

M I N U T E S

FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020
1:30 P.M.**

**IN PERSON ATTENDED AT:
THE GARFIELD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
LOCATED AT 55 SOUTH MAIN STREET; PANGUITCH, UTAH
ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING WAS ALSO PROVIDED
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL**

**NOTE: WHILE THIS WAS AN IN-PERSON MEETING, ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
AND THE PUBLIC WERE INVITED TO PARTICPATE VIA TELEPHONE.**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Commissioner Mike Dalton
Commissioner Jerry Taylor
Commissioner LaMont Smith
Commissioner Gil Almquist
Frank Houston
Carolyn White (via Telephone)
LaRene Cox (via Telephone)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Heath Hansen
Adam Snow
Henrie Walton
Bryan Thiriot
Gary Zabriskie
Nate Wiberg
Alyssa Gamble

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Dale Brinkerhoff
Mayor Nolan Davis (Excused)
Mayor Robert Houston
Mayor John Bramall (Excused)
Mayor Melanie Torgerson (Excused)
Mayor Todd Robinson
Lisa Livingston

REPRESENTING

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

REPRESENTING

Senator Mike Lee
Congressman Chris Stewart
Dixie State University
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 School Board Representative
Beaver County Mayor Representative
Kane County Mayoral Representative
Washington County Mayoral Representative
Garfield County Mayoral Representative
Iron County Mayoral Representative
Kane County School Board Representative

I. WELCOME BY COMMISSIONER PAUL COZZENS, CHAIR

Chairman Paul Cozzens opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION THAT QUORUM IS PRESENT

A roll call vote determined that there were (2) voting members attending via telephone: Carolyn White and LaRene Cox. Chairman Cozzens determined that a quorum was present with the (2) voting members on the telephone and (6) voting members attending in person.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Gil Almquist led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. JUNE 10, 2020 MEETING MINUTES – PREVIEW AND APPROVE

Carolyn White made a motion to approve the June 10, 2020 Steering Committee Meeting minutes as presented.

Commissioner Gil Almquist seconded the motion. The motion passed with all Committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion. A verbal roll call of those attending by telephone also indicated a unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

V. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM (Alyssa Gamble, Community Planner, FCAOG and Nate Wiberg, Senior Planner, FCAOG)

A. PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY 2021 CDBG RATING AND RANKING (R&R) CRITERIA AND PROGRAM POLICIES DOCUMENT FOR UPCOMING PROGRAM YEAR. Chairman Paul Cozzens declared the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2021 CDBG Rating and Ranking Criteria and Program OPEN.

Nate Wiberg described the purpose of this public hearing and indicated that this document was attached to the Public Hearing notice on July 20, 2020. Mr. Wiberg also noted that an email containing the following proposed updates to the FCAOG CDBG Policies and Procedures and Rating & Ranking Criteria had been sent to all the Mayors and County Commissioners in the Five County region:

- A few clerical changes to improve grammar and formatting.
- Dates were updated to fit with the new program year.
- Policy #9 (last bullet point) changed to read “All CDBG applications must be complete and submitted in WebGrants 15 days prior to the State’s application deadline”.
- Policy #10 (pre-approved funding) changed to increase the pre-approved funding for AOG to administer and provide technical assistance to the program from \$95,000 to \$97,000.
- Moved the Regional Prioritization page to Section #8 in the Rating and Ranking Data Sources section.
- Data Sources (R&R Criteria) #4 changed to categorize non-profits that build and manage low-and-moderate income housing the same as a Housing Authority for purpose of this criteria.

- Rating and Ranking Criteria #13 changed to include additional HUD approved methods of determining the percent of a jurisdiction's low-and-moderate income population.

Nate Wiberg noted that no comments had been received to this point. Mr. Wiberg then turned the time back to Chairman Cozzens who invited public comment. One positive comment from Gary Zabriskie regarding the positive evolution of the Rating & Ranking Criteria document over the years was received. With no other comments, Chair Cozzens **CLOSED** the Public Meeting.

B. FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE R&R CRITERIA & POLICIES DOCUMENT. A motion to approve the Five County CDBG Policies and Procedures and Rating and Ranking Criteria was presented by Commissioner Jerry Taylor. Commissioner LaMont Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with all Committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion. A Verbal roll call of those attending by telephone also indicated a unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

C. DISCUSSION ON CDBG PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURES. Gary Zabriskie led a discussion on the CDBG Public Hearing Procedures. The purpose of the discussion is because of the desire to make more of an effort to involve the public and ensure that the program is utilizing Public Hearing best practices.

Currently, CDBG Public Hearings are held in conjunction with Steering Committee meetings. The CED staff feels that holding the Public Hearings in the evenings and designating all of the Five County Community and Economic Development Staff (CED) as Appointed Designated Hearing Officers will allow the CED Staff to hold CDBG Public Hearings during a time that is convenient for the public. Approval of CDBG policies, activities, etc. will still have to come to this Board but the Public Hearings will no longer have to be held during this meeting.

Mr. Zabriskie indicated that this is a discussion item only and will be presented again in October for further discussion and/or adoption.

D. CDBG-CV CARES ACT DISCUSSION AND CONCENSUS DECISION ON ACTIVITIES. Nate Wiberg discussed the CDBG-CV Cares Act program and how it has been implemented thus far. Mr. Wiberg indicated that (in Round 1) we did not get as many applications from businesses as expected with the majority of the businesses that applied for the funds coming from Garfield and Kane County while only a few applications came from the other three Counties. Mr. Wiberg noted they we had \$373,821 to spend, with applications of \$221,524. That leaves \$152,297 unspent.

After discussion – **the following recommendation was made in the form of a motion by Commissioner Mike Dalton:**

- Fund the applications that have come in – regardless of what County they are located in.
- Re-open the application process and let applicants trickle in until we spend the money (using the same guidance that was given earlier by the Steering Committee).

Commissioner LaMont Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with all Committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion. A Verbal roll call of those attending by telephone also indicated a unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

Mr. Wiberg discussed Round 2 which has approximately \$825,971 available.

The plan was to open Round 2 of business assistance applications as soon as round 1 closed. However, based on the lack of applications in Round 1, it seems that business assistance may not be the best use of our CDBG-CV funds. Various options (other than business assistance) were discussed. **Nate will send out a list of all the ideas that were talked about so that they can be discussed again at the next Steering Committee meeting or at a special meeting called by the Chair.**

VI. SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (SSBG) FY2021 ALLOCATIONS – RATIFICATION OF HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION (*Michael Day, Director, Community Action Program, FCAOG*)
Toni Tuipulotu, Community Action Case Manager presented the SSBG FY 2021 Allocations as approved by the Human Services Council for ratification by the Steering Committee. This action is required for Grant purposes. **Commissioner Lamont Smith made a motion to ratify the SSBG FY 2021 Allocations as recommended by the Human Services Council. Commissioner Mike Dalton seconded the motion. The motion passed with all Committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion. A Verbal roll call of those attending by telephone also indicated a unanimous vote in favor of the motion.**

VII. ZION NATIONAL PARK FOREVER PROJECT PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION (*Kacey Jones, Assistant Director of Development, Zion National Park Forever Project*) Kacey Jones reported that they have been awarded \$500,000 by the Zion National Park Forever Project for improvements to the Visitor Center at Cedar Breaks and that they are now actively involved in fund raising for their 50% match.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON, AND DISCUSSION OF, SCHOOL AND INSTITUTION TRUST LAND ADMINISTRATION (SITLA) ACTIONS (*Ron Torgerson, Deputy Assistant Director – SW Area, SITLA, and Michelle McConkie Assistant Director service group*) Mr. Torgerson presented the purpose and history of SITLA and past uses of the funds. There was considerable discussion regarding recent sales of lands and the local impact the sales decision is making in the individual communities. Mr. Torgerson also reported that the Trust Lands is a significant source of funding for K -12 education, with approximately 88 million spent last year – with the decision making done locally.

IX. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING REPORT (*Garfield County Commissioner Jerry Taylor*) Commissioner Taylor reported on last week's Congressional Staff meeting held in Garfield County. In attendance were the Congressional staff and representatives from the Senate and Congress and other State officials and local leaders. Issues that were discussed were about the forest, SRS, PILT, and NEPA.

X. AGRITOURISM PRESENTATION/GRANT DISCUSSION (*Norman Hill*) Mr. Hill mentioned that he recently talked with Linda Gilmore from the Agricultural Department regarding some recent State funds that have been allocated for agriculture development. At this point, they are gathering data on traveler preferences, the possibility of partnering with local tourism agencies and how to mine the data to see

who is going to come and what are they are willing to pay for. Mr. Hill indicated that there is grant money of \$95,830 available if the Counties are creating a County Economic Development Advisory board. What he suggested is that each County put in \$10,000 as a cooperative effort. Mr. Hill provided his contact information so that the Counties can have a representative work directly with Mr. Hill.

XI. DISCUSSION ON COVID-19 IMPACTS ON SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE SERVICES (*Steering Committee School Board Members and Carrie Sigler, Director, Care About Childcare, FCAOG*). COVID has created some difficulty in providing childcare – the focus has changed because of COVID and Mrs. Sigler asked Committee members to think about the possibility of including childcare in their plans. She indicated that there is money available, what is needed is finding the people (especially home care providers), the program, and places where the childcare can be provided. Mrs. Sigler provided her contact information for any who would like to contact her.

Joni Lyman (FCAOG) was given some time to discuss the two senior volunteer programs she works with: Senior Companion Program and Foster Grandparent Program. These volunteers are all lower income seniors – making less than \$2,000/month. They receive a small stipend, but since COVID, they have not been able to work much. The Senior Companions go to the homes of our seniors and take them shopping and to doctor appointments and/or just visit (companionship). The Foster Grandparents go to the schools and help the kids with their reading and math skills. The Corporation for National Community Service is the organization under which our (2) programs operate, and they have approved these volunteers to go back to work (under specific guidelines). The problem is that the Health department must approve our guidelines and the school districts must make the decision to allow the Senior volunteers to go back to work. Mrs. Lyman has emailed the Superintendents with the information on how the programs have opened and the activities that they can provide. Mrs. Lyman wanted to get the word out, via the Steering Committee and let them know that (most) of these senior providers want to get back to work and the seniors that they serve need the service that they provide. Mrs. Lyman provided her contact information and offered to answer any questions the group may have.

XII. FIVE COUNTY REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) BOARD APPOINTMENTS (*Gary Zabriskie, Director of Community and Economic Development, FCAOG*). Mr. Zabriskie reported that he works with a 9-member board and is in the process of revising the loan plan to:

- Reduce the size and complexity of the Plan.
- Tie the plan directly to the Regional CEDS document and put priorities to those projects that are identified or those needs that are identified in the document.
- Also, based on the study that was just completed in each County, gaps that were identified will be addressed.

The revised document will be brought back to the Loan Administration Board and then to the Steering Committee in October for final adoption. Mr. Zabriskie discussed the make up of the Board and the need to fill the positions with new members or reappoint existing members for another 2-year term.

Commissioner Gil Almquist made a motion to reappoint West Martin, Mark Tilby, and Eric Clarke for an additional 2-year term and to appoint Jack Lancaster as a new member to the RLF Administration Board. These appointments will then expire 03/2022. Commissioner Jerry Taylor seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all Committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion. A Verbal roll call of those attending by telephone also indicated a unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

XIII. NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE 2020 – DISCUSSION ON KICKOFF MEETING (Alyssa Gamble, Community Planner, FCAOG). Five County is beginning a planned update of the Natural Hazard Mitigation plan for the region. The following are key points and meeting times:

- The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan document supports the counties, cities, and towns in protecting life, property, and economies in the region. Mitigation actions can decrease the time and costs dedicated to response and recovery from natural hazards.
- A kick-off meeting is scheduled for 8/27/2020 at 9:00 am, and again on 9/3/2020 at 1:00 pm. The purpose of these meetings is to coordinate with the group to set the plan purpose, goals, objectives, timeline and next steps.
- The Committee members are invited to attend either or both meetings. Also, if anyone has suggestions of stakeholders, they were encouraged to pass the contact information on to Alyssa and she will coordinate with them and the local planning groups.

XIV. STATE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR FRAUD RISK ASSESSMENT UPDATE (Bryan Thiriot, Executive Director, FCAOG). Mr. Thiriot indicated that the Fraud Risk Assessment has been reviewed by Allison McCoy, Gary Zabriskie, and Bryan Thiriot and any areas that were not checked (or checked as incomplete) will be addressed and built in to the risk assessment which will be presented to the Steering Committee in the November 2020 meeting.

XV. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES.

- Senator Lee has introduced some NEPA reform bills; one piece of legislation is called the unshackle act and one is called the State Assignment Bill. Currently the Federal Highway Administration has authority to delegate responsibilities to States. Utah is one of seven who is taking advantage of that – the Bill would expand this option to the entire Federal Government. The other Bill would require the Federal Government to come up with a methodology to determine how much the NEPA process is costing and report to Congress every year on how much each NEPA project they've conducted or are conducting has cost. Senator Lee has also expressed broad concerns with the consolidation of meat packing industries and the potential anti-trust issues that could be present. As Chairman of the anti-trust subcommittee, he has sent a letter to the DOJ asking them to look halt the acquisition one specific entity until they can conduct a review.
- Senator Romney – appreciation was expressed to Washington County for their partnership with Zions in order to get the Campground and Kolob opened. They did not have staff to do janitorial services, so Washington County stepped in and agreed to provide the janitorial services using CARES Act funds to do so. Mr. Albrecht also noted the meeting with Greg Schiano (new BLM Director) who seems to talk a very balanced approach to management of Federal lands and seems to support a multi-purpose approach to those Federal lands. Another CARES Act Bill was

also mentioned; however, there is not much hope of it going through. If it goes through, Senator Romney is pushing for the Trust Act to be included. He acknowledge that the 2 trillion that we borrowed the first time only makes our debt problem even worse i.e., Social Security, Medicare, Highway Trust Funds, they're all heading to insolvency and the amount of money that we're borrowing for COVID only accelerates that insolvency. The Trust Act is meant to address that issue.

- Congressman Stewart will be in each of the five counties and detailed each of the events that are on his schedule. They have also reintroduced the Northern Corridor Bill recently. Another item of interest is what to do with the wood that the Forest service intends to burn. They are trying to stop the burning because they have individuals in place who will take as much wood chip as possible. They are waiting for the new Supervisor for Dixie National Forest to be installed, and they will then make a push to stop the burn order. A suggestion was made for the Committee members to continue to push that linear board feet is not the only purpose of timber – that trash wood also has value for some people.
- Also discussed was the transportation system in Zion's that is open and operating.

XVI. STATE AGENCY UPDATES. There were (2) items of note:

- Rural Workforce Network – a reminder that this is a partnership between DWS Economic Development Corporation of Utah to address the hiring needs of those on the Wasatch Front primarily for those positions that can be worked remotely.
- The other emphasis is helping our rural employees to be qualified for these positions and be able to take advantage of them. They will be looking to the Counties to help with anything they can do economically and with their Economic Development plans to facilitate remote work. Because some people do not have space in their homes, or internet speeds fast enough to work from home, the EDC Utah co-ed will be reaching out to all the counties to help.
- Unemployment Insurance and enhanced claim amounts was discussed.

XVII. UNIVERSITY UPDATES.

- SUU – There were (2) key items discussed: The Iron Leaders Academy and the SUU campaign to Learn and Work in Utah. <https://www.suu.edu/learnandwork/>
- DSU - Like SUU, they plan to start school this Monday with fully in-person classes; however, students do have the opportunity (if they're not comfortable with that or if they're unwilling to wear a mask for the Governor's mandate), to participate online virtual. Because of this, they have used most of their CARES Act to fund the installment of high-tech cameras in all the bigger classrooms. Looking at enrollment – they are up 7 or 8% again this year. There was a discussion regarding the word DIXIE. There is pressure coming from the NCAA related to Athletics as well as the WAC. There are also some corporate sponsors who are strongly encouraging a name change. It was brought up that any conversations with our elected officials and the community is that we've got to differentiate between this "National" meaning of the word (which is negative for a lot of people) and the "Regional" meaning which does not have the negative connotation.

XVIII. LOCAL AFFAIRS.

A. FIVE COUNTY FOUNDATION (*Allison McCoy, Chief Financial Officer, FCAOG*). The renewal has been completed for the Foundation with the State of Utah and we are working on getting the entity registration with the Lieutenant Governor's office. Once that is completed, Allison has asked that we get the appropriate names on the Bank account.

XIX. ADJOURN. Commissioner Paul Cozzens adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

DRAFT