MINUTES
Emery County Public Lands Council
November 03, 2020

PLC: Rod Player, Ed Geary, Leon McElprang,Wade Allinson, Les Wilberg, Randall Stilson,

PL STAFF: Commissioner Kent Wilson, Jim Jennings, Commissioner Gil Conover, Commissioner Lynn Sitterud, Ray Petersen

Visitors: Larry Johansen (State Parks), Darrin Olsen (MLNF), Clay Crozier, Michael Ralphs

Electronically: Kim McFarlane (PLC), Chris Wood (DWR), Julie Johansen, Dana Dean (DOGM), Ryan (SITLA), Jim (State Parks), JR Nelson, Dana (BLM) ,Sherrel Ward, Ben Grimes. Larry Ellertson, Mark (DWRi), Bart (DOGM)

1. **Welcome**

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Les Wilberg. Seconded by Ed Geary. Approved.

3. **Chairman Comments**

Randall: thanked everyone he has worked with. He is stepping down from the council due to health problems.
If you haven't had the chance to go out the Swell this time of year you need to go because it is beautiful with the snow. Rod Player and Leon McElprang have been reappointed to the board.

4. **Commission Report on Emery Land Bill**

Commissioner Wilson states there is nothing new to report.

5. **Agency Reports and Council Member Comments**

- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Dana reported that the recreation sites are in good condition. We have done a large company project in the BuckHorn Draw area with trying to help define the campsites and install some signs. We are also working on completing an environmental assessment in order to install some more bathrooms in the BuckHorn Draw. We also installed 2 bathrooms at the Good Water Rim. We hired 2 more staff members that will start January 19. RAC board is scheduled for February 17. We are trying to get improvements out at Jurassic National Monument. Travel Management for the San Rafael Swell scoping will occur on February 2 & 4 these meetings will be held virtually. Chris reported Lila Canyon Lease should be signed today. Williams Draw has been put on pause to talk about a trade with SITLA.

- **Division of Water Rights (DWRi)**

Mark reported there have been meetings about water banking primarily on the Price River but it does involve Olsen Reservoir.

- **Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM)**

Bart gave an update that they are working to transfer permits due to bankruptcy from Castle Valley Mining and Murray Energy. We do not have any pending applications for permits to drill in Emery County, the last well that was drilled in Emery County was in 2018. We are seeing about a 12% decline in natural gas production statewide in 2020. Commissioner Sitterud stated that DOGM will still not talk to them about leaving the culvert in Crandall Canyon so it can continue to be used, the mine company has said they would allow campsites in the canyon, DOGM will not talk about doing this, Bart will pass the concern on to the correct person at DOGM.

- **Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)**

Chris reported that they have been continuing their deer study and placing radio & GPS collars on deer. Have been placing GPS collars on cougars for a study. Range Creek Bison hunt will end the end of January, since December 15 there have been 6 more bison harvested.

- **School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA).**

Ryan reported they will be working on the Emery County land exchange next. We received another solar lease application for Emery County. Nielson Construction has applied for a gravel permit about 3 miles up Huntington Canyon.

- **Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF)**

MLNF reported Mahogany Point is a continuation of what we did up around the cap. Manti Face will be a big project we will be pushing and we are starting to analyze it now. The North End Range Project is in the very beginning stages. We continue to log and haul wood out around Electric Lake. Working on getting the RAC committee back running and getting members on it.

- **Utah State Parks and Recreation**

Larry Johansen reported Huntington State Park is still open and still seeing a few campers. Annual passes for day use prices went up at the first of the year.

- **Utah State Department of Agriculture**

Nate reported they have a new Commissioner at the Department of Agriculture. Still taking applications for the Grazing Improvement Program for a few more weeks.

- **Washington Delegation Staff**

Larry reported Congressmen Curtis is working to create a wildfire caucus. There's new information out on the PPE program that's available, if you want information on it talk to Larry. Kelsey reported on the COVID relief. Clay reported the Navajo Water Rights passed. We got full funding for PILT.

6. **Additional Issues From Council Member**

We should do some kind of acknowledgement for Randal's service. Les made a motion to present to the commission that we have a plaque made for Randal for his service on the Public Lands Council. Leon seconded the motion. Approved.

7. **Concerned Citizens with Emery County related issues.**
8. **Adjourn**