MINUTES

EMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL

JUNE 2, 2020

Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 Pandemic this meeting was held electronically.

Attending the meeting was: Board members: Chairman, Rod Player, Kim McFarlane, Ben Grimes, Wade Allinson
Agencies: Larry Johansen, State Parks, Steve Fluke, Seth Button, Dana Dean (DOGM), Chris Wood (DWR) Kelsey Berg, Clay Crozier, Larry Ellertson.

1) Welcome:

2) Approval of Minutes: Ben Grimes made a motion to approve the minutes of the May Public Lands meeting. The motion was seconded by Wade Allinson. The motion passed

3) Chairman Comments:

4) Commission Report on Emery Land Bill: Commissioner Kent Wilson reported that they have asked for a time frame on the Advisory Council appointment from the Department of the Interior. The commission will let everyone know what they find out. He also reported that last week the Commission took AYL on the desert with Senator Hinkins, Wayne Pahl and a couple of other state people. The program will be about educating the public on the Public Lands Bill. The program will air on Saturday night's AYL.

5) Agency Reports and Council Member Comments:

A. Bureau of Land Management (BLM):

B. Division of Water Rights (DWRi):

C. Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM): Dana Dean and Steve Fluke reported on the Crandall Canyon Coal revision. Deer Creek revision plan. Emery Deep Mine. In oil/gas they have new inspectors Dal Gray and Travis Gray. He presented information regarding the Buckmaster Draw Reclamation Project. They will identify and inventory abandoned mines in the area. They have 46 shafts they will partner with BLM to backfill. They will not be closing and active mines. They are planning to do this project this year. Seth Button is very concerned that they avoid negative impacts to historic properties or threatened/endangered species. Ray formally requested they consider holding a public meeting so there can be some discussions. He also asked for a map of the area. Steve Fluke reported on the Crandall Canyon Revision Plan. EC Commissioners asked for more information on the Crandall Canyon Reclamation plan.

D. Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR): Chris Wood reported that DRW officers helped out at Goblin Valley. He mentioned that he appreciated the collaboration that took place during that search. In Aquatic he talked about the Joe's Valley parking lot expansion. The lake has been very busy with people getting outdoors. They will be fencing off some ponds at Fuller Bottom/ San Rafael properties to keep out livestock. They have stocked Huntington Creek and

Range Creek. He talked about the over the counter Range Creek Bison Hunt that he talked about in the last meeting. This has passed. Starting August 1st hunters may buy permits to hunt Bison in this area. This will be a difficult hunt and participants will be required to watch a video to educate hunters on specific requirements.

E. School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA):

F. Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF):

G. Utah State Parks and Recreation: Larry Johansen reported that the outdoor industry has been booming so people are getting outdoors more than usual. They have been working with BLM on the conveyance of Goblin Valley. He thanked all the agencies that helped out with the search at Little Wildhorse. Rod asked about new Quagga Mussel regulations that go into effect July 1st. Millsite is on the spillway for now.

H. Utah Department of Agriculture:

I. Washington Delegation Staff: Clay Crozier reported on the Navajo Water Rights legislation. They anticipate it passing. The Dingell Act is moving forward with regard to conveyances. PPP extension legislation passed the Senate. Kelsey Berg, reported on Senate legislation regarding the Great American Outdoor Act (restore the parks) addressing the backlog at state parks. She talked about the Cares Act regarding COVID 19. Larry Ellertson indicated that they are responding to EC's questions relating to trails on Wilderness.

6) Additional Issues from Council Members: Wade Allinson asked if anyone knew anything about people from out of the area bringing water to the wild horses out on McKay Flat? Sheriff Greg Funk indicated that he went out there with BLM. The group was given notice that they were watering illegally. The group was sited with cease and desist orders. Ray suggested sending a letter to BLM in support of taking action to manage this situation.

7) Discuss July Meeting/Field trip: Rod opened discussion about postponing the July field trip. Kim MCFarlane indicated that July might be the safest month to be out. In late fall rural counties may see the virus come back around. Wade suggested that BLM/DOGM take them out to Buckmaster and their mine reclamation project. He suggested waiting until September. Kim reminded them that the reclamation project would be out to bid by then and any input may be too late. It was decided to have a regular in person meeting on July 7th and also have it available via electronically for anyone who is at risk. They will talk more about a field trip at a later date.

8) Concerned Citizens with Emery County related issues: Kim McFarlane asked if there was any additional information regarding the status of the HolyOak easement? Commissioner Sitterud indicated that they are still working on it.

9) Adjournment: