

MINUTES

FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, June 10, 2020

1:30 P.M.

IN PERSON, ATTEND AT:

BEAVER CITY OFFICES LOCATED AT 30 W. 300 N., CONFERENCE ROOM #3 BEAVER, UTAH

ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL:

DIAL TOLL FREE: **1-800-444-2801**

NOTE: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND THE PUBLIC WERE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE VIA PHONE.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Dale Brinkerhoff
Commissioner Mike Dalton
Carolyn White
Mayor Nolan Davis
Commissioner Jerry Taylor
Frank Houston
Commissioner LaMont Smith
Mayor Robert Houston
Commissioner Gil Almquist
Mayor John Bramall
Mayor Melanie Torgerson
Mayor Todd Robinson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Heath Hansen
Kelsey Berg
Adam Snow
Celeste Maloy
Henrie Walton
Patrick Mullen
Stuart Clauson
Ginger Chinn
Karina Brown
Garrick Hall
Scott Stubbs
Danny Stewart
Bryan Thiriot
Nathan Wiberg
Gary Zabriskie
Allison McCoy
Courtney Sinagra

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

LaRene Cox
Ada Nielson

REPRESENTING

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

REPRESENTING

Senator Mike Lee
Senator Mitt Romney
Congressman Chris Stewart
Congressman Chris Stewart
Dixie State University
Utah Association of Counties
Utah Association of Counties
Utah Inland Port
Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate
Farm Bureau
Member of the Public
Iron County Economic Development
Five County A.O.G. Staff
Five County A.O.G. Staff
Five County A.O.G. Staff
Five County A.O.G. Staff
Five County A.O.G. Staff

REPRESENTING

Washington County School Board Representative
Kane County School Board Representative

I. WELCOME BY COMMISSIONER PAUL COZZENS, CHAIR

Chairman Paul Cozzens opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL VOTE TO DETERMINE IF A QUORUM IS PRESENT

A roll call vote determined that a quorum was present. Commissioner Almquist led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF APRIL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the April 15th Steering Committee Minutes. Commissioner Taylor seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. FY 2020 FINAL BUDGET REVISIONS PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARING (Allison McCoy, *Chief Financial Officer, FCAOG*)

Commissioner Cozzens called the public hearing open and invited FCAOG CEO Allison McCoy to present the final budget revisions for Fiscal Year 2020.

FCAOG's expenditures increased by \$311,335. A breakdown of each program's finances was provided to the committee. Administration spent approximately \$12,000 more than what was budgeted. This increase is due to an increase in personnel. Travel budgets were reduced significantly due to COVID-19. Carolyn White asked if the revisions were recommended to be made by the FCAOG Finance Committee. Allison confirmed that the recommendation to approve was made unanimously by the Finance Committee.

VI. APPROVAL OF FY2021 BUDGET (Budget year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021)

Seeing no further questions or comments, Commissioner Cozzens declared the public hearing closed and called for a motion. This was a slight departure from the agenda, moving ahead to agenda item VI.

Commissioner Dalton moved to approve the FY 2020 Budget Revisions, Carolyn White seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.

V. FY 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARING (Allison McCoy, *Chief Financial Officer, FCAOG*)

Allison stated this was the most exciting budget year she had been a part of since beginning her employment with the FCAOG six years ago. FCAOG received approximately \$1 million and a half dollars in extra funding because of COVID-19. The budget went from \$9,257,000 to 10,385,000. The funding is one-time funding. Additionally, FCAOG received additional money in the emergency services grant. Because of extra-money, Allison budgeted \$30,000 to update the accounting systems which are on an old database. EDA and CDBG grant will contribute funds to updated it also. The total cost will be about \$50,000. The cost will be offset by the increase in indirect cost allocation. Allison offered to answer any questions from the board.

Carolyn White asked about CSBG funding. Allison explained that she was moving grant funding from the old fiscal year to the new fiscal year. CSBG funding runs on a different cycle than the FCAOG fiscal year. Another big increase was in Community and Economic Development. This department received a significant amount of money from the Economic Development Administration and the Community

Development Block Grant program. This moved their budget from about \$300,000 to over \$1 million dollars.

Dale Brinkerhoff asked if the budget including funds for Cost of Living Adjustments and Pay for Performance increases. Allison replied that Cost of Living was not budgeted for, but there was money being set aside for Pay for Performance. Dale noted that employees are supposed to be performing when they are hired. Allison noted that there is a 5% increase in health insurance premium costs.

VII. APPROVAL OF FY 2021 FINAL BUDGET REVISIONS (Budget year ending June 30, 2020)

Commissioner Cozzens opened the public hearing and asked for comment. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing and called for a vote.

Carolyn White made a motion to approve. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VIII. DISCUSSION OF SECOND ROUND SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-COVID (CDBG-CV) GRANT (Nate Wiberg, Associate Planner, FCAOG)

Nate reported that the FCAOG is preparing to receive its second round of funding from the CARES Act. The Southwest Utah region is going to receive approximately \$825,971 dollars. This money is different than the last round. HUD has two main pots of funding: one is the entitlement program which is for cities with more than 50,000 people. The second is the State Small Cities program. In the first round of funding, entitlement cities received their own funding. In the second round, they have not. Nate specified St. George City as an entitlement city that will now need to be considered in the FCAOG CARES funding.

This funding must follow the same national rules as regular CDBG funding. Nate asked the Steering Committee how they would like to allocate funding and what projects to use the funding on. The Steering Committee discussed various allocation possibilities. Gil asked what other possibilities there were besides simply dividing the money evenly between the counties. Nate explained that some areas are giving the money directly to businesses. He reminded the committee that last time they divided the money evenly and each county got \$86,000. Nate was asked if FCAOG would administer the funds and have applicants work through them. He said yes, FCAOG would administer the funds in accordance with state guidelines.

It was discussed how much whether to give more money to Washington County than last time because of the inclusion of St. George. Commissioner Mike Dalton remarked that since the counties split the money evenly, that this division be population based. Mayor Bramall shared that Washington County and Hurricane City are eligible for a significant amount of funding on their own, and he would rather give the rural counties more opportunity and access to the CARES Act funding coming through FCAOG. Commissioner Gil Almquist agreed.

The consensus was that the money would again be split evenly between the five counties.

Further discussion was had on how exactly to spend the funds. It was noted that Garfield County used some of the funds from the first funding round for a new Meals on Wheels truck. The consensus was that this funding would be used for business assistance.

IX. SECOND PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- COVID (CDBG-CV) GRANT (Nate Wiberg, Associate Planner, FCAOG)

Commissioner Cozzens opened the public hearing.

Nate Wiberg presented the required information on this program. Nate stated:

“This hearing was called to allow all citizens to provide input concerning the project that was awarded under the 2019 CDBG-CV program authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, relief, and economic Security Act known as the CARES Act. These special CDBG-CV funds will be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. The State has amended its Consolidated Plan and Five County Association of Governments has decided to apply for CDBG-CV round 1 funding for business assistance in Beaver County, business assistance in Garfield County, a Meals-on-Wheels truck in Garfield County, business assistance in Iron County, business assistance in Kane County, an ultraviolet light sanitation system in Kane County, and business assistance in Washington County. Five County AOG will receive a portion of the funding to administer the program and the remaining balance will be split evenly between the five counties in the region (\$87,762). For round two, we will be splitting the \$825,971 dollars to be used for business assistance in all five counties. This money will be split evenly.”

Commissioner Cozzens asked for public comment. Hearing none he closed the public hearing. Commissioner Cozzens asked Nate to email each county the information on the applications so it can be shared with their respective Chambers of Commerce.

X. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW & ACTION (RECOMMENDATION) (Gary Zabriskie, CED Director, FCAOG)

A notification was received from the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) regarding a fuel loads reduction project in Hamblin Valley in Western Iron County. Gary notified Iron County and received a letter from the Iron County Commission expressing its support for the project. Gary shared that the recommendation from the FCAOG staff support the project.

Commissioner LaMont Smith moved to support. Mayor John Bramall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner LaMont Smith shared his dismay of SITLA’s recent action in Kane County. Gary recommended the Steering Committee write a letter inviting SITLA’s upper echelon to come to Southern Utah and have a meeting with them regarding this project.

Commissioner Gil Almquist shared his concern that this sets a bad precedent. Carolyn White reminded the group that SITLA’s purpose is to make as much money as possible for the educational trust. LaMont Smith countered with additional information that SITLA’s purpose is two-fold: to sell land, but also generate economic revenue. He feels their actions on this issue denied Kane County economic opportunities.

The group would like to have SITLA represented at the August Steering Committee meeting to be held in Garfield County.

IX. CIB APPLICATIONS REVIEW BY STEERING COMMITTEE (Gary Zabriskie, *CED Director, FCAOG*)

Copies of the Community Impact Board (CIB) applications were sent to Steering Committee members in their agenda packets. Gary Zabriskie briefly described the projects:

Cedar City is seeking \$6.2 million dollars for an expansion to their recreation center, they are putting in \$280,000. Total project cost is \$6,480,000.

East Zion Special Service District is planning to buy a building in the area and retrofitting it into a fire station. They are seeking \$232,000 from CIB and receiving a donation of \$100,000 for the project.

The Town of Hatch is seeking to do a drainage study. They asked CIB for \$25,000 and are prepared to offer a \$25,000 dollar match.

The Town of Hatch is also seeking funds for a road improvement project. They are seeking \$90,000 from CIB to buy the materials, putting \$10,000 cash into it. Garfield County is providing the equipment and manpower to chip-seal the road. Total cost is \$125,000.

Ivins City is requesting CIB funds for a new city hall. They are requesting \$3.5 million dollars. They have \$1,074,000 dollars in cash for the project. The new city hall will have appropriate Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations and will be large enough to accommodate their rapidly growing town. The old city hall will become the Santa Clara-Ivins Police Department offices.

The Local Building Authority of Beaver Fire District #1 is to purchase a new brush/structure fire truck. They have \$77,998 in cash and are asking for \$396,998 from CIB.

The Local Building Authority of Beaver Fire District #1 is requesting funds for a new ambulance. They have \$20,000 in cash and are requesting \$265,242 from CIB.

Commissioner Cozzens and Dale Brinkerhoff expressed their opposition to Cedar City's project with Commissioner Cozzens expressing his feeling that it is irresponsible for Cedar City to spend \$6 million dollars on a gymnasium.

Commissioner Cozzens moved to oppose Cedar City's application. Dale Brinkerhoff seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Frank Houston did not vote due to connectivity issues. Frank had called into the meeting.

Mayor Nolan Davis moved to support the rest of the projects on the CIB list. Mayor John Bramall seconded the motion. The motion passed.

FCAOG Executive Director Bryan Thiriot notified the Chairman that Patrick Mullen of the Utah Association of Counties was on the phone and needed to leave soon for another meeting. Bryan asked the Chair to consider moving to agenda item XIII.

XIII. SATELITE INLAND PORT PROCESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (Stuart Clauson/Patrick Mullen, *Utah Association of Counties*)

Ginger Chinn, Managing Director of Business Development at the Utah Inland Port Authority, joined Stuart and Patrick to discuss satellite inland ports in rural Utah. Much of the information and opportunities with this project are going to be run through the AOG levels. The importance of working these opportunities through the entire Southwest Utah region was discussed.

Mayor John Bramall made a motion to support the Satellite Inland Port Process. Commissioner Mike Dalton seconded. The motion passed without dissent.

The Chairman then returned to agenda item XII.

XII. PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING S-3422. THE GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT (*Commissioner Paul Cozzens, Chair*)

Scott Stubbs expressed concern that The Great American Outdoors Act authorizes the federal government to buy property and make it more public land than they already have. He feels the federal government does not need anymore public land. He shared his experience with a piece of private land next to his forest allotment. The family grazed it until the forest service bought the land and refused to allow it to be grazed. After several years and a lot of pressure, the forest service is now allowing it to be grazed but no additional AUMs were authorized leading to a loss of tax revenue.

Heath Hansen explained that this bill is currently being debated on the floor of the United States Senate and makes changes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Right now, \$900 million dollars are available to be spent from the LWCF each year, but it can be appropriated by Congress. Meaning, Congress does not have to spend it all and has flexibility in how to spend it. The bill would allow the \$900 million dollars to be spent each year by the federal agencies rather than Congress.

Heath shared that Senator Lee has been adamantly opposed to the LWCF and this new bill. He forced them to delay a vote and he is trying to form a coalition to at least force leadership to allow votes on amendments for the bill. Heath said the sad truth was that the bill was going to pass. Commissioner Taylor expressed that the federal government should have to pay fair property taxes, not Payment in Lieu of Taxes. He said he feels Payment in Lieu of Taxes should mean the same amount, not pittance. He stated his feelings the federal government should live by the laws they write.

Mayor John Bramall expressed his disdain that the federal government takes the taxpayer's money and outbids other entities in land purchases. They then prevent the land from being developed and revenue from being generated. Kelsey Berg mentioned that this bill was being done to help Cory Gardner from Colorado in his re-election battle to the U.S. Senate. She stated that Mitt Romney is opposed to this bill also. Kelsey said that one good thing about the bill is it allocates funding to National Park maintenance backlog, but it does not address the fundamental problems that put the park service in that position in the first place.

Chairman Cozzens asked Scott Stubbs what action he would like to see the FCAOG Steering Committee take. Mr. Stubbs said he simply wanted to make the organizations aware of the issue. He asked the elected officials to do more during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and to help preserve and increase AUMs. Garrick Hall expressed concern that this land is going to be taken out of grazing and that is what he and the Farm Bureau want to fight against.

Commissioner Cozzens asked Scott and Garrick to prepare a letter to the Steering Committee specifying ways FCAOG and the elected officials involved could help.

B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GRAZING ON THE PAVANT (*Scott Stubbs, Farmer/Rancher*)

The previous discussion led into this topic. The point is that grazing is being threatened even further. Commissioners have the right to have correlation meetings with state and federal agencies regarding grazing. Scott stated that people would come to the meetings if they knew about them. He suggested a grazing board be formed. Scott and Garrick will put together a letter for the Steering Committee to consider next morning.

Mayor John Bramall made a motion that the Steering Committee inform the Congressional Delegation that they are adamantly opposed to S-3422. Commissioner Almquist seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the bill was going to pass within a day of the meeting. Therefore, the motion did not include writing a letter. It is simply to go on record as opposed to S-3422.

Technical difficulties occurred with the Steering Committee members on the phone and they were unable to vote on the motion.

XIV. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Heath Hansen was in attendance representing Senator Mike Lee. He said he had already shared the information he needed to regarding the Great American Outdoors Act and reiterated Senator Lee's opposition to it. He updated the group on the uranium mining issues on the Arizona Strip. The President's Nuclear Fuel Working Group released their report; Senator Lee had been pushing them to include a rescission of the mining ban on the Arizona Strip. Unfortunately, that was not included in the report. They did include some general language supporting further mineral development. Heath feels we need to be working toward getting the Arizona delegation to support a rescission since the land being discussed lies within their state boundaries. He encourages that to be the focus.

Commissioner Smith noted that Rep. Paul Gosar has been supportive.

Heath continued to share updates from Senator Lee's office. The delegation has been working with the National Parks in Utah to get them to re-open amid the pandemic. Specifically, they have been working to re-open the shuttle system at Zion. The Coronavirus Food Assistance program, set up by the United States Department of Agriculture, has been launched. People can apply through the end of August.

Kelsey Berg, Deputy Chief of Staff for Senator Mitt Romney, reported. In-person Wave permits are available once again. Kane County did a great job working with the BLM to get that. She mentioned the CARES Act and that the next round of funding would focus on revenue loss for governments. Mayor John Bramall asked Kelsey to ensure money paid to individuals from the CARES Act is not counted as income for tax purposes.

Kelsey mentioned Hamlin Valley has an upcoming Watershed Restoration Initiative project. She mentioned that there is a large push for additional funding for the Wild Horse and Burro issue.

Adam Snow and Celeste Maloy updated the Steering Committee regarding Congressman Chris Stewart's efforts to re-open Zion National Park and its shuttle system. Adam said he has been fielding phone calls from business owners who are really struggling. Commissioner David Tebbs of Garfield County works as the Chief Financial Officer of Ruby's Inn just outside of Bryce Canyon. He reported to Adam that there have been some nights of zero occupancy at his hotel.

Commissioner Cozzens asked if the Steering Committee is interested in shifting some of the CARES Act money toward tourism promotion. Nate said he would investigate the CDBG rules for that. He is concerned that Ruby's Inn will not qualify as a small business. Commissioner Taylor expressed frustration with Bryce Canyon National Park's process with re-opening. Adam mentioned that Bryce Canyon was the second National Park in the nation to re-open, so the leadership in Garfield County did a good job pushing them. Commissioner Taylor stated that Capitol Reef was the first park to re-open, but it should have been Bryce.

Commissioner Smith brought up Lake Powell and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. He said the Commission was okay with them shutting down but admonished them to prepare to re-open at a moment's notice.

Adam mentioned timber harvesting on Cedar Mountain. Forest Service leaders do not want to manage fires with large crews because of the virus. Their strategy is full suppression nationwide. They are working with Capitol Reef on sheep grazing. Congressman Stewart is very concerned about China. He said it is easy to get distracted by civil unrest, but we need to remember that the U.S. has a lot of enemies. We need to stay focused on those threats.

Celeste Maloy shared further information on Rep. Stewart's efforts. The three-digit suicide hotline legislation has passed in the Senate. The House is still working on it. Wild Horse and Burro funding is still in process. The first step will be removing excess horses from the range. She mentioned Washington County's Habitat Conservation Plan. Lastly, the Stewart team has been fighting for Utah agriculture, which at times can be tough because Midwest agriculture needs and wants are so dominant.

XV. STATE AGENCY UPDATES

None.

XVI. UNIVERSITY UPDATES

Stephen Lisonbee of Southern Utah University was not present at the meeting. Henrie Walton of Dixie State University had joined by phone but had to be excused for another meeting. He texted FCAOG Human Resources Director Courtney Sinagra and FCAOG Executive Director Bryan Thiriote the updated he wanted shared.

Courtney read the update which stated that DSU is proceeding with the fall semester and will offer a variety of in-person, blended, and online courses. DSU is also working with the governor's office and Utah System of Higher Education to stand-up several new, short-term, online training programs to help unemployed people get back to work. Henrie's message stated that more information would be forthcoming and invited Steering Committee members to email him with questions.

XVII. LOCAL AFFAIRS DISCUSSION

Karina Brown, the democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, had been present in the meeting via telephone. Chairman Cozzens recognized her and invited her to address the other attendees.

Karina introduced herself. She lives in Cache Valley with her family. She is a City of Nimbly planning commissioner and sits on the Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Karina was one of the sponsors of Proposition 3 to expand Medicaid. She is also a board member for Logan Regional Hospital.

She stated that she listened to our discussion regarding CDBG grants and mentioned that she is President of the Cache County Friends of the Children's Justice Center Board and the Director of the Children's Justice Center recently received CDBG funds for a new building. Karina expressed her excitement for the project. She also mentioned that she is the co-chair for the Celebration of Women's Suffrage initiative. They are working to celebrate women's suffrage. Karina mentioned that she is excited about the potential of overseeing elections in the role of Lieutenant Governor as she feels elections are one of the most important parts of our democracy.

XVIII. ADJOURN

Commissioner Paul Cozzens adjourned the meeting at 2:01 P.M.

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