

MINUTES
Emery County
Public Lands Council
June 1, 2021

PLC: Rod Player, Les Wilberg, Sherrel Ward, Ray Petersen, Ed Geary

PL STAFF: Commissioner Kent Wilson, Commissioner Gil Conover, Commissioner Lynn Sitterud, Jim Jennings, Jan Olsen

Visitors: Larry Johansen, Brian Kurta (State Parks), Carolyn Phippen (Senator Lee), Julie Johansen, Matthew Way (USFS), Mark Stilson (DWRi), Chris Wood (DWR), Kyle Beagley (BLM) Rebecca Anderson (BLM), Susan White (DOGM) Steve (DOGM) Larry Ellertson (Rep Curtis), Steve Fluke (DOGM)

Electronically: Chris Conrad (BLM), Kim McFarlane (PLC), Clay Crozier (Senator Romney) Ben Grimes (PLC), Karl Ivory, Dana Dean (DOGM)

1. **Welcome**

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Les Wilberg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Ed Geary. Motion passed.

3. **Chairman Comments**

North Salt Wash has had beavers making dams, the council has found an alternative route around them. The gate and fence will need to be put back up this fall. At Cane Wash the council moved some rocks and put some trees as a barrier, needing to put up signs as well. These are temporary measures, they will need to be reinforced coming this fall.

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

Skipped over the agenda

5. **Buckmaster 2 OSMRE presentation**

Susan White presentation about the Buckmaster 2 closure this fall. It is a sequel to the OIG Buckmaster closure. This will include 51 hazardous mine openings. The Council will be going to an onsite visit on June 14th @ 9:00 a.m. to meet at the I-70 and Hanksville exit.

Closures are usually kept at a 10-foot span from the brow. They decide when they can get a solid rock to put the pins in to keep the public the safest.

Chris Conrad reports they would like to close it flush and no one could see anything, we negotiated the 10-foot brow, so the public can see as much as possible.

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

- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**
Chris Conrad reports the new land AFM is Kyle Beagly (BLM). Kyle reports Dingle act is still a top priority. RAAC there is a meeting first of October, still need Tribal representation for that council. Jurassic Park visitation is about 200 per week. Big project, SITLA land exchange, Helium wells site, will have a full reclamation, Milsite land exchange, Skyline coal lease is getting EIS working to be approved. City of Emery range allotments. The public is not rounding up their cattle in time. Concerned about the drought and the Mexican Spotted Owls. Grazing permits, inventory. The public is abusing the 14-day limit on camping, report to BLM.

- **Division of Water Rights (DWRi)**
Marc Stilson reports dam safety office is looking at Joe's Valley. Repair of the spillway to earthquake conditions, the spillway is too small and leakage issues and needing other repairs. Hoping to use COVID-19 care act money to upgrade the dam. The fixing of the old pointed version wooden box, the workers left their wooden box and other materials behind, this needs to be cleaned up.

- **Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM)**
Steve Fluke reports they are working on skyline review 26 acres coal lease, transfers for the Murray mine, Deer Creek mine reclamation fix.

- **Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)**
Bison on top of the Tavaputs range, on private and public lands, and they are removing them by Aug 1st. We will be removing as many of them as they can, there are 50-70 Bison.
Hunt will start August - January, Big Game Hunt. Antlerless hunt is opening, The spawning fish operation is going on.
Boat ramps will be inaccessible to the public, due to extreme drought. They have been extended as far as possible.

- **School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA).**
No one in attendance

- **Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF)**
Visitor use is at capacity, campgrounds filling fast. Water is an issue, can not supply for long. The public will need to bring water when camping. Water is on in all the campgrounds.

The pipeline company will be removing the pipeline from Cleveland to Huntington in an 18-mile span. The fences, that were burned in the fire, are expected to be rebuilt this summer.

- **Utah State Parks and Recreation**

Brian Kurta reported that Larry Johansen is now retired. Parks are all at capacity, reservations are full through Aug. Green River campground will be expanding, new park manager, Nathan Martinez. Jim Wells is the manager for Goblin Valley. Expanding campgrounds at Millsite and Huntington.

- **Utah State Department of Agriculture**

No representation

- **Washington Delegation Staff**

House bill and recreational trails bill, can you all please report? HR1864 Clay Crozier from Romney's office reported that they are working on a trails bill and wildfire bill. FIMA for fire issues, how to regulate fires, aircraft, and how to spend and budget for fire levels.

Carolyn Phippen from senator Lee's office reported currently in National Parks state laws being regulated with roads in the parks. Reserved water, when Monuments are designated the control of the water, goes to the Federal Government to determine. A grazing bill has been introduced. Hard getting people to listen, hard to get a vote.

Larry Ellerston reported for congressmen, Curtis is very supportive of trails as well. Support and improvement for wildfires. Working on the bill to protect the Shawnee Wilderness act.

7. Additional Issues From Council Member

None - no water. Reservoirs are water is down, one of the toughest years that some have seen.

8. Concerned citizens with Emery County-related issues.

Rod Player read a statement from Jack Johnson from the last meeting regarding His interest in recreational Rockhounding and 4 wheeling.

9. Adjourn