that the excess funds be rolled over into a new application to address improvements that are necessary for one of the wells. Mr. Keith Burnett, PCIFB Manager, has determined that this project needs to be presented as a new application rather than as a supplemental to the original application. The original application to PCIFB was approved for a 20-year loan at 0% interest and there was local funding participation included in the overall project. The Board has the opportunity to support, not support, or remain neutral.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CLARE RAMSAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MIKE DALTON, TO SUPPORT THE BEAVER CITY APPLICATION TO THE PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Zabriskie provided an update on several PCIFB applications that will be reviewed during the May Steering Committee meeting. He reported that four of these projects are for significant loans, two are for project design/engineering, and one project is for a water master plan.

**D. PLANNING ASSISTANCE**

None.

**E. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**XIV. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS**

Mr. Sizemore referenced one review on page 15 of the packet for a range improvement project in Central Iron County. The review has a supportive staff recommendation. The Board has the option to support, not support or remain neutral on this action.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DENNY DRAKE, SECONDED BY MR. KEN PLATT, TO APPROVE THE AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2013 in Panguitch at the Garfield County Courthouse.

Chairman Matson thanked Mr. Sizemore for his service to the Five County Association of Governments and assistance extended in the transition of a new Executive Director.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MR. KEN PLATT, SECONDED BY MS. LUANNE FORREST. MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.