

**MINUTES (APPROVED 04/15/2020)**

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

**WEDNESDAY, March 11, 2020**

**1:30 P.M.**

**MEETING LOCATION**

**HERITAGE CENTER / FESTIVAL HALL  
105 N. 100 EAST; COMBINED ROOMS 5 & 6  
CEDAR CITY, UTAH**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Commissioner Paul Cozzens, Chair  
Commissioner Mike Dalton, Vice Chair  
Carolyn White  
Commissioner Jerry Taylor  
Mayor Melanie Torgersen  
Commissioner LaMont Smith  
Mayor Robert Houston  
LaRene Cox  
Commissioner Gil Almquist  
Frank Houston  
Mayor Todd Robinson  
Mayor Nolan Davis  
Mayor John Bramall

**REPRESENTING**

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Heath Hansen  
Scott Albrecht  
Adam Snow  
Stephen Lisonbee  
Kathleen Gondor  
Kacey Jones  
Trevor Clingman  
Nicki Ray Apino  
Nicki Apino Sr.  
Cindy Bulloch  
Bryan Thiriot  
Nathan Wiberg  
Allison McCoy  
Gary Zabriskie

**REPRESENTING**

Senator Mike Lee  
Senator Mitt Romney  
Congressman Stewart  
Southern Utah University  
Cedar Breaks National Monument  
Zion Forever Project  
Dixie State University  
Gubernatorial Candidate  
Apino Campaign  
Candidate for Iron County Commission  
Five County A.O.G. Staff  
Five County A.O.G. Staff  
Five County A.O.G. Staff  
Five County A.O.G. Staff

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Dale Brinkerhoff (excused)  
Lisa Livingston

**REPRESENTING**

Iron County School Board Representative  
Kane County School Board Representative

I. WELCOME BY COMMISSIONER PAUL COZZENS, CHAIR

Chairman Paul Cozzens opened the meeting slightly early at 1:27 p.m. He asked Item #8 and Item #11 on the agenda to be moved up due to scheduling conflicts.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Melanie Torgerson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Cozzens asked for any discussion on any necessary changes to the draft minutes from the February 12, 2020 Steering Committee Meeting held in Kanab. There being no discussion needed, he called for a motion to approve.

**Commissioner LaMont Smith moved to approve the February 12, 2020 Steering Committee Meeting minutes as prepared. Carolyn White seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.**

VIII. CANYON COUNTRY REGIONAL COMMUNICATION DIRECTORS – INTERFAITH COUNCIL (moved up)

Greg Powell of the Canyon Country Interfaith council shared information on how religious entities and governmental entities could better partner. Following his remarks, Chairman Cozzens welcomed Mayor Todd Robinson of Paragonah to the Steering Committee. Mayor Robinson is taking over as the Iron County mayoral representative.

XI. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES (moved up)

Chairman Cozzens invited Adam Snow from Congressman Chris Stewart's office to go first due to a scheduling conflict. Adam discussed the upcoming Five County / Six County Congressional Briefing. So far, 19 congressional staff members have committed to attend. There is a letter circulating both the House and the Senate offices regarding this event. Adam mentioned it is appropriations season and Congressman Stewart sits on the appropriations committee. Appropriations is the most efficient way to affect the size of the federal government. Adam urged members to let him know about any funding needs they have as soon as possible. He expects appropriation bills to wrap up at the end of June.

Congressman Stewart recently met with Vicki Christensen, the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, to look for ways to waive Forest Service fees. He is also working with the National Park Service to possibly allow street legal ATVs in some of the areas of Glen Canyon NRA. Commissioner Cozzens expressed his unhappiness with the Dixie National Forest leadership's decision to prohibit all ATVs in all campgrounds. There is confusion and should be more follow-up with Angelita Bullets. Adam brought up concerns about the Fishlake National Forest Monroe Mountain project and Wester Watersheds lawsuit against it. They recently met with John Tanner from the Department of the Interior (DOI) regarding the Zion Coalition. DOI is very supportive.

So far, PILT and SRS are fully funded, but Congressman Stewart is still working to make those mandatory as well as change the formula for how that funding is calculated. Chairman Cozzens shared an example he recently heard regarding PILT. He mentioned a 20 -acre parcel of land in Saratoga Springs that is owned by the federal government and brings in \$55 dollars per year in PILT. If that land was privately

owned, it would bring in \$24,000 if it was undeveloped. If it was developed, it would bring in \$288,000 dollars.

Adam Snow shared feedback from John Tanner; John strongly encourages local leaders to be more aggressive with letter writing and using congressional inquiries.

IV. 2<sup>ND</sup> PUBLIC HEARING FOR FIVE COUNTY AOG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

Chairman Cozzens declared a public hearing open and Nate Wiberg, Associate Planner, FCAOG presented the following information on the Community Development Block Grant.

This hearing is called to allow all citizens the opportunity to provide input concerning the project that was awarded under the 2020 CDBG program. FCAOG has amended its capital investment plan and as part of the approval of the 2020 CDBG Rating and Ranking policies in August of last year, FCAOG was preapproved to apply for and receive \$95,000 of CDBG funding to administer in the FCAOG region, update consolidated plan, annual action plan, provide technical planning assistance for communities, and prepare and update affordable housing plans. This project is on the Capital Improvements List which is available at the Five County office or on our website [fivecounty.utah.gov](http://fivecounty.utah.gov).

Chairman Cozzens called for public comment. Hearing none he closed the public hearing.

V. APPROVAL OF THE “FIVE COUNTY ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021” AND THE “FIVE COUNTY CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2020-2025”

Nate Wiberg presented again. Nate shared that the consolidated plan and annual action plans serves as a framework for community wide dialogue to identify housing and community development priorities that align the focus of HUD programs such as CDBG and ESG. The Consolidated Plan is updated every five years the and annual Action Plan is the annual update to that plan. These plans provide details for our region’s housing, community development, homelessness, and other special needs by assessing the CDBG program and ESG program and by collaborating with the Continuum of Care, housing authorities, and other such organizations. During the 30-day public comment period, no comments were received. Additionally, Nate shared that the state wanted an item added to the plan. Nate reviewed and the information had already been included.

**After the presentation, Commissioner Dalton moved approval of the plan and Commissioner Taylor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

VI. CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT – NEW VISITOR CENTER PRESENTATION

Kathleen Gondor, Superintendent of the Cedar Breaks National Monument presented to the Steering Committee regarding plans for the new visitor’s center. Superintendent Gondor feels the new visitor’s center is important to give Cedar Breaks a “sense of place”. Commissioner Taylor asked how much the project will cost. Superintendent Gondor responded with \$6 million dollars. The main reason for the large cost is that it will take two years to build due to the seasonal nature of the site. Commissioner Almquist asked how many visitors Cedar Breaks gets annually. Superintendent said they had 563,000 visitors last year. The new visitor’s center will be 23,000 square feet with 1,100 feet of outside covered space.

VII. ZION NATIONAL PARK FOREVER PROJECT PRESENTATION

Kacey Jones presented on behalf of the Zion Forever Project. She mentioned that a 50% match of funds has been secured for the Cedar Breaks Visitor's Center project from the National Park Centennial Project, the Zion Forever Project has been fundraising for the past two years to make it happen. Iron County was their first partner. Cedar Breaks is important to our region as it brings in \$48 million dollars annually according to a 2018 Department of Interior study. Kacey shared another partnership opportunity, this time with the Utah Office of Recreation and would bring in approximately \$500,000 dollars to the Visitor's Center project. Kacey asked the Steering Committee to provide a letter of support for the project that addresses why this is important to our region and why this will bring back Cedar Breaks to the status it enjoyed years ago.

**Commissioner Lamont Smith motioned to have the Steering Committee prepare a letter of support for the Cedar Break's Visitor Center project. Mayor John Bramall seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Gil Almquist commented that while buildings improve visitor experience, advance registration requirements do not. Commissioner Paul Cozzens asked language to that effect be included in the letter. Commissioner Lamont Smith asked for more support and focus on East Zion.

IX. FIVE COUNTY REGIONAL ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDY PRESENTATION

Trevor Clingman of Dixie State University shared information about a traveling business resource center Dixie and Southern Utah University have partnered up on. The purpose is to help rural businesses. They conducted a study and Trevor distributed the results of the study to Steering Committee members.

X. GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

Nicki Ray Apino, democratic candidate for Utah governor, was present and gave a short presentation. His main point was that he wants to create a software application that will allow Utahns to access government information easily. He currently resides in Springville.

XI. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES (CONTINUED)

Heath Hansen from Senator Lee's office presented next. He reiterated the importance of the Five and Six County Congressional Briefing. The Senate is currently considering some energy legislation. Senator Lee filed some amendments to that legislation, but unfortunately these amendments were blocked. One of the blocked amendments would have loosened Wild Horse and Burro restrictions. Another would have rescinded mineral extraction restrictions on the Arizona Strip. Another would have exempted Utah from the Antiquities Act. The energy bill ultimately failed and one reason for this was that leadership would not allow amendments.

Heath shared that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act expires this week. The federal government has been caught using this act to spy on its own citizens and Senator Lee is very alarmed by this. President Trump has said he will not sign a FISA re-authorization until issues surrounding the law are tightened up.

The Senate will be considering a bill that would require 40 to 60% of funds in the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to be used on land acquisition. This bill is bad for Utah and needs to be stopped. Senator Lee will be doing whatever he can to curb this effort.

Scott Albrecht from Senator Romney's office presented next. Senator Romney recently met with Jeff Bradybaugh, Superintendent of the Zion National Park. Senator Romney does not support having a reservations system at Zion National Park. He does, however, support a new bus system for Zion. He is working on funding this new system through the FAST ACT, which he hopes will pass. Senator Romney is looking to reform the National Park Service and fix the maintenance back log problem. He has asked for reports on all the national parks to see which ones bring in money and which ones lose money.

We are expected a Record of Decision of the Northern Corridor by the end of 2020. Senator Romney is trying to hold them accountable to that deadline. He is also working on legislation regarding drones flying over wildfire zones and the cost it has on stopping/restarting firefighting operations. Senator Romney is concerned about the impacts of COVID-19 on small businesses, most importantly how can we decrease our dependency on China.

Commissioner Taylor shared that businesses in Garfield County have already been impacted by the virus. Mayor Bramall shared his feelings that COVID-19 is being overhyped. He pointed to statistics from the John Hopkins Institute.

XII. STATE AGENCY UPDATES

No State Agency representatives present.

XIII. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY AND DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY UPDATES

Bryan Thiriot, Executive Director for the Five County Association of Governments, presented on behalf of Henrie Walton of Dixie State University who was excused. He discussed the campus expansion efforts of Dixie State.

Stephen Lisonbee presented for Southern Utah University. Stephen shared that the provost search is almost complete. They have had fantastic applicants. The Aviation College is growing, and SUU has a new education building coming. The president's old residence will be turned in to a childcare center for students to use. The SUU – Southwest Tech partnership is thriving as is the Intergovernmental Internship Program. The Utah Rural Summit will be held October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> this year. Stephen has started Iron Leaders Academy, which is modeled after Leadership Dixie. Many Five County staff members and board members are Leadership Dixie graduates. SUU also applied for a Department of Labor grant regarding cybersecurity.

XIV. LOCAL AFFAIRS

A. AREA-WIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

**Commissioner Almquist moved approval of the review. Mayor Nolan Davis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

B. CIB APPLICATION REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Dalton, who serves as this region's representative on the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board, discussed some new guidelines and criteria the CIB will be looking at applications under. He said these will start with the new funding year. He mentioned that mineral lease funds, which come from the royalties received from the ongoing extraction of coal, oil and natural gas, are down. He also said that under the new policies, communities are expected to provide honest information to the board about their capacity to service loan payments for a project, versus requesting grant funds. He said for communities to sharpen their pencils when considering their request for funding from the CIB. Gary Zabriskie explained that the CIB Regional Planners will receive training on the factors that the CIB Board will be looking for in determining the financial capacity of a community to service a loan for a proposed project. This training will enable the CIB Regional Planners to provide better technical assistance to prospective CIB applicants.

#### C. CORRESPONDENCE

Discussion on a previously approved letter supporting President Trump. The letter was approved, but needed a typo corrected and Mayor Bramall asked a statement thanking President Trump for his pro-life stance be added. Chairman Cozzens agreed.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Dalton to approve the letter after the typo has been corrected and an expression of gratitude for President Trump's pro-life stance has been added. Seconded by Mayor Bramall. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### D. DISCUSSION OF LOCAL ISSUES

Chairman Cozzens remarked that it was nice to see Commissioner Dean Cox present. He has been battling Multiple Myeloma, but is in recovery. The Steering Committee echoed these sentiments and applauded.

Chairman Cozzens asked to have the next Steering Committee on April 15<sup>th</sup> as opposed to April 8<sup>th</sup>. The other committee members were supportive of the change.

School Board Representative LaRene Cox shared her concerns regarding Utah SB 297 that seeks to allow yurts on unincorporated county property. Commissioner Smith acknowledged it has been a big problem in Kane County.

**LaRene made a motion to send a letter opposing the yurt bill. Commissioner Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Cozzens mentioned Representative Phil Lyman is looking into changing the make-up of the Utah Senate to allow one senator per county as opposed to having it be based on population. He hopes this will make things more equitable for rural Utah.

Cindy Bulloch, Iron County Assessor and candidate for Iron County Commission introduced herself and thanked the board members for their service and tenor during the meeting. She likes the collaboration.

#### XV. ADJOURN

Vice Chair Cozzens adjourned the meeting at 3:23 P.M.