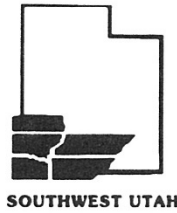


# Five County Association of Governments

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## MINUTES FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022

1:30 P.M.

FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS OFFICE BUILDING; LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
1070 W. 1600 S. BLDG. B, ST. GEORGE, UTAH

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON

Commissioner Wade Hollingshead, Chair  
Commissioner Jerry Taylor, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Paul Cozzens  
Commissioner Andy Gant  
Commissioner Gil Almquist  
Dale Brinkerhoff  
LaRene Cox  
Henrie Walton

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE ONLINE

Tyler Fails  
Mayor Nolan Davis  
Melani Torgersen

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON

Bryan Thiriot  
Gary Zabriskie  
Nathaniel Martinez  
Nate Wiberg  
Myron Lee  
Noella Sudbury  
Nate Moses  
Ann Dial  
David Busk  
Ryan Reader  
Shawn Christensen  
Cindy Bulloch  
Gary Webster  
Adam Snow  
Heath Hansen

### REPRESENTING

Beaver County Commission  
Garfield County Commission  
Iron County Commission  
Kane County Commission  
Washington County Commission  
Iron County School Board  
Washington Co. School Board  
Dixie State University

### REPRESENTING

Beaver County School Board  
Beaver County Mayor's Representative  
Garfield County Mayor's Representative

### REPRESENTING

Five County AOG Executive Director  
Five County AOG Deputy Director  
Five County AOG Econ. Dev. Planner  
Five County AOG Senior Planner  
Dixie MPO Director  
Executive Director, Clean Slate Utah  
Utah Division of Water Rights  
Utah Division of Water Rights  
Utah Department of Workforce Services  
Utah Department of Workforce Services  
World Trade Center Utah  
Congressman Chris Stewart  
Congressman Chris Stewart  
Congressman Chris Stewart  
Senator Mike Lee

BEAVER

GARFIELD

IRON

KANE

WASHINGTON

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE ONLINE**

Henrie Walton  
Stephen Lisonbee  
William Perkins  
Mayor Bill Hoster  
Joe Kalipetsis

**REPRESENTING**

Dixie State University  
Southern Utah University  
Self  
Town of Leeds  
Clean Slate Utah Intern

**AGENDA ITEM I. WELCOME**

Commissioner Hollingshead welcomed everyone to the Five County AOG Steering Committee meeting. He told those assembled and on the video conference that he and the Board appreciate all the visitors joining with them. The Chair commented that doctors say it is really good to get lots of sunshine, because it produces vitamin D, and noted that it was really nice outside, and the golf courses were certainly being used. He joked that they should all hurry and get done with the meeting so they can hit the courses and get a little golf in before dark.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chair then asked commissioner Almquist to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Pledge, Mr. Gary Zabriskie said that he had passed a roll sheet around last time the Committee met, but it did not get signed all the way around. He asked if everybody could state, for the recording and minutes transcription, their name and who they represent. All in attendance at the meeting in-person and online did so.

**AGENDA ITEM III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 20, 2021 MEETING**

The Chair called for approval of the minutes for the previous October 20, 2021 meeting.

**Commissioner Almquist moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cozzens.**

The Chair after asking for any discussion and seeing none, called for a vote.

**The vote of the members in-person and online was unanimous to approve the minutes.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM IV. A-95 AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Mr. Zabriskie presented three Areawide Clearinghouse notifications that were received in time for review. He explained that there were three received that had sufficient time for us to present them to the Steering Committee for discussion and decisions on whether to support or not support. He indicated there was an additional notification that had a specific 30-day response time that was received back in early December. Because the 30 days would pass before this meeting Mr. Zabriskie said he sent that one to the affected County, and that County directly replied with their concerns to SITLA because the project was going to start before this meeting occurred. Mr. Zabriskie briefly described the three projects presented for the Board's action. The first, in Iron County is a livestock water line and corral project; the second one is another livestock project, also in Iron County; and the third one is in Beaver County, and that is a range Improvement project. He said that one also includes a pipeline. He said that they are all related to grazing livestock. Mr. Zabriskie explained that when these notifications are received, he sends them on to the affected county and then he puts any responses and comments from that county on the sheet presented to this Board. The two counties were supportive of the project(s) in their respective counties. He explained that this is an area-wide (regional) clearinghouse review by this board, and that it basically can vote either to support the county's feelings on the proposed SITLA project, or if you have other feelings or want to take a different direction, you are free to do so. Mr. Zabriskie said that, traditionally, this board has supported the concerns of the affected counties. He then stated that these would require a motion and a vote.

**Mr. Tyler Fails moved that the Steering Committee support of all three SITLA projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jerry Taylor.**

The Chair after asking for any discussion and seeing none, called for a vote.

**The vote of the members in-person and online was unanimous to support all three SITLA projects.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM V. CLEAN SLATE UTAH PRESENTATION**

The Chair invited Ms. Noella Sudbury, Executive Director of Clean Slate Utah, to make a presentation. While technical glitches with sharing online the PowerPoint presentation

were being addressed, Ms. Sudbury introduced herself. She said that she is the executive director of a new nonprofit called Clean Slate Utah. She stated that she had an intern, Joe Kalipetsis, with her on the video conference. She said she was excited to talk to the Board about who they are. She said what they are asking for from all in attendance is to help them spread the word about this new program. She said that they are working to raise awareness of these policies, and help people, especially low-income people, clear their records, and then help them have better access to opportunities. Ms. Sudbury gave some background on this issue. She said that Clean Slate is about criminal records. She said that the first thing people do not realize is how common it is to have a criminal record. She informed the Board that there are over 800,000 Utahns living with some type of criminal record, and if someone you know has a record, she said you are not alone. Ms. Sudbury said that having a criminal record makes it difficult for people to do all kinds of things: buy good housing; get a job; go back to school; all kinds of opportunities. She said that the other thing people do not realize is that criminal records are digital and permanent. She said they do not drop off; they do not go away. She said that there is a process to get one's record cleared under Utah law: the legal expungement process. She showed some slides illustrating the process on expungement, including who is eligible to expunge their record under Utah's Expungement Act. She described the rules as being super complicated. She said that the statute says you are not eligible if you have any of certain offenses or a certain period of waiting time must have transpired. She also said there are certain other exclusions. Ms. Sudbury said it is very difficult for people with records to read this statute and figure out if they are even eligible. She said that the process is similarly complicated, is costly, and is time consuming. She said that most people find they need a lawyer or someone with experience with expungement to help them, and most people cannot afford a lawyer because the lawyer may cost two to three thousand dollars. She said that in March 2019 a state law was passed by the Utah Legislature called Clean Slate, and with that passage Utah became the second state in the nation, after Pennsylvania, to have a clean slate law automating the process for individuals. She said that the governor of Utah will be announcing on February 10, 2022, the automatic record clearances. She said that they have identified the people and cases who are eligible for automatic expungement and over 200,000 people across Utah will have something automatically expunged from their record. She said they are asking for help to spread the word and are developing materials to make that very easy to post on agency websites and

to share in newsletters. She said they want to make sure people are aware of the law and what that means.

Ms. Sudbury answered several questions and the Chair then thanked her for her presentation.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI. WORLD TRADE CENTER UTAH PRESENTATION**

The Chair introduced Mr. Shawn Christensen, Director of Business Outreach and Community Engagement with World Trade Center Utah.

Mr. Christensen said that they offer both sponsored services that come free to any Utah business and they also have some paid services. He explained their trade promotion programs and services which are all state-funded services that they can offer to any business. He said that a lot of these services go from everything from doing a quick assessment of the business to see if they are “international ready” to making introductions for our networks to helping them get signed up for their “Step Grant”. He said they have over a million dollars to give back over the next year or so and their focus is to make sure that businesses get the opportunity, and the help they need, if they want to grow their business internationally. Mr. Christensen asked the elected officials to help since they know many of the business owners in their area. He said some of those businesses may have international aspirations and if so the WTCU can help. He told the Board that as those conversations come up, he would really appreciate it if they would mention the WTCU to those businesses. He said they have a Trade Center Utah office located here in Washington. Mr. Christensen said he travels all around southern Utah and covers all the five counties, as well as several others outside this region. He said he is happy to help in any way, shape, or form. He said if they ever get a question of whether a business could use World Trade Center Utah services, to just have them give him a call. He said he would love it if his phone was ringing all day long. Mr. Christensen explained that they also have Global Business Service memberships, which are for businesses that are very serious about going International and are going to need “high-touch” help to make that happen. He said this is everything from helping them to identify what markets to go to, to creating go-to-market plans, to executing on those plans. He said these are “paid-for” services, which,

fortunately, are very affordable for Utah businesses. He said that is because they have a board that has been very generous in donating and being able to offset much of the actual cost of that. He said that businesses can join a 12-month membership for around twelve thousand dollars. He reiterated that they are not there to sell them anything. He said that if it is a fit for their business, and it is what they need, then they absolutely love that it works out great. He said that the Utah businesses who benefit most from what they offer are established businesses that are already selling their products. The WTCU has a program called "Market Fit". It is for businesses that are doing well by selling here in the U.S. and feel that now it is time to grow into international markets. He said that their programs at WTCU are not for startups since the problem is they need to get to market and have their product being sold before they can really consider going international. He stated that in Kane County he has been working with the school district superintendent on a project that started with the superintendent in Beaver County. He said what they are looking at doing is a training program for entrepreneurs, for both students and adults. He said that once a month, they come in and spend a day in a high school, and then spend the evening at like Southwest Tech extension and provide student training as well as adult training. He said he would then come in and train on International. He said that they have somebody like Colette Cox do training on startups. He said in Beaver County he has been working with Robert Pyles. He said they have identified different businesses that he could speak with, and he said he has been talking a little bit with scoped Industries, and we're going to re-engage with them in March 2022. He said that Mr. Pyles has hooked him up with some contacts on the thermal projects that are happening in Beaver County. He said that in Iron County they have been working with StaheliWest. He said that they utilize the WTCU services to identify new markets to grow into. Mr. Christensen said that in Washington County he has been working with Deseret Labs which is looking to grow more in the Middle East, so they were able to find it a grant to help them out, to be able to do some studies on Saudi Arabia and the UAE. He has also been working with RAM Company and assisted in getting them on the phone with contacts in Italy to talk with them about a proposal. He said in Garfield County they have not had a whole lot of interaction, so he is going to double down on his efforts in the county. Mr. Christensen gave out his contact information. The Chair thanked Mr. Christensen for his presentation.

## **AGENDA ITEM VII. INVESTMENT IN RURAL UTAH PRESENTATION**

The Chair turned the floor over to Mr. Nathaniel Martinez, Economic Development Planner at the Association. Mr. Martinez presented a PowerPoint that was adapted from a presentation from Utah Association of Counties on opportunity zones. The slides were adapted from a study that was put out earlier last year, but he thought it would be helpful for this Board to see. He provided a brief overview of what opportunities zones are, and what the study recommends that rural counties can do with the tools that they already have in existence, and how to utilize opportunity funds looking forward to the new year. He said that opportunity zones were created out of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act with the goal of driving private investment to distressed communities. He said those are communities that have historically low home values and elevated instances of poverty and unemployment. He said there are over 8,700 census tracts designated across the nation with 44 in the state of Utah, with five of these opportunity zones within the Five County Economic Development District. He mentioned that Kane County does not currently have an opportunity zone designated. He said that the whole point of opportunity zones is to have a private investor go into these areas with types of alternative Investments. He said that they must have recent capital gains, because the whole concept is that they can defer, or eventually eliminate, their capital gains tax obligation over the course of 10 years. He said in the first five years, they would see a 10% reduction after investing in a qualified opportunity upon which is the investment. And over the course of 10 years, they could eventually see the complete removal of that obligation. He said that qualified opportunity fund Investments typically involve real estate, whether it be residential, industrial, or commercial. He says we are seeing much private investment and economic development in these areas, especially in the industrial commercial sector, warehousing storage and distribution, as well as in retail such as developing grocery stores. He said that typically, those are where we are going to see our higher income and oftentimes high school jobs. He said that there are very few things that are excluded from these types of investments; the one notable exclusion are the “sin” industries, i.e., gaming and liquor stores and other things along those lines. He brought up another use of capital in those areas and that is investing in workforce and basic infrastructure. He said this can include investing in traditional infrastructure, be it at the city, municipality, and county level. He said that is talking about roads, sewer systems, basic power generation of power and its transmission, as well as moving into social infrastructure,

thinking about how this new project would affect the community, how many jobs is going to need, and how you're going to fill those jobs? He said an important question is whether there is adequate human resources and education level training level up to par with the type of jobs these projects would bring in? He said officials can develop and strengthen workforce systems while partnering with the educational institutions in the area. Mr. Zabriskie asked Commissioner Gant if this is how the East Zion area project is being funded. Commissioner Gant said that it is a Tax Increment Financing model and that it is working out great. Mr. Martinez said that at the state level, all these are run by the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. He said what was not on his presentation slides was the Rural County Grant program the Board members may be familiar with .

#### **AGENDA ITEM VIII. REGIONAL WATER DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

The Chair invited Mr. Nathan Moses, Regional Engineer – Utah Division of Water Rights Southwestern Regional Office to make a presentation and take questions. Mr. Moses said he was a graduate from Utah State University in 2004 in civil and environmental engineering, with an emphasis on water.

He explained that we just simply do not have enough water to meet the needs that we have. A comment was made that when people from back east come out and say, we have the Mississippi and that is a river, and we show them a river here in this region, and they say, no, that's not a river. That is a creek. He said it is all a matter of experiences and perspective.

Mr. Moses said they are working on groundwater management plans because our aquifers are exceeding their say yield each year. He said that we have too many water rights on the books and so they have a priority system. Those that were there first will get to continue to use the water, and we must come in and manage the water rights so that we do not damage our aquifers. He said we already had extensive evidence of damage causing subsidence and fissures throughout certain valleys. He also mentioned that the wells must go deeper and deeper to get that water, so pumping costs are increasing. He said that is not something that can be sustained forever. Because of that they had a statutory mandate to come in and



do these ground water management plans. He emphasized that even with ground water rights, priority does play into the system, and at some point, also surface waters.

He discussed the Division of Water Rights, and the State Engineer's Office that was created in 1903. He said that ever since that time, the law says, if you don't use it, you forfeit that right. He said it was a five-year period, but in 2008 they changed it to a seven-year period, so if you do not use your water right for a seven-year period, and do not protect it through a non-use application process, then your water right is subject to forfeiture. Mr. Moses said in that case, if your neighbor takes you to court, the court can declare it terminated. He said that the state engineer does not have the authority to terminate water rights.

He said that the state engineer has a deputy state engineer, and they have engineer managers at regional offices. Mr. Moses said he manages a regional office. He said in Utah there are seven of those and they basically follow hydrologic basins.

#### **AGENDA ITEM IX. STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR ROTATION/BOARD COMPOSITION**

The Chair turned the time over to Bryan Thiriot, Five County AOG Executive Director, who explained that the rotation of the Chair of the Steering Committee takes place at the February meeting, so that any new elected officials from our school boards, mayors, county commission can get going in this January meeting and then in February we do that rotation. He explained that by our bylaws the chair goes to the next county in a clockwise rotation, thus the Chair will be from the Garfield County Commission. The Vice-Chair goes to the County clockwise ahead of the Chair, so the Vice-Chair will be from Kane County.

#### **AGENDA ITEM X. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES**

The Chair turned the time over to the congressional representatives to give staff updates. Mr. Adam Snow, who has represented Congressman Stewart, introduced the new regional congressional representatives for Congressman Chris Stewart, LaRene Cox, who will be covering Washington County and Sandy Bulloch will be covering the other four counties. He assured the Board that they will be in good hands as far as a federal update each meeting. He said that they are working on several issues at this time, including grazing meetings they

had that week, as well as numerous things on the forests and the Lake Powell Pipeline. Mr. Snow turned the floor over to Mr. Heath Hansen representing Senator Mike Lee.

Mr. Hansen said as far as covid was concerned, the situation the number one area that we dealt with constituents was passports during covid. He said that everybody let their passport expire, and all of a sudden they have a trip planned to go to Mexico and realized they did not have current passports. He said they got calls from the governor's office who had people wanting insider "quick-help" to get people to where they needed to go, which was a challenge. Mr. Hansen said that some of the things that Senator Lee is most concerned about is the Democrats in the Senate are threatening to end the filibuster in the Senate. He said that the filibuster is a rule that was established decades ago that basically requires any bill that goes through the Senate get a 60 vote super-majority. He said that right now there is a 50-50 split in the Senate and with the Democrats having Vice President Kamala Harris able to cast a tie-breaking vote. That is a major concern for the Senator. The concern of Senator Lee is the Democrats are threatening to scrap the filibuster so they can push through what they are calling a "Voting Rights" bill. Senator Lee refers to it as the "Ensure Democrats Retain a Majority in Perpetuity" Bill. Mr. Hansen said that their bill would essentially take a lot of authority away from the states to enact security measures on elections and would impose a one-size-fits-all election system throughout the United States. He said those are the most concerning things to Senator Lee right now. Mr. Hansen continued his update by saying that Senator Lee is paying close attention to several things going on at the Department of the Interior. He said that there is a public comment period for what is called the "30 by 30 Initiative", wherein the Biden administration wants to conserve 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by the year 2030. Mr. Hansen said that, obviously, being a public lands state, Utah could suffer some pretty severe consequences from that proposed action, depending on how they want to roll it out. He said that to this point, the administration has given the public very little to work with regards to what this 30 by 30 might look like. He said while there has been a lot of theorizing about what it might look like, the administration has not come out and told anything. Mr. Hansen said that the Biden administration is going to try and undo the Trump administration's re-write of the Waters of the U.S. Rule. He said they are looking to write their own. He said that the administration has also initiated proceedings on the sage grouse management plans,

which the Trump administration attempted to overturn. Mr. Hansen said that is an issue that Senator Lee will be dealing with, along with the Biden administration's plan to start rulemaking to increase royalty rates for oil and gas leases on federal lands. He concluded by telling those in attendance that there is going to be a lot of opportunities for public comment on a lot of policies that are going to have some big impacts for Utah.

Commissioner Cozzens brought up an important issue which he had recently spoken with Mr. Hansen about, which is that the Forest Service is proposing to impose an annual charge for all communications sites including commercial, public safety and other radio users such as Amateur Radio repeater sites. Commissioner Cozzens will be working with Mr. Hansen on this issue as it moves forward.

The Chair then turned the floor over to the new representatives for Congressman Stewart.

LaRene Cox told those in attendance that she will continue to represent the Washington County School Board on the Five County Steering Committee, and will also be the Washington County field representative for Congressman Stewart. Cindy Bulloch introduced herself. She said she was formerly the Iron County Assessor. She said she was raised in this area, did a 20-year western tour, and has lived in California, Wyoming, and Salt Lake, and then has been back for twenty-something years. She acknowledged that she worked with most of those in the meeting through her association with her previous position at Iron County. She said that she is excited to be back working in public service because it is like a sickness: once it gets in your blood you want to be back helping people. She said she will be touching base with many of those in attendance at this meeting and will be coming to your commission meetings or your city council meetings and introducing herself and to see if there is anything she can do to help.

#### **AGENDA ITEM XI. STATE AGENCY UPDATES**

The Chair recognized David Busk, with Workforce Services. Mr. Busk gave a quick update on the employment situation in the five-county area. He said we have got a 1.9% unemployment rate in Washington County; Iron County is also 1.9%, and the other two counties are also right around 2%. He said that the exception was with Garfield County,

which is at 5%. Mr. Busk said that with unemployment claims, they have got about 1,500 people on unemployment in Washington County; and in Iron County it is just over 100 unemployment claimants. He said that there is a five percent year-over-year change in the job growth rate. He said that most economists will say that you want to keep that around 3.5%, which is the sweet spot. He said that we are growing and adding jobs and most people are working. He said that this means that employers are having to have conversations about how they can get things done with the resources that they have. He said that if you talk to manufacturers, they talk about streamlining their operations and combining shifts to keep production lines running effectively, and that they are just changing the way they do business overall. He said that this is just kind of the flavor of what is going on with labor market. Mr. Busk said that they continue to call on our unemployment insurance claimants to offer our employment services and try to get them reconnected to the workforce. He said that another thing that they need to look at is how they can we entice people off of the sidelines and get them back into the labor market so we can sustain this growth that we have. He said that it is a complicated situation. He told the Steering Committee that he appreciated the opportunity to present and give them a sense of where they are at with the labor market and employment situation.

The chair asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Busk and seeing that there were none moved to the next agenda item with university updates, asking Mr. Stephen Lisonbee to go first since he was participating via GoToMeeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM XII. UNIVERSITY UPDATES**

Stephen Lisonbee said he would share some state some state level items first. He said that the State's proposed 2023 budget is now out and suggested that the board members take a look at it, if they have not already done so. He said that the proposed state budget is intensely supportive of rural Utah, with about half a billion dollars' worth of items that support water, agriculture infrastructure, and energy items. He said he thinks it is important for us to see that the budget proposes funds going to career mechanisms that are already set up to support efforts, and so that is a huge win for us. He said that the other aspect is there is a lot of money for planning, and he thinks this group particularly has been motivated by that. He said in the budget there is funding to actually pay for an additional

planning position at the AOG, as well as much money for the “training the trainer” build out. He said that there is also state funding leveraging funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to help build out the statewide and regional collective effort on planning.

Mr. Lisonbee said additionally, at the state level, at the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, they have had a lot of rural economic development programs over the years. He said that they had up to 10 at one point two years ago and was very confusing for people to understand a lot of workloads to try to manage. He said that the Rural Economic Growth Committee, which was legislatively created last session, worked together during the interim and came up with a proposal that is really brilliant. He said it really ends up with a kind of funding program directly used by municipalities, and then on the other side, one program for industry. He said on the industry side what was created in last year's session is called REDTIF (Rural Economic Development Tax Increment Financing). He said that it has begun to work. He said that the idea with REDTIF is that it is one thing to incentivize infrastructure growth for industry in the Wasatch Front areas, but they wanted to incentivize at a higher level in rural areas. He said that where they historically received up to 20% tax reimbursement, post-performance, in urban areas, they have allowed up to 50% in rural areas, and it is a game changer, and it has pretty much flipped the script on investment. He said it has been almost 900 million dollars since the program has been deployed and invested into. He said most of these are long-term projects of 20 years. He said it was specifically designed for our smaller communities and says that they even carved out in counties of third class that communities of less than 15,000 population could be eligible, so there is a number even in Washington County that are eligible. He said that he just heard of one company applying for this yesterday. He said to think about this, that if you invested a million dollars into infrastructure, or even five hundred thousand dollars into infrastructure for your company, whatever increases in taxes you generate across those three large taxes to the state, whatever your increase, you can -in essence- not have to pay 50 percent of that until 50 percent of your investment has been recouped. He said that they are going to do more to market it and train everybody about it so that they have access to it.

Mr. Lisonbee went on to discuss what was happening on the Southern Utah University side of things. He said that great things are happening. He talked about one that is directly working with the AOG and our other education partners in the region: the EDA "Good Jobs Grant". He said as a region we have come together and are thrilled to be able to focus on four sectors: tech; outdoor rec/tourism; healthcare and e-commerce. He said that for these four sectors they are putting a plan together that does not create jobs, but rather places people into jobs. He said that David Busk's team at DWS has been really involved. He said that the idea is that they work directly with the industry and the industry tells what jobs they need, and the program will identify the gap training they need. He said some of these are very short term, with some of these just needing a week-long training. He said others might need a month-long training that will find the right people getting the training. He said that this has been a great partnership with Dixie State University and others. Mr. Lisonbee said that the other aspect of the grant is at a national level which is to double the capacity of helicopter flight training and maintenance. He said they currently train about 15% of the helicopter pilots in the country and are increasing the number of trained helicopter maintenance mechanics. Mr. Lisonbee said that he is wearing a shirt with a logo for a group called Iron Leaders Academy. He said that it is one of three academies in the Leadership Institute they have created in the University. It is crafted to be quite similar to the Leadership Dixie program in Washington County. He said that Leadership Dixie is such a powerful program, and, in fact, it is very rare to find someone in a leadership position in Washington County that has not been a part of that program. He said the idea was to create something similar in Iron County. He said that Commissioner Cozzens is very supportive of this. He said that they need a program that they can deploy some smaller versions to other rural communities so that they can increase "creating change agents" and "champions" in their own community. The intent is so that they can have other people join them, so that the workload of running these communities is lessened for individuals. He said this process of developing this program is going well.

The Chair thanked Mr. Lisonbee for his updates and turned the time over to Mr. Henrie Walton for an update from Dixie State University.

Mr. Walton explained that he has bounced around a little bit in the last few months but just wanted to reintroduce himself as he is back at Dixie State University. He said that there are a lot of exciting things going on campus, particularly their polytechnic academic focus. He said that this is a kind of a scary word for some folks. He said that some folks do not understand what that word means. He said, effectively, what that means is that they are focused on active and applied learning opportunities that are career focused, primarily in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. He said Now we're still going to offer all kinds of degrees, but we are going to go deep in STEM. He said that is what polytech means. That is where the jobs are, and that is what they are excited about, and they are excited to move forward. He said that there is a lot of exciting things going on the campus and was happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Thiriot asked who would be covering Senator Romney's office here in this area and Mr. Walton said he is not sure yet. Mr. Brinkerhoff asked where he had been and Mr. Walton said that he went to work for Senator Romney for about five weeks, Mr. Walton and his wife together decided that, although the job was great, they didn't want to make the move to Salt Lake City right now, so they are going to stay in St. George.

#### **AGENDA ITEM XIII. LOCAL AFFAIRS DISCUSSION**

The Chair asked if there were any other items of local affairs that anyone wanted to discuss. Seeing that there were none, he moved on to the final agenda item.

#### **AGENDA ITEM XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing that there was no further business to discuss or act upon, the Chair, using his non-debatable prerogative, adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.