

# MINUTES

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 14, 2013

Panguitch, Utah

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Jim Matson, Chair  
Commissioner Mike Dalton  
Commissioner Clare Ramsay  
Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff  
Commissioner Denny Drake

### REPRESENTING

Kane County Commissioner Representative  
Beaver County Commissioner Representative  
Garfield County Commissioner Representative  
Iron County Commissioner Representative  
Washington Co. Commissioner Representative

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bryan Thiriot  
Scott Leavitt  
Carrie Schonlaw  
Diane Lamoreaux  
Norm Evanstad

Five County Association of Governments  
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

#### I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Jim Matson, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

#### II. MINUTES JUNE 12, 2013 REVIEW AND APPROVAL

It was noted that a quorum was present for the conduct of business. Chairman Matson entertained a motion to approve minutes of the June 12, 2013 Executive Committee meeting.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2013 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MIKE DALTON AND CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

#### III. NATURAL RESOURCES COORDINATION AND COOPERATING AGENCY TRAINING COURSE - FOLLOW-UP

Commissioner Jim Matson provided a brief update regarding the natural resources coordination and cooperation training. It was noted that Beaver, Iron and Kane counties have expressed interest in participating. At this time, Garfield and Washington counties have opted out of the training. Participating counties are proposing that the training session be scheduled for sometime in September or October. The training is proposed to provide knowledge and leverage to participate with federal land managers with cooperative agency status. This would provide additional leverage to counties to request that federal agencies not only coordinate but cooperate with local entities. Chairman Matson explained that this is a one-day workshop that would cost approximately \$1,000 per county for the course, cost

of packets and reasonable travel expenses. Commissioners have asked that the date set for the training not be scheduled on Monday. It was noted that the concept was presented at meetings held earlier in the year at Flagstaff, AZ. It was impressive that the mapped area on the National Forest for sage grouse dropped to under 20% with negotiation. Commissioner Leland Pollock explained that Garfield County has been engaged through a cooperative process for over a year dealing with Prairie Dogs. The county has tried to follow all of the rules put forth under a memorandum of understanding, but ultimately the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service threatened to sue Garfield County. The county has adopted strict ordinances in terms of the health, safety and welfare of the citizenry. Commissioner Matson indicated that he would continue to press Garfield County to participate in the training to be offered.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MIKE DALTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF, TO APPROVE EXPENSES FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES TRAINING WITH ARRANGEMENTS TO BE COORDINATED BY FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS STAFF AND COSTS TO BE COVERED IN THE FY 2014 AOG BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED.**

**VI. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) - POST FIRE MITIGATION**

Commissioner Matson introduced Norm Evanstad, NRCS, and asked that he provide information regarding post fire mitigation.

Mr. Evanstad indicated that NRCS is somewhat restricted because of budget constraints. A handout was provided outlining the agency wildfire rehabilitation practice selection guide covering slope protection, runoff control, sediment control, road/trail protection and other protection measures. Various projects have implemented protection measures in all of the five counties in terms of post fire mitigation and downstream flow. NRCS has accomplished a lot of stream bank protection after fires have occurred. A number of projects were recently completed in Garfield County. NRCS administers a program titled "Emergency Watershed Protection". Every county has been involved with fire, flood or other types of disasters through this program. Under this program, NRCS covers 75% of the reconstruction costs and the sponsor (typically counties) provides 25% as cash or in-kind. This is accomplished through a contract agreement that is tied to county procedures and contracting. In-kind types of participation include services, equipment, rock, etc. One issue that engineers are currently examining is the use of materials other than rock for stream bank protection. He also noted that materials such as logs have not proven to work as well as rock. NRCS typically works with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to partner with projects in their jurisdiction. A current project that will be under construction in September includes debris basins in Emery County that are located on BLM land. He also noted that the Forest Service is utilizing a new process in high intensity burn areas to fly in straw bales and drop seed with the bale. He reported that emergency funding is available for disasters. This funding is available through supplemental appropriation from Congress and is not an annual appropriation. NRCS works with counties and cities to determine if identified sites are eligible for this program. Examples of traditional and exigent projects were provided. Mr. Evanstad indicated that he would provide copies of the EWP recovery plan draft to Bryan Thiriot for distribution to each county. He encouraged comments and/or suggestions that would improve this plan.

Mr. Evanstad reported that since 2005 Washington County has received \$60 million in funding for stream protection, and over \$200 million has been distributed in various counties. The program is very streamlined and moves quickly. Business cards were provided to committee members.

**VII. FOREST SERVICE - FUTURE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES WITH THE REGIONAL FORESTER AND FOREST SUPERVISOR**

Commissioner Matson provided follow-up discussion regarding recent meetings with regional forester, Nora Rasure, and noted that Bryan Thiriot will be scheduling a follow-up meeting on January 16, 2014 in Cedar City. Once a location has been confirmed, information will be provided to each county commission. Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff offered to host the meeting in Cedar City at the Visitor Center and/or the Heritage Center from 2-4 p.m. This is something that staff would like to entertain every six months. Future discussion items to include road/trail closures, community capacity and ability to undertake treatment of areas in advance of events.

**IV. OPTIONS COUNSELING PROGRAM UPDATE AND DISCUSSION**

Ms. Carrie Schonlaw reported that the Five County Association of Governments Area Agency on Aging received a request from the Utah State Commission on Aging to implement the options counseling program in the Five County region. The program will allow case managers to work with clients to plan their long-term care options that may be available from state, federal and private resources in the most effective manner. Clients will receive information that will assist in their decision making process as well as to streamline access to resources. No additional staff will be hired, and the program can be incorporated into current programming as part of the normal intake process. Funding in the amount of \$10,000 will be available on an annual basis from the Aging and Disability Resource Center as well as funds for up to a ½ FTE from the Veteran's Administration. A proposal to incorporate options counseling into the Five County Area Agency on Aging's Home and Community Based case management services was provided in the packet. A letter from the Utah Commission on Aging was also included recommending that Five County accept the program under their umbrella. Ongoing funding for the program would be tied directly to the availability of funding. Acceptance of the program would provide an additional funding stream for case management. If continued funding were not available after the initial year, staff would carry forward on a lesser scale utilizing other aging monies.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF TO SUPPORT MOVING FORWARD TO ACCEPT THE OPTIONS COUNSELING PROGRAM BASED ON FUND AVAILABILITY, INCLUDING ANY ONGOING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE SAME FUNDING SOURCE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MIKE DALTON. MOTION CARRIED.**

**V. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM - FY 2014 REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

Ms. Diane Lamoreaux referenced information contained on page 9 of the packet establishing the regional priorities for FY 2014. The Five County AOG Rating and Ranking Criteria for the CDBG program requires that regional priorities are established by the

Executive Director with consultation of the AOG Executive Committee members, Community and Economic Development staff at the Association of Governments have reviewed and discussed the criteria at length to analyze past performance. Staff has determined that no changes are required and is recommending that the regional priorities be established as follows: #1, LMI Housing Activities; #2, Community Facilities; #3, Public Utility Infrastructure; #4, Public Safety Activities, #5, Projects to remove architectural barriers; and #5, Parks and Recreation. Information in the packet also includes the justification for each of the criteria. The complete set of FY 2014 Rating and Ranking Criteria is included in the Steering Committee packet for discussion and Steering Committee approval.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LELAND POLLOCK, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF, TO APPROVE THE FY 2014 CDBG RATING AND RANKING REGIONAL PRIORITIES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.**

**VIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STAFF BUSINESS**

Bryan Thiriot announced that the next AOG staff meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 29, 2013. The Leadership Team will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the regular staff meeting will follow at 10:30 a.m. Executive Committee members are welcome to attend. Commissioner Matson indicated that he would plan on attending the meetings. Bryan also mentioned that he would be attending the St. George Arizona Strip Bureau of Land Management Open House. Discussion ensued regarding the need for an Executive Committee meeting every month and the time necessary to keep pace with the number of items included on the agenda. Commissioner Matson commented on legislation that would alter the county form of government and discussed possible impacts to counties. The push for this particular legislation is coming from Salt Lake, Davis and Weber counties.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.