

MINUTES

FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

1:30 P.M.

IN PERSON ATTENDED AT:

THE IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
LOCATED AT 2077 W. ROYAL HUNTE DRIVE; CEDAR CITY, 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 PARTICIPATE VIA TELEPHONE.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Commissioner Mike Dalton (via telephone)
Commissioner Jerry Taylor
Commissioner LaMont Smith
Carolyn White
Dale Brinkerhoff
Mayor Nolan Davis
Mayor John Bramall (via phone then in-person)
Mayor Melanie Torgerson
Mayor Todd Robinson

REPRESENTING

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Heath Hansen
Adam Snow
Henrie Walton (via telephone)
Bryan Thiriot
Gary Zabriskie
Nate Wiberg
Alyssa Gamble
Scott Albrecht

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
Senator Mitt Romney

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Robert Houston
Lisa Livingston

REPRESENTING

Kane County Mayoral Representative
Kane County School Board Representative

I. WELCOME BY COMMISSIONER PAUL COZZENS, CHAIR

Chairman Paul Cozzens opened the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION THAT QUORUM IS PRESENT

A roll call vote determined that there were (2) voting members attending at this point via telephone: Commissioner Mike Dalton and Mayor John Bramall (who arrived shortly later in-person). Chairman Cozzens determined that a quorum was present with (2) voting members on the telephone and (8) voting members attending in person.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

IV. AUGUST 19, 2020 MEETING MINUTES – PREVIEW AND APPROVE

Carolyn White made a motion to approve the August 19, 2020 Steering Committee Meeting minutes as presented.

Mayor Nolan Davis 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).

A. CDBG HOW-TO-APPLY WORKSHOP REMINDER. Alyssa Gamble indicated that there are (2) HOW-TO-APPLY workshops coming up at the end of this month and that attendance at (1) of the meetings is mandatory if any are applying for 2021 CDBG funding. The 1st meeting will be held on October 28th at 2:00 pm in Santa Clara, Utah and the 2nd meeting will be held on Thursday October 29th at 2:00 pm in the Garfield County commission chambers.

B. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ABOUT CDBG-CV ROUND 1 SPENDING AND STATUS OF ROUND 2. Alyssa Gamble reported that Round 1 (used for business assistance) has been open for 3 months and that they have received 62 applications. As of today, the 62 applications received total approximately \$170,000 with 35 of the applicants receiving approval. They continue to work with the remaining (and new) applicants – and noted that the last date applications can be submitted is December 31, 2020. Alyssa Gamble recommended that Round 1 be kept open until the end date of December 31, 2020.

Alyssa noted that in last months meeting, the Committee opted to divide the Round 2 funds equally among the 5 Counties and they are now working with each of the counties to finalize several different funding activities.

C. PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURES – DESIGNATING FIVE COUNTY AOG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF AS PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER(S). Alyssa Gamble mentioned that this request would accomplish (2) things:

- This would present a better opportunity for the public to be involved because meetings could be held outside of regular work hours.

- This would help ensure that the program is utilizing Public Hearing best practices. Gary Zabriskie also noted that this does not exclude the participation of the Board members. The Steering Committee members are and will be encouraged to participate in these Public meetings in person or by phone. Also noted is the fact that any approval of CDBG policies, activities, etc. will still have to come before this committee for approval.

After discussion, **Mayor Todd Robinson made a motion to approve the request designating all the Five County Community and Economic Development Staff (CED) as Appointed Designated Hearing Officers. Mayor Nolan Davis 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.**

VI. CIB APPLICATIONS / AREA-WIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS (Gary Zabriskie, Director of Community & Economic Development, FCAOG). Gary Zabriskie reported that we are now in the new trimester that started with October 1, 2020 and that we have received (3) applications.

A. UTAH PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND BOARD (CIB) APPLICATION REVIEWS. Mr. Zabriskie presented the (3) applications:

- Beaver City for the Bear Canyon Spring Development for the purpose of developing the Bear Canyon Spring and installing 6 inch spring transmission line to connect to the nearest pipe that conveys water to the city's water tank – and constructing a well building around the Head House Well. With funding proposed from CIB Loan funding, CIB Grant funding, and Beaver City cash, the total cost is estimated at \$1,036,000.
- Kane County Water Conservancy District for a Wastewater impact fee facilities plan. The purpose of this request is to obtain financial assistance for the IFFP (Impact Fee Facilities Plan). With funding proposed from CIB Planning Grant and KCWCD cash, the total cost is estimated at \$40,000.
- The East Zion Visitors Center Project. The purpose is to construct the East Zion Visitors Center just east of the East Entrance of Zion National Park on County-owned property. The total proposed cost for this project is intended to be funded from a CIB loan of \$15,500,000 for 30 years at 1.0%. The Kane County Redevelopment Agency created a reinvestment area with a plan to collect new growth tax increment from sales tax, transient room tax, restaurant tax, and property taxes. This revenue source would be pledged as a repayment source for bonding with a CIB loan to gain the funding source to construct the visitor center. **Mr. Zabriskie clarified that the requested funding is for Brick and Mortar construction and that the County will be paying for the staff and maintenance of the facility.**

Mr. Zabriskie indicated that these applications have been applied for, but they have not been approved by the Board yet. These applications will be presented to the Board in the January 2021 meeting. The reason they are brought before this Steering Committee is because the Code (that developed the CID) requires that each Association of Governments reviews the projects from their region and offer:

- Support for the project.
- No support for the project.

- Remain neutral on the project.

Commissioner Cozzens requested comments on the proposed projects:

- Brent Houser, Brian Head Town Manager asked if there is some private company development that will be available to assist in the project tax increment calculated for re-payment. Mr. Zabriskie indicated that there is an anticipated private development that will surround this project; however, it is not part of this project. The only thing that the County will own is the land where the Visitor Center sits and the parking that goes for the Visitor Center. The developer of the nearby development is not able to finance the Visitors Center, as that is a public function. The anticipated repayment source is the collection of the new growth tax increments from the private developments.

With no additional comments given, Commissioner Cozzens called for a motion on the CIB applications. **Commissioner Jerry Taylor made a motion to SUPPORT all (3) of the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund application(s) as presented. 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.**

B. A-95 AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW (SITLA). Gary Zabriskie reported that we had (1) request come in for the sale of SITLA trust lands:

- An adjacent landowner has petitioned SITLA to sell 2.5 acres of trust lands west of Kanab near the Ranchos subdivision. It is noted that a cultural resource survey will be completed prior to the sale and that this 2.5-acre request is part of an 80-acre trust land parcel that is slated for disposal by SITLA.

Carolyn White made a motion to SUPPORT this A-95 AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW (SITLA) as presented. Nolan Davis 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. SCHOOL DISTRICT DISCUSSION (School Board Representatives serving on the Steering Committee).

A. DISTRICT ENROLLMENT. Dale Brinkerhoff reported:

- 10,260 students enrolled this fall with 1,223 students that do not live in the district that come online through MyTech and Harmony High.

B. COVID-19 ISSUES. Mr. Brinkerhoff indicated that 17 positive cases have been reported since school started. Of this 17, 13 students were reported as per school attendance and/or school-related activities, and 4 employees not related to work or school activities. There are currently 6 active cases and 11 who have recovered. Since the first day of school, there were 56 students and 12 employees quarantined for 14 days.

Carolyn White reported – they are not a growing district – just holding steady with approximately 1540 students doing a blended learning (at home or attending school). They

have had a few cases of COVID in Milford and so many of the students have opted to stay at home. There has just been 1 employee that has been in quarantine.

VIII. ST. GEORGE AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION (Greg McArthur, Executive Director, SGAED). Tabled until next month.

IX. DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE UTAH PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND BOARD BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2021. (Discussion only – this will be placed on November 18th Steering Committee Agenda for Formal Action). Discussion was held on this topic, the consensus seemed to be that we should submit a name and go through the process of getting the Governor getting that person approved and appointed. This individual has to be an elected official who serves (as long as they continue to be elected) for a four-year term (as appointed by the Governor), with the option of being appointed for an additional four-year term – still meeting the requirement of being an elected local official.

X. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Congressman Stewart – Adam Snow reported that Congressman Stewart attended the Student Security Summit and discussed the topic of Fiscal Discipline as it relates to our National Security. He also discussed their efforts working with the U.S. Forest Service in trying to get product off the mountain for producers that are asking for it. Also discussed was the Grand Staircase Bill that was talked about 2 years ago and the building of a Science Center for the County. Other items of note are the efforts to fund the gathering up of wild horses and the PILT and SRS funding which is a combined effort between the federal delegation and the State Legislature.

Senator Mike Lee – Commissioner Cozzens asked about the Danes Feinstein Wildfire Bill. This bill is still moving forward with an urgency to get something done before the end of the year. As far as the rest of the Senate goes, they are in a period of recess except for the Judiciary Committee which Senator Lee sits on. As far as COVID Stimulus – Republicans in the Senate are going to put forth a very narrow bill next week which is basically a second round of PPP loans for small businesses. Also reported is that Senator Lee introduced a bill called the Military Spouse Licensing Relief act last week and is continuing to introduce his NEPA reform bills. Also discussed was the BLM Parcels that are located within Municipal boundaries.

Senator Romney – Also discussed the cooperative effort needed to work on the BLM Parcels located within Municipal boundaries. Mr. Albrecht indicated that the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board is looking for members. The deadline for submitting names is October 29th, 2020. Also mentioned is that Senator Romney is looking to introduce a bill called the Wildland Fire Mitigation of Management Commission Act which is meant to address the wild land fire problem.

XI. STATE AGENCY UPDATES. The Department of Workforce Services is very invested in the economic recovery and there is an economic recovery plan set in place which can be seen at [Coronavirus.utah.gov](https://www.coronavirus.utah.gov). One of the biggest areas that have been affected is in the leisure and hospitality areas. There are other industries that are booming right now – these can be found at [Utah.gov](https://www.Utah.gov) under hot jobs.

XII. UNIVERSITY UPDATES. Henry Walton with Dixie State University reported the system of higher education released their enrollment numbers a couple of weeks ago and despite COVID and the pandemic having our numbers down (statewide), our schools in Southern Utah did very well. SUU is up and Dixie State University is up for the 1st time over 12,000 students. The report shows a nearly 8% increase of full-time students and an 11% increase in new freshmen. Mr. Walton also reported that they had the State of the University address late last month and wrapped up the last 5-year strategic plan and closed by introducing the new strategic plan. In the new plan, they made the polytechnic focus an official part of the strategic plan. The intent is to pay a lot of attention to career and applied learning programs, ensuring that they have industry partnerships for every academic program.

Steven Lisonbee will present a report on SUU in next month's meeting but mentioned was the fact that SUU reported the largest statewide enrollment with an increase of approximately 12%.

XIII. LOCAL AFFAIRS / OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS. Commissioner Cozzens reported on discussions he has had with SUU and their helicopter program. They asked for help in finding some area (out in the desert) where they could land their helicopters and train their students. They have also been working with the BLM on some disposable property that is close to an area Commissioner Cozzens located with the possibility of arranging a lease to help alleviate the pressure that has been put on the airports to allow the landing and training of the students in this program.

Gary Zabriskie also noted that the FCAOG is opening a new HEAT office in Cedar City that is in the Hughes building at the north end of town.

XIX. ADJOURN. Commissioner Paul Cozzens adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.