

AGENDA ITEM # III.

Five County Association of Governments

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MINUTES

FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021

1:30 P.M.

GARFIELD COUNTY COURTHOUSE BUILDING; COMMISSION CHAMBERS
55 S. MAIN STREET; PANGUITCH, UTAH

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON

Commissioner Wade Hollingshead, Chair
Commissioner Jerry Taylor, Vice Chair
Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Commissioner Andy Gant
Commissioner Gil Almquist
Mayor Nolan Davis
Melanie Torgersen
Mayor Todd Robinson
Dale Brinkerhoff
Tyler Fails

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON

David Busk
Bryan Thirirot
Gary Zabriskie
Allison McCoy
Alyssa Gamble

REPRESENTING

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

REPRESENTING

Utah Department of Workforce Services
Five County AOG Executive Director
Five County AOG Deputy Director/CED Director
Five County AOG Chief Financial Officer
Five County AOG Community Planner

I. WELCOME BY CHAIR.

Beaver County Commissioner Wade Hollingshead, as Chair, welcomed everyone to the Steering Committee meeting. He opened the meeting at 1:42 p.m. after having confirmed that a quorum of the Steering Committee was present in person.

II. WELCOME BY CHAIR.

The Chair asked Garfield County Commissioner Jerry Taylor to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. MEETING MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 18, 2021 MEETING – REVIEW AND APPROVE.

Following the reciting of the Pledge, the Chair presented Agenda Item #III. which is considering the approval of the draft minutes from the June 16, 2021 Steering Committee meeting, which took place in Parowan City at the County Courthouse building. The Chair asked if anyone had anything to bring up relative to the minutes, and seeing that there were none, called for a motion to approve.

Commissioner Gil Almquist made a motion to approve the June 16, 2021 Steering Committee meeting minutes, as presented. Commissioner Paul Cozzens seconded the motion.

The Chair called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously with all Committee members in attendance voting in favor.

IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG).

A. 2022 PROGRAM YEAR RATING AND RANKING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL.

Alyssa Gamble, Associate Planner here at the Association of Governments, stated that staff has been in a public process reviewing our policies and procedures and rating and ranking update criteria. She said that the Board members have a draft in their packet, with some notes included about the major changes that were made. She said, in short, that the CDBG policies and procedures and rating and ranking criteria provide applying communities, counties, cities, towns, nonprofit, and special service districts with instruction on what procedures and processes they need to take to apply. She said that the AOG engaged in a 30-day comment period from July 1st to the 31st and held a public hearing on the 27th to review these procedures and criteria. She said we received one comment during the comment period. The comment requested clarification about the validity of income surveys, which is found in the statewide document, so it's not specifically in the five counties section, but it is in the book for their reference, so we were able to address that comment. She said that a summary of our changes for the 2022 policies and procedures includes several clerical changes just addressing some grammar and spelling issues and, in addition, a change from previous requirements is that public hearing notices need to be sent to AOG staff review at the time of posting. She said that this was a state-wide challenge, and are hoping that by having time to review, AOG staff can address any problems early so that folks can re-hold a hearing if it's needed. She said that staff updated some application deadlines to reflect the 2022 deadlines and also increased maximum funding to \$350,000 from \$200,000 for projects that will serve a community-wide area and multi-year projects. She said that means that if you're applying for a two-year project, you are now able to apply for \$350,000 instead of \$200,000. She said we have a couple of pre-approval items including pre-approval for \$98,000 for Five County Association of Governments' administration and planning, and technical assistance planning. She said that is the assistance in administering the program locally and the

planning assistance that the AOG provides to communities in the five-county region. There are a handful of set-asides one for the Cedar City Housing Authority, which was funded on a multi-year project last cycle, so this is their second year of funding, \$90,714 and also considering a Five County Association of governments request for land acquisition for a Cedar City area office of \$350,000. She said we changed some items in the rating and ranking criteria including updating metric, regional community development goals and policies, also the advice of executive director and finance committee, and are providing some changes in the way points are awarded for applicants who provide an affordable housing plan and then demonstrate how that project that they're applying for meets that plan's goals. She said they will receive full points for that criteria's three points. She said the reasoning is we want to prioritize housing planning in the region. Applicants that are maybe are not applying for housing plan credit can receive one and a half points for proactive planning. She said that in the past we awarded points for evidence of a project manager having capacity to carry out the project, but that was a duplication as the state already reviews and awards points for that item. Alyssa asked if there were any questions so she can address any of these changes.

Commissioner Almquist asked about putting something in the requirements to specify that the project must comply with local laws and zoning. It was clarified by Ms. Gamble and Mr. Zabriskie that these projects are either being applied for by the entity itself or by the entity on behalf of a non-profit organization, so the community would not obviously apply for, or sponsor, an activity that violated local ordinances.

Mr. Zabriskie noted to the Chair that approval of the Rating and Ranking criteria required approval by the Steering Committee. The Chair called for a motion.

Mayor Davis made a motion to approve the 2022 CDBG RATING AND RAKING, as presented in the packet. Commissioner Almquist seconded the motion.

The Chair called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously with all Committee members in attendance voting in favor.

B. METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION UPDATE FOR FY 2022.

Ms. Alyssa Gamble, Community Planner at the Association, presented information to the Committee about the method of distribution process, which is how the state of Utah distributes Community Development Block Grant Funds to AOGs. She indicated that at the last meeting the method of distribution is the manner by which the state CDBG program awards funds to the AOGs. AOG staff and the state staff had a meeting last week to discuss a lot of things, but this was in discussion as well. Alyssa said she was able to get an idea of some of what the other AOGs are thinking. Generally, it seems like there is a consensus that the last effort was very complex and difficult, and that there's not an interest in engaging in that kind of a process again. She said there are some AOGs who said they would bring up some suggested changes that they would like to make. At the end of the day, however, we were the only AOG to formally send our recommendation to the state CDBG Policy Board. So there has not been anything that has been formally decided on by the other AOG's committees. Mr. Zabriskie said that we are just going to watch this closely going forward and thanked the Board for the letter that you authorized the Chair to sign that was sent as he said he thinks it made a difference. Mr. Zabriskie also let the members know that Commissioner Cozzens is now our CDBG Policy Committee representative, officially after

almost 11 months. He said that the Steering Committee put forth the nomination in November of last year, but he is now the board member on the CDBG State policy board and he will be the one there representing this region and trying to save our allocation.

C. CDBG “HOW TO APPLY” APPLICATION WORKSHOP INFORMATION.

Ms. Gamble gave the Committee information on the upcoming dates and locations of the CDBG Application workshops. They will be October 20, 2021, in Bryce Canyon City, and October 21, 2021 in St. George. She said that we are at the start of our next CDBG application cycle, and this is a mandatory workshop for anyone wishing to apply for CDBG. She said she will be sending out an email and post cards to all of the commissioners, mayors, and city managers, etc. She said if there are any special service districts, or nonprofits in your area, we have a list and are continuing to put together an updated list but asked that if there was anything specific to an area to make sure they get invited to this meeting. She asked those in attendance to send her an e-mail so she can reach out with information.

V. SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT – RATIFICATION OF HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL ACTION.

Mr. Zabriskie said he would cover this item as he had told Community Action Director Michael Day that he would not have to come clear up here to Panguitch for a 60 second presentation, and he would cover the item as his boss. He said that this needed action as a result from of the previous Human Services Council meeting held on July 14, 2021, which many on this committee serve on as well. He said that this is the fiscal year 2022 sub-awards that were proposed by the Human Services Council to allocate \$62,500. The sheet that is in the packet shows the way that the Human Services Council has voted to allocate. This would be a ratification of their action. Mr. Zabriskie said that in addition to that allocation action, there are some additional funds, which is the direct client support, which is down there, the \$16,377 shown. He said there is also \$37,670.72 that is carry over from last year, that was not allocated, but it is not being allocated at this time. He said that the state has approved that to be available for this fiscal year, but before that \$37,670.72 can be allocated, it will need to go back to the Human Services Council for allocation and then be ratified by this committee at a future meeting. He said we need a motion and approval to ratify the action of the Human Services Council action.

A question was asked as to what the Red Rock Center for Independence was? Mr. Zabriskie said that the Red Rock Center for Independence has been in business for quite a number of years and is a 501(c)3 in Saint George and they provide training for people who either became disabled because of an accident or other issues, and need, as an example, to learn how to operate kitchen appliances with a modified kitchen, or other daily tasks most abled bodied persons take for granted. They have actually a very nice facility. A question was asked about the Neighborhood Housing Services of Provo. Mr. Zabriskie answered that it is also a 501(c)3 that, while based out of Provo, provides services in our region. He said we are not funding or doing anything in Provo, it is providing services here.

The Chair called for a motion to ratify the Human Services Council allocation action from its previous meeting.

Commissioner Almquist made a motion to approve the RATIFICATION OF HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL ACTION on the allocation of SSBG funding sub-awards, from their July 14, 2021 meeting, as presented. Commissioner Gant seconded the motion.

The Chair called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously with all Committee members in attendance voting in favor.

VI. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW & ACTION.

The Chair turned the floor over to Mr. Zabriskie, who presented one A-95 Areawide Clearinghouse Review. Mr. Zabriskie explained that when the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) has a proposed activity, such as a land sale, lease, or other project such as livestock watering improvements on leased Trust lands, the region, in our case the Five County Association of Governments is notified and then we contact the primary affected entities and get their concerns and comments that we then present the projects to the Steering Committee to vote on. They can choose to support, conditionally support, or not support a proposed action by SITLA.

The project that Mr. Zabriskie presented was a planned sale of 40 acres of Trust land in Kane County near the town of Alton and will be done through the regular SITLA auction process. The county was contacted, and they did not have any concerns nor opposition to the sale.

The Chair then entertained a motion.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion that the Steering Committee support SITLA's project as presented. Commissioner Taylor's motion was seconded by Commissioner Cozzens.

The Chair, seeing no discussion requested, called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously with all Committee members in attendance voting in favor.

VII. REVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.

The Chair invited Ms. Nan Anderson, Rural Outreach Manager with GO Utah to describe the agency and what has changed under the new administration of Governor Cox. A PowerPoint was presented that highlighted the main points they came to discuss. She described the incentives that Go Utah has that they provide to large businesses looking at coming to Utah. She also described the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program. She discussed the Main Street Program which was recently brought back through on-going funding from the state legislature. She also discussed other activities such as outdoor recreation. She closed by describing the activities with the Center for Rural Development, The World Trade Center of Utah, the Utah Broadband Center, and various chambers of commerce. She provided contact information and anyone is welcome to reach out to her for more detailed information.

VIII. OVERVIEW OF EDA ARPA PROGRAMS.

The Chair moved on to Agenda Item # VIII. The Chair invited Mr. Nathaniel Martinez, Economic Planner at the Association to present information on this agenda item. Mr. Martinez said that he would try to briefly highlight what is a ton of information, as there is a ton of new programs that just came out. He said it has been like drinking from a fire hose for a little bit, but he is now able to coordinate a little bit of a regional direction moving forward. He presented some PowerPoint slides he adapted from the Economic Development Administration and their representatives from their regional office in Denver.

He said that this is collectively called the Investing in America's Community Program and is coming out of the American Rescue Plan and is huge, A package was passed five or six months ago and is three billion dollars that was allocated to the EDA. He said that is double the amount that they received from the CARES Act, which was the original relief package last year, and they just finished giving out the first billion from the CARES Act. He said the EDA was creative with these programs, splitting it up into six different funding opportunities. He said there are a couple of large umbrella programs that are designed to be administered by an Economic Development District, like the Five County Association of Governments. And there are several other programs that are pointed towards indigenous communities, the tourism sector and another catch-all program that is just an enormous pot of money that can be used as supplemental grant funding for any project. He said there is a ton of information, and no one can remember it all. He said it will be interesting to see when we get it up, the allocation that is specific for Utah, and then we can go into how that may be used.

Mr. Martinez explained that his program is covering resilience and utilizing these funds to really build up from communities. He said there are investment priorities, equity recovery, workforce development programs supporting manufacturing industry, technology-based economic development, sustainable development, also with an emphasis on sustainable energy and renewables, exports, and foreign direct investment as well. He said that there is a lot more information online and they also have the Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) which are about 45 pages of legal jargon but is where everything is spelled out in detail. He hoped his presentation gave a good overview and apologized that it was a ton of information.

The Chair thanked Mr. Martinez for attending and making the presentation.

IX. REPORT ON THE FIVE AND SIX COUNTY CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING ACTIVITY.

The Chair turned the floor over to Commissioner Taylor who said the briefing activity was a huge success. He said that we had some really good people come out from Washington DC, especially staff from the Natural Resource committees. He said that at the end of the day, he believed that they learned a lot and got a better understanding of what it is like to be in rural Utah and the challenges that we face on a day-to-day basis. He said we had a lot of good people and good conversations, and it was a big success. Commissioner Taylor apologized if any individual wasn't invited and took personal responsibility for that and said in the five-county region, we will do better next year. If they allow us to still be on the committee and still work with Six County. It was asked where they took them. He said we started in Salt Lake City and went down to Thistle, and then down through Fairview and stopped in Gunnison and looked at a log home project and what they can do with dead timber. He said we stopped at a place in Axtell that takes care of wild horses. They do an amazing job there. I think it was an eye-opener to the people in attendance who may have thought that all these guys just want to do is to kill the horses. He said they don't, that they are

actually brought in and taken care of. Then they went down through Piute County. He said it was a really good , and they spent time in Bryce Canyon, and at Powell Point. Then they went down to the Alton Coal mine. He said that if you haven't gone to the out to the coal mine, you need to go. Commissioner Taylor complimented Commissioner Gant and Kane County, in what a fantastic job they have done. He said they have increased numbers with the sage grouse because the reclamation that has been fantastic. He said you would never know that there was a coal mine pit that was mined. He said that they paid scholarships for eighteen to come out, and we just had mostly House staff members this time, and just one Senate, because the Senate was still in session, but she was from the Senate natural resource committee. Commissioner Taylor said to put the event next year on your calendars and it is usually the second week of August when this happens. He said that is why our Five County meeting was delayed to this week. There was a discussion on who serves on the organizing committee from our region. Mr. Taylor said there has been Commissioner Paul Cozzens, Commissioner Tammy Pearson, and himself. He said that we need to decide who is going to be on it going forward but we can wait to discuss that another day.

X. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES.

There was no congressional staff in attendance, so this was deferred to the October meeting.

XI. STATE AGENCY UPDATES

There was no state agency staff in attendance, so this was deferred to the October meeting.

XII. UNIVERSITY UPDATES

There were no representatives from either University present, so this was deferred to the October meeting.

XII. LOCAL AFFAIRS DISCUSSION

The Chair turned time over to Shawn Christensen who just started work with World Trade Center Utah the previous Monday. He said he is going to be based in Washington County, and will be covering everything from Millard County down to the southern Utah border for World Trade Center Utah. He said that there is one thing he wanted everyone to remember after he is finished presenting today that you can contact him for anything related to international trade with businesses in your communities. He wants to work on helping companies grow internationally. He said that he doesn't want to confuse that with moving companies offshore with production and manufacturing, and things like that. He said what he is talking about is, for example, where a company in Cedar City has been trying to grow business into Canada and are running into all sorts of issues because it is in another country. We are positioned to help them solve that problem. He says they got a call the other day from Vietnam, and they needed a thousand ventilators. He said we have a company here in Utah that has created a really rugged ventilator that first started with neonatal, but because of covid, they went into adult centered ventilators. He said WTC Utah is making introductions there so that they can start to deliver to Vietnam. He said to reach out to him at any time and he would be happy to help with any issues local businesses that are seeking to expand globally. The Chair thanked Mr. Christensen for his presentation.

XVII. ADJOURN

Commissioner Wade Hollingshead, as Chair, seeing that there was no further business to be conducted, thanked Commissioner Taylor for Garfield County's use of their Commission Chambers and their hospitality and at his discretion, without debate, adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

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