

Five County Association of Governments

1070 West 1600 South, Building B
St. George, Utah 84770

Fax (435) 673-3540



SOUTHWEST UTAH

Post Office Box 1550
St. George, Utah 84771

Office (435) 673-3548

MINUTES FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022 1:30 P.M.

IRON COUNTY COURTHOUSE BUILDING; 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM; LOCATED AT 68 S. 100 E.,
PAROWAN, UTAH. MEETING WAS ALSO PROVIDED VIA A GOTOMEETING VIDEO CONFERENCE.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON

Commissioner Jerry Taylor, Chair
Commissioner Andy Gant, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead
Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Commissioner Gil Almquist
Dale Brinkerhoff
Milford City Mayor Nolan Davis
Hurricane City Mayor Nanette Billings
Tyler Fails
LaRene Cox

REPRESENTING

Garfield County Commission
Kane County Commission
Beaver County Commission
Iron County Commission
Washington County Commission
Iron Co. School Board Representative
Beaver County Mayor's Representative
Washington Co. Mayor's Representative
Beaver Co. School Board Representative
Wash. Co. School Board Representative/
Congressman Chris Stewart (Wash. Co.)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VIA VIDEO

Henrie Walton (ex-officio, non-voting member)

REPRESENTING

Dixie State University

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Escalante City Mayor Melani Torgersen
Ralph Perkins
Stephen Lisonbee (ex-officio, non-voting member)

REPRESENTING

Garfield County Mayor's Representative
Garfield County School Board
Southern Utah University

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON

Bryan Thiriot
Gary Zabriskie
Nathaniel Martinez
Allison McCoy
Cindy Bulloch
Heath Hansen
Kyle Wilson

REPRESENTING

Five County AOG Executive Director
Five County AOG Deputy Director, CTO
Five County AOG Economic Planner
Five County AOG Chief Financial Officer
Congressman Chris Stewart
Senator Mike Lee
Senator Mitt Romney

AGENDA ITEM I. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR.

Garfield County Commissioner Jerry Taylor, as Steering Committee Chair, welcomed everyone to the Five County Association of Governments (FCAOG) Steering Committee meeting and acknowledged that there was a quorum, and that board member Henrie Walton was participating on the video conference. The Chair said he appreciated the board members for being there, acknowledging that they were short a couple of members but did have the required number for a quorum. He also said he appreciated the other board members for taking of their time to make it possible for the committee to get together to discuss and decide things that go on in the five-county region. He also stated that the board also appreciates the staff who helped put this meeting together for all their hard work, and they also appreciate people coming to be involved with the committee.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The Chair then asked Mr. Dale Brinkerhoff to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 9, 2022 MEETING.

The Chair asked if all the members had reviewed the minutes, and asked if there were any corrections needed, and then he called for a motion for approval of the minutes for the March 9, 2022, meeting in Kanab.

Commissioner Andy Gant moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wade Hollingshead.

The Chair after asking for any needed discussion, and seeing there was none, called for a vote. The vote of the members was unanimous in the affirmative to approve the minutes as presented.

AGENDA ITEM IV. FY2022 FINAL BUDGET REVISIONS PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARING.

The Chair turned the time over to Ms. Allison McCoy, Chief Financial Officer at the Five County Association of Governments, to cover the three matters in Agenda Item # IV. Ms. McCoy referred the members to the budget package provided to them with the final budget revisions for fiscal year 2022. She said that on page one there is a consolidated budget final revision. She explained that the beginning budget for fiscal year 2022 was \$10,629,038 and our final budget came in at \$12,593,956. She explained that there were several reasons for this, including increases in aging money to the aging programs where federal money comes in during September and those programs start in October and goes for an 18-month period. She said that there was more money to the HEAT program, including for a new program for water assistance. She said that Weatherization had some additional money come in. She said that the AOG is also finishing up a lot of Covid money that it received for housing assistance in the human service department. She said that these are the reasons for the almost \$2 million difference in the final budget from the beginning. She referred the board members to a recap on the next page which highlighted which programs increased or decreased. She explained that most of them increased or stayed the same and only a few decreased. She asked if anyone had any questions on any part of the final budget revisions or any questions on any programs, or any numbers. Mayor Nanette Billings asked about the money that Ms. McCoy was talking about for housing. She asked what was the housing project? Ms. McCoy answered that it was mostly money that we got in the Human Services program for housing called "HAP", which is the Housing Assistance Program, which is for rental assistance. She explained that it had to be Covid related, such as if you could not pay your rent because you lost your job, or you had Covid, or something. She said that this was money that we got in from the Cares Act. Mayor Billings asked if they are working on the next allotment and will the AOG still receive more in the next few months? Ms. McCoy said that she does not think we will be receiving more, and the current residual will be pretty much spent out by December of fiscal year 2023. Mayor Billings asked whether the AOG spent all of it for the rental assistance, and Ms. McCoy answered affirmatively that it all goes to rental assistance with a small portion for salaries and fringe to deliver that product. Mayor Billings asked what the shortfall was in Dixie MPO? Ms. McCoy said that she believed that most of that was contract expense pass through funds, contract projects, and travel. She said that she knows that they did not spend much at all on travel during the year.

Seeing no further questions for Ms. McCoy the Chair stated that he was ready to move into a public hearing, so he declared the public hearing open. He asked if there was anyone that would like to comment on the fiscal year 2022 final budget revisions, and if so, to please state their name, and ask the question(s). The Chair, seeing that there was no one in attendance with comments or questions, closed the public hearing.

AGENDA ITEM V. APPROVAL OF FY2022 FINAL BUDGET REVISIONS (Budget year ending June 30, 2022).

The Chair opened this agenda item, approval of the fiscal year 2022 final budget revisions, and asked if there was any further discussion or questions? Commissioner Almquist explained that this budget was presented to the Finance Committee in a public meeting, held just prior to the Steering Committee, and that committee asked a lot of questions and did some searching, and went through quite comprehensively by line item, similar to what was asked about during this meeting, and he said that the Commissioners on that Committee felt good about the answers. Mr. Gary Zabriskie, a Deputy Director at the Association, reported that the Finance Committee, under the AOG's bylaws, does not approve the budgets, but instead reviews and makes "a recommendation to approve" to the entire Steering Committee, which as the governing body for the AOG which formally approves the budget. He said that is what they did at the Finance Committee meeting held just prior to this meeting and they in fact made a recommendation which was unanimous to recommend the Steering Committee approve the final budget revisions for 2022. Mr. Zabriskie said that likewise, when we get to the new budget further down the agenda, the Finance Committee also unanimously recommended the new budget.

Mayor Billings made a motion to approve the fiscal year 2022 final budget revisions as presented. Mayor Nolan Davis seconded the motion.

The Chair asked if there was any further discussion needed and seeing that there was none, asked all in favor to say "aye". He then asked for any who may be opposed to say "nay".

All voting members who were in attendance voted "aye" and the fiscal year 2022 final budget revisions were thus approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM VI. FY2023 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARING.

The Chair opened this agenda item, which is the fiscal year 2023 proposed budget presentation and public hearing. He stated that the Committee would do this agenda item in the same order as the previous item. He turned the floor over again to Ms. McCoy to make a brief presentation. She explained that, as with the previous final budget that was just covered, there is a consolidated budget in the same format for the proposed budget. She said that with the new budget, there was not a lot of change, and most carried forward with the same amount during the year. She said that there are typically a few federal programs that come in, as well as from the state of Utah, that are added at our mid-year budget revisions that could change these budget figures. She explained that the net change over the final budget just approved, to the new year budget, is fairly small, \$143,615. She mentioned a large decrease in federal funding which was because of Covid funding expiring. She used, as an example, the CDBG Covid business grant funding that was around \$2 million. She said that all of these are expiring through the end of the year. She asked if anyone had any questions on anything in the budget.

Mayor Billings asked a question about the HEAT assistance program and specifically about what the cost is to run the program. She wanted to know how much specifically is put into assistance for clients through HEAT as she said she did not see that number. Ms. McCoy stated that funding for the assistance deliverables on behalf of the HEAT clients comes directly through the state fund. She said that there are some crisis funds if we need to give someone in need, and we have some crisis funds and materials that we pass out, but the funding comes directly from the state. She said that the budget item being looked at is just the cost to administer the HEAT program. Ms. McCoy reported that AOG management had a meeting with the state HEAT program administrators and the state HEAT program's internal auditors and the Five County Association of Governments was the top HEAT organization in the state. She said that Andrea Escobar, the HEAT director, runs this program extremely well. Mr.

Zabriskie further explained that we received a follow-up letter via e-mail from the state HEAT administrator that said during their annual review and internal audit of the HEAT program here at Five County they were happy to inform us that remarkably they had no findings, and nothing was out of order in the client files. The letter stated that the record keeping and process to qualify clients was done essentially perfectly. Mayor Billings stated that she really appreciates the HEAT program and mentioned that they have several people in their community [Hurricane City] that have used it and she just wanted to see what the budget was. Ms. McCoy mentioned that they also added this year, as a separate program, a program to help with culinary [household] water bill assistance. She said that they are running the programs in the HEAT offices at the AOG extremely well and only 10% of funding goes the cost of their salaries and their fringe to administer their programs.

The Chair asked if there was any other discussion needed, or if anyone had any other questions? The Chair, seeing that there were none, declared the public hearing open for the fiscal year 2023 proposed budget, and asked if anybody in the public would like to comment? Seeing there was no one from the public in attendance with questions, he closed the public hearing and moved to discussion by the Board for the approval of the fiscal year 2023 budget. Commissioner Almquist brought up a matter that there was need for another meeting of the Finance Committee in the immediate future wherein the commissioners will conduct a closed session of that committee to discuss an individual's character, professional competence, or physical or mental health. It was the consensus of the five commissioners in attendance at the Steering Committee meeting to have AOG staff schedule that special meeting of the Finance Committee as soon as possible with at least 24 hours' notice as required, and to hold it as an electronic meeting.

AGENDA ITEM VII. APPROVAL OF FY2023 BUDGET (Budget year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023).

The Chair asked for a motion on the fiscal year 2023 proposed budget for the Five County Association of Governments. Commissioner Almquist asked that when the motion is made, that it includes a salary adjustment that is already accounted for in the proposed budget, but the exact amount will not be certain until the special Finance Committee meeting, just discussed, is held. The Chair determined that Commissioner Almquist's request was in order and called for a motion.

Mayor Billings made a motion to approve the fiscal year 2023 proposed budget for the Five County Association of Governments, as presented, with the additional salary adjustment included in the budget, in an amount to be determined by the Finance Committee in their upcoming special meeting. Commissioner Paul Cozzens seconded the motion.

The Chair asked if there were any questions, comments, or concerns. Seeing none, he called for a vote. The Chair noted that all voting members of the Steering Committee voted in the affirmative and the fiscal year 2023 proposed budget was therefore approved.

AGENDA ITEM VII. UPDATE/OVERVIEW ON THE REGIONAL DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (DRRE).

The Chair recognized Nathaniel Martinez, Economic Planner at the Five County Association of Governments, to give an overview on the Regional Disaster Recovery and Resilience Economic Development Plan he has been working on for the past year. Mr. Martinez said he spoke quite a while ago to overview this process, and also said he believes our Senior Planner, Nathan Wiberg, did an overview of our CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) process at a past Steering Committee meeting. He said that this plan was developed through a capacity building grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). He said that the Association was given two choices: the first choice was to incorporate a resiliency portion into our next CEDS update. He said that the second choice, and the one the AOG opted to do, was a standalone document that could be released before the 2023 CEDS update. He explained that Nathan Wiberg is involved currently in conducting the process of updating the CEDS right now and will be over the next year. He said that information and

data going into that document is coming through our CEDS team. He said that this Regional Disaster Recovery and Resilience Economic Development Plan just came out of public comments on June 16th.

He said that he was there to give the Steering Committee a quick overview of what he has been working on. He explained that he has been working closely with city and county staff, and county economic development staff over the past year to develop this document as well as further their interests and priorities. Mr. Martinez said that this cooperation and collaboration resulted in the draft document that is coming out. He said that the AOG is going to wrap up the grant budget for the new year with the EDA at the end of the month with help from the Governor's Office of Planning. Mr. Martinez said the preliminary budget has been prepared and he looks forward to being able to continue working with his counterparts with the other AOGs for the next year, utilizing the EDA American Rescue Plan Act funding. He said that the AOG is going to be working on the continuation and implementation of plans like this as well as the state's new Unified Economic Plan that is in development right now with the consultant that was selected. He explained that he did not print a copy of the plan. He said that a copy can be mailed out to the Steering Committee, and he can get one to each of their economic development staff.

Mr. Martinez gave a quick overview of a few of the plan's main sections. He said that the main portion of the document was a high-level analysis of economic impact. He said that there was one for each county, whether it be jobs, unemployment, or industry impacts. He said that the document then goes into an economic SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats). He said some of the main findings, weaknesses and opportunities, were tied very closely, and in the context of, the economic shock from the worldwide pandemic. He said that going forward if any other shocks that will influence the demand for labor, and have long-term disruptions, like in the recent pandemic, it would be helpful to have best practices in place to address the opportunities that were found to be hard hit before then. He explained that economic diversity, as well as coordinated workforce development, was critical. He said that the region has some areas with existing strong business support networks, but that is not region wide. He said that continued investment in workforce development is needed. He said that workforce development is a key best practice in preparing for the unknown, or from severe economic threats such as a pandemic, or a large natural hazard event, that would disrupt business for long periods of time. He also said that there is drought and water insecurity that we are all very aware of, among other things. Mr. Martinez said that he can get all the Committee members a copy of this document. He said that he will be working on implementation and coordinating and collaborating with city and county staff to develop our region's portion of the statewide plan over the next year. He asked if anyone had any questions.

Executive Director Bryan Thiriot asked Mr. Martinez about when the AOG had the public comment period, did the AOG receive any public comment? Mr. Martinez said that they did not get any actual public comments from the general public, but that city and county staff and the members of this region's economic advisory committee gave us some great feedback on this, and that the document was reviewed and created through an active peer review process. Mr. Martinez stated that they believe that the process was very successful. Mayor Billings asked if Mr. Martinez met with the different county's economic development committees? Mr. Martinez said yes, that they were members of the plan's strategy committee as well. He said that they had a representative from St. George City, at least one from each county, and members from two chambers of commerce, and the mayor of Parowan. Mayor Billings asked one additional question which was whether this plan is something that will come into the cities, or will it go through Five County AOG and they bring it into our cities so that people are aware of all your work and your ideas for the implementation? Mr. Martinez said it will primarily go through the advisory committee, which is going through a little bit of reorganization. He said he would love to meet with all of our cities individually, but because there are thirty-eight municipalities, that is quite a breadth of communities to reach, but he said he will try to do his best during the process.

The Chair asked Mr. Martinez what two chambers of commerce he had involved? Mr. Martinez said that he had the Parowan Chamber and the Kanab Chamber. He said that there has been some reorganizing a bit just because people are moving around to different positions. He said that the member on the committee that was with the Kanab Chamber is now with the St. George Chamber. He said that Molly Halterman, who was the president of the Parowan Chamber, is now the Mayor of Parowan. He said that moving forward with the CEDS Committee, they have updated the advisory committee to hopefully include a member from the big chambers, as well as the Kanab chamber. For now, he said, it will most likely be Chris McCormick, who is with the Iron County/Cedar City Chamber, until the big chamber is up and running forward. The Chair thanked Mr. Martinez for the update.

IX. UPDATE ON FRAUD/RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS.

The Chair turned the floor over to Mr. Bryan Thiriot to cover this agenda item. Mr. Thiriot explained that every year the Association is required to do this with the state of Utah to assess the fraud risk within the Five County AOG. He said that the AOG's score number this year is 305, which is the same as last year, so the AOG remains at a "moderate" fraud risk. He said that this is not a "bad" indicator. He said that there are several ways that the organization can improve the score and he referred the members of the board to item number five which says that if each governing member on the board were to take in a training video, that would allow us to move up in the scoring. He said that for this committee, we will be doing our annual open meetings training in October, but that is separate from this process. Ms. McCoy said to get 20 points would be having the CFO attend 40 hours of formal finance training each year, but that is a little hard to do, but we could work on that if we needed to. Mr. Zabriskie said that the AOG could hire an internal auditor which would garner quite a few points. Commissioner Hollingshead asked if Ms. McCoy would recommend an internal auditor at the Association? She said that she definitely would, and that they could do other tasks as well. She said that she thinks that within a year, or two, this should be done. Mr. Thiriot asked if that could be contracted, or is it preferable to have that as an employee? Ms. McCoy said that it would be good to have it as an employee, but it could be contracted. She said that the AOG already has an independent outside audit. She said that an internal auditor is more of a staff person. The Chair said for staff to bring to them proposals that would help with the fraud risk.

AGENDA ITEM X. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW & ACTION.

The Chair turned the time over to Mr. Gary Zabriskie, Deputy Director and Director of Community and Economic Development at the Five County Association of Governments, to present an "Areawide Clearinghouse Review" for the Steering Committee's consideration. Mr. Zabriskie explained that the project is in Kane County and the grazing permittee is going to chain 222 acres of heavy brush and juniper trees. He said the project description said that prior to that chaining, a grass and ferd seed mix will be applied and then, to protect the seeding, and for long-term management of livestock, a 1,700 foot stretch of fence will be constructed. He explained that the permittee is going to chain the area, which they are leasing it from SITLA, and will reseed it so that it will be forage for cattle out there. Mr. Zabriskie contacted Kane County and they said they did not have any concerns and approved of the recommendation to support the project. This board is tasked as the areawide clearinghouse to either support, not-support, or conditionally-support, any projects presented to it. He said that after the Steering Committee makes their decision, he writes up a form that he sends to SITLA. Commissioner Gant stated that the county commissioners do support the seeding and the PJ (pinion/juniper) control. He said that PJ is everywhere, spreading viciously.

The Chair asked if there was any other conversation on this? Seeing that there was none, he called for a motion to support the project.

Commissioner Gant moved to report to SITLA that the Steering Committee, in its official role as the Areawide Clearinghouse supports the range chaining and seeding SITLA Project #82543 as described. Commissioner Almquist seconded the motion.

The Chair asked if there was any need for further discussion and seeing none called for a vote. The Chair noted that all voting members of the committee voted affirmatively to support the project.

Mr. Zabriskie stated that affected counties in these project notifications are always free to submit their own comments and concerns directly to the notifying agency. The state has mandated that each association of governments in the state act in a role as an "areawide clearinghouse". He noted that the Steering Committee traditionally has supported the comments and concern of an affected county when these are presented to the board for its action.

AGENDA ITEM XI. CIB APPLICATIONS REVIEW BY STEERING COMMITTEE.

The Chair again turned the time over to Mr. Zabriskie to present the seven applications to the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (CIB) that came in for the first trimester of fiscal year 2023. He said that the first one was from the Kane County Water Conservancy District and their project is to build a maintenance building up near the existing office facility. He said that right now all they have is a small 300 square foot shed in which they store a small amount of their equipment. He said what they are proposing is a much larger 9,000 square foot facility with ten bays that will be climate controlled for the trucks, for the equipment, for the backhoes and track hoes. He said that all the different equipment they have would be housed inside of this new building instead of being stored outside.

Mr. Zabriskie explained that the second application was from the New Harmony Valley Special Service District, in Washington County, which is looking to buy another fire engine. He said that they just paid off the fire engine that they bought before with CIB help. He said that this fire truck would be similar to the previous one, a four-wheel drive truck, that can get into the areas around the valley there. Mr. Zabriskie said that it is his understanding this truck will be situated in the town of New Harmony itself as the SSD has taken over the fire services for the town.

Mr. Zabriskie said that the third application is from Panguitch City, in Garfield County. Said that this application is one that the City missed the deadline to apply for it in February so they had to start over with a new application in this new trimester. He said that the City has received \$200,000 in CDBG funding and they are asking for additional funds from CIB. The City itself has committed \$100,000 in cash towards the truck and Garfield County is also putting money into this project with a commitment of \$100,000.

Mr. Zabriskie said that the fourth application is from the town of Springdale and is a small planning grant application for matching funding from CIB to complete a water master plan update. He said that the town is requesting \$31,500 as a grant and they are matching it with \$31,500 from Springdale Town. Mr. Zabriskie explained that this project application will be reviewed by the state staff of the CIB and if it meets the criteria from the checklist that the CIB Board previously approved, the town application will be funded. Mr. Zabriskie explained that we still review these small planning grant applications here with the Steering Committee.

Mr. Zabriskie said that the fifth application is also from the town of Springdale, and is a much larger project. He explained that this is a wastewater lagoon improvement project. He said that the town of Springdale was issued a notice of violation for putting in too many solids back into the Virgin River. He explained that they have a sewer lagoon system that serves both the National Park Service (Zion), Springdale Town, and Rockville Town, and their sewer lagoons are downstream to the west of Rockville. He said that sewage water treatment is done through anaerobic action that takes place in the sewer lagoons, but they are not total containment lagoons. He explained that once the water has been treated in the lagoon system, it goes back into the Virgin River. He said that it is not that the water going back into the river has too many biological problems, that is not the problem, it is solids, and it is nitrogen. He said that the planned treatment is expected to make the water quality discharging into the river fall within accepted standards.

Mr. Zabriskie said that the sixth project application is one by the Washington County Solid Waste District #1, which is the landfill. He said that they are coming in to build new inbound/outbound scales for higher throughput and efficiency. He said the project also includes an expanded public convenience center for self-haul for the public to drop off waste. He explained that currently, when you go there, you put the self-haul waste into dumpsters. He said that if you have a large load, you must actually drive up on the landfill where the big trucks and big equipment are dumping stuff, so it is a safety hazard. Mr. Zabriskie said that he has been to the Salt Lake County Landfill where you drop off waste out of the back of your truck or trailer into a deep concrete lined area that is probably 150 feet long and then they have a big piece of equipment that crushes and pushes the waste up a slope at one end where they push it into a large haul truck. He said that they then drive it up to the top of the landfill and dump it. Commissioner Almquist said that he has seen the whole master plan for the landfill. He stated that this is not a "oh, we ought to do this!" project. He said that this is part of their 50-year plan [for capacity], and at some point, they knew they would get there. Commissioner Almquist also said that in the last few years that has accelerated from the sheer quantity of landfill material being hauled out there and having one truck at a time go over one scale and making a hard right turn, it is not only hurting the

scale, but it is not at all efficient with a long line of people waiting. He said that sometimes there would be 20 or 30 trucks in line and they do not want

wait to dump there, so they go and illegally dump it over the border on BLM land in Arizona. Commissioner Almquist quipped that perhaps Arizona should be paying for this project, but said that this is definitely just an accelerated project here. He said that the district recently did a feasibility study and they just increased the fees, so they have the money to pay for a loan. Mr. Zabriskie said that this application request for funding from the CIB will be for \$15 million, coming from the CIB's large infrastructure fund, and it will be 30 years at 2%.

Mr. Zabriskie said that the seventh and final project is in Kane County, and it is from the Zion Mountain Local Service District. He explained that this is a wastewater project that will be part of the district area just to the east of Zion National Park. Mr. Zabriskie mentioned that this board reviewed a project quite a while back for building a visitor center and the parking area around that building. He said that this application is for the wastewater treatment for that area, and it is proposed to use several novel approaches to treating the water there. He said that it is not just sewage water, but is also for runoff water from parking lots and the stuff that washes off of it. He said that it will take the water and be running it through areas where they have grasses growing and stuff like that so that it will treat it naturally, so it is really quite novel. He said they are requesting \$9.2 million for 30 years at 1%, and it is an 100% loan they are asking for. Commissioner Gant explained that this is a pretty high-tech setup they are doing and is kind of a new deal here in Utah where Utah seldomly approves water that can be used for public exposure like public ponds (not for swimming) for irrigation. He said that Utah has been slow to adopt this method, like Arizona has for their golf courses. He said that Utah has not done this in the past, but with these new treatment plants, which are more compact, and "super-cool", they will kick out sparkly clean water. He said that this will be one of the early ones. Mr. Zabriskie said that the application indicated that the loan repayments to CIB will be supported by connection fees and assessments from the various projects utilizing their wastewater treatment facilities, so there is a revenue stream to pay for this. Commissioner Gant said that the County created a service district just to do this and this project will be their first step. Commissioner Almquist asked how old the Zion Mountain Local Service District is? Commissioner Gant answered that the district was actually created about four or five years ago. Commissioner Almquist asked if the board of that district was appointed or elected? Commissioner Gant answered that that district's board was elected, but that the County is looking to change that as they think they may want to put probably a commissioner or two as appointed members and then elect the rest. He said that they weight the board members by land ownership percentages, so they have bylaws that say you have to have so many votes from landowners in the area. He said that they created that also with the CRA (the reinvestment area). He said that Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is being used to build a visitor center by making the payment on the CIB loan for the visitor center. He said that it was a county project, but it got too complicated so the county turned it over, recently, to the local district so they could keep all that tax money generated in that area right back into the project. He explained that the district will also have the \$15.5 million loan on the visitors center so that is not with Kane County. He said it will now be the local service district who will manage that project as well.

Mr. Zabriskie stated that the Steering Committee can either vote individually on these applications and whether to support the application, remain neutral, or not support the application. He said that in the past, on certain projects, the Committee has remained neutral because there was a controversy between adjoining counties on a project, but traditionally the Committee has supported most projects. He explained that this presentation to the governing board is a requirement from the CIB. He said that the CIB rules state that the governing board of the AOGs, where the projects come from, are to review and vet the projects, discuss them, talk about them, and decide whether to support or not. Mr. Zabriskie told the Steering Committee members that he thought they had done that process very well here at this meeting. He said that they had some good discussions on these projects. He also said that the CIB board itself, the one that Commissioner Taylor sits on, will make the final decision on these project funding requests.

Commissioner Gant mentioned that it might be good to do all of these together as a package. He reminded the others on the Committee that the last time we reviewed CIB application, they pulled one out and chose to remain neutral on it, but he feels that these are all straightforward and asked if anyone had any objection to supporting all seven applications as a package?

Mayor Billings made a motion to report to the CIB Board that the Steering Committee supports all seven CIB applications. Commissioner Hollingshead seconded the motion.

The Chair asked if there was any other discussion needed and seeing none, asked all in favor to say "aye" and any opposed to say "nay". He reported that motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM XII. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS MULTIJURISDICTIONAL NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

The Chair turned the floor over to Ms. Alyssa Gamble, Associate Planner at the Five County Association of Governments, to discuss a draft resolution adopting the "*Five County Association of Governments Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan*". Ms. Gamble explained that the Five County Association of Governments has engaged in a planning process over the past two years to update our region's plan. She said that she spoke a little bit about this at the last meeting. She said that this planning process allows participating organizations and communities who may choose to apply for federal mitigation funds to be eligible to do so. She said the plan also informs communities of the varying natural hazard risk data that is available and discusses potential strategies that they can take to reduce their risk in vulnerability from natural hazards in their area. She said that the plan has been reviewed by the State Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), who has said that our plan meets all federal planning requirements. She said that the next step is to formally adopt the plan by resolution, and once FEMA receives that resolution, FEMA will send us an approval letter for the plan. She said, specific to the AOG, we have developed actions to protect our facilities, services, staff, and clients. She said that staff was hoping that this body would approve the plan and referred the members of the committee to a sample resolution in their packets. She asked if anyone had any questions about the planning process, or the plan.

Mayor Billings asked who was hired to do the plan? Ms. Gamble explained that the AOG received a grant from FEMA to complete this planning process, and through that process, over the past two years, we have worked with all of the counties, all of the cities and towns, and all of the bands of the Paiute Tribe in Utah on this plan. Mr. Zabriskie explained that we hired Ms. Gamble two years ago this July, and the main project task we assigned her to do was to update the natural hazard mitigation plan. He said that the previous update five years ago was led by Mr. Nate Wiberg, Senior Planner at the Five County Association of Governments. He said that this one currently before the board is the new five-year update of that plan, and the planning process has now been completed. Mr. Zabriskie reported that FEMA responded back formally saying that the plan, as submitted, needed zero changes to it. Mr. Zabriskie said that almost never happens, that a submitted plan did not need any further explanations to that agency, or requested clarifications, or changes. He expressed to the Steering Committee members, as we are doing to all entities considering adopting the plan by resolution, that this Natural Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation plan is an advisory document to each of the entities that are participating. He told Mayor Billings that her community is a participating entity. He also said that every entity represented here at the Steering Committee are also participating in that plan, and their elected officials and staff, and others in those communities, provided strategies that the entity wanted to have in the plan, especially if the entity has plans to go in to get FEMA federal funding for preventing a disaster from occurring by mitigating the hazard risk in advance.

Mr. Zabriskie said that he lives in Santa Clara and the City has what is called the Truman Landslide on the south end of the heights there. The City went to FEMA and were able to get a 75% grant from FEMA, with only a required 25% local match, to do a multi-million-dollar landslide rehabilitation project to mitigate (stop) the landslide from continuing to slide down taking additional homes off the top. He said that having projects like that in this plan, and if you have future projects, the plan can be easily amended to put those projects in, is key to accessing FEMA funding. He explained that it is a requirement from FEMA that if you are going to go for FEMA pre-disaster mitigation dollars to mitigate something, before it becomes an actual disaster, the hazard risk and the project that could mitigate it, must be listed, and described in the plan.

Mayor Billings asked about possible detention projects up on Gould Wash. Mr. Zabriskie said that we have talked about that before and a project that is critical to stop the water up there above the Hurricane Cliffs, so it does not flood down there in the City. He said that this is a great example of the whole idea of pre-disaster mitigation. He said that it is where you spend some money now instead of a lot more money later when a flood comes and wipes everything out. He said that is why this is called pre-disaster

mitigation planning. He said that goal is to prevent major disasters from occurring, and one of the key things is the plan advises town or city councils, county commissioners, and your planners and engineers on what should be done. He said the plan also allows you to then prioritize your community's needs and what should be done first. He told Mayor Billings that the Gould Wash detention is in this updated plan.

Mr. Zabriskie emphasized that if you want to receive federal FEMA funding, there is a key to the FEMA dollar door, so to speak, in that they can fund 75% of your project through federal grant. Mr. Zabriskie finished by saying that this is our third iteration of the plan, so every five years we go in and update the plan and work with counties and communities. Ms. Gamble mentioned that something you may have noticed, for folks who have seen the previous plans, is that it does look a little bit different. She said that we received some guidance from FEMA that they want every single city in town, in addition to the counties, to have their own risk assessment and mitigation strategies. She said that in doing this, it did make the plan much longer, but it's set up in a way that you can pull out your community's section separately. As an example, she said let us take these thirty pages for Hurricane City, which shows what they are going to rely on throughout the next five years and the City can then use that smaller portion of proposed mitigation strategies when looking at capital budgeting in the City so they do not need to look at the entire thirteen hundred pages. Ms. Gamble reiterated that having the mitigation strategies in the plan does not mandate what an entity must do, it just gives information that the entity can use to choose whether to do a project, or not. She then asked if there were any other questions? There were none.

Mr. Thiriot complimented Ms. Gamble because she had no errors in her document and she does a great job at the Association.

The Chair stated that the approval of the resolution adopting the plan requires a motion and a vote.

Commissioner Gant made a motion to approve, by resolution, the Five County Association of Governments Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan and authorize the Chair to sign the resolution form on behalf of the Five County Association of Governments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cozzens.

The Chair called for a vote and all voting members of the Steering Committee voted in the affirmative and the resolution adopting the plan was passed.

AGENDA ITEM XIII. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES.

The Chair turned the floor over to Ms. Cindy Bulloch, who is with Congressman Chris Stewart's office for central and southwestern Utah. She reported that the congressman was currently in the throes of appropriations and that they are going through numerous applications, and it is a huge lift for the office, so they are really busy with that. She said that there were some projects locally that kind of made it through the first round and they will see how. She said that there were two in St. George, and she said that all of the projects are on the congressman's website. She said otherwise, the congressman is working on a couple of bills. She said that there was hearing scheduled the following morning on natural resources that might be of interest. She reported that her and Ms. Lorraine Cox spent the previous week in Washington, DC. She said that otherwise they are all just busy but asked the committee members if there is anything they as staff, or Congressman Stewart can do for them? She said if there was, to reach out to them.

The Chair recognized Ms. Lorraine Cox, Congressman Stewart's staff representative for Washington County, who announced a special security summit that is coming up in August and everyone will be invited. She said that it will be held at the Little America Hotel and tickets go on sale on June 30th. She said that they would love to have members of the Steering Committee members there.

The Chair recognized Mr. Kyle Wilson with Senator Romney's office. He said that he had met with a few of the members of the Steering Committee in the last week or two, so he apologized if any of what he was presenting was redundant, but said that senator did sign onto a letter requesting full funding for PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes). [Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are Federal payments to local governments to help offset losses in property taxes due to the existence of nontaxable Federal lands

within their boundaries]. He said that the senator is working on a bipartisan bill to reduce prescription costs and they have added some amendments to the FDA's (Food and Drug Administration's) Advancement Act to prevent formula charges going forward. He said they are likewise working on child tax credit reform. He also said that there is a bill that has been in the news that the committee members may have read something about. He said it is a bill that would create a work incentive and some parameters for income for those recipients. He finished by mentioning the U.S. Forest Service/NRCS Joint Chiefs projects. He mentioned that he could think of at least a dozen projects in Kane County that the money would be ideal for, and he said he would love to see that money spent here. He said that if there was anything that comes to mind, they can put their heads together, and work with the forest supervisor and any other interested parties, to try to get that across. He asked if anybody had any questions for him? Commissioner Almquist asked if they know if there are any representatives from any senator's offices going on the congressional familiarization ride in August? Commissioner Almquist said that what we want is to have those from the other side of the aisle as well. Mr. Wilson acknowledged that many of those senators from back east are the ones that vote against the needs of the states in the west but want to play out here. The Chair indicated that they have invitations out and they have five or six people coming from the senate side. Mr. Thiriot added that a lot of them are from senators on the Energy Committee, which is great.

The Chair recognized Heath Hansen with Senator Mike Lee's office. Mr. Hansen said he thinks he has mentioned this to most of the members, but the senator has been working on an extension to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), which helps to compensate victims and downwinders. He said that the program was set to expire this July. He said that the senator has been involved for the past year, or so, trying to negotiate an extension and an expansion of that program. He explained that the senator was not able to get an expansion or the long-term extension. He said that rather than letting the program lapse, Senator Lee introduced a bill that would just reauthorize the current program for two years which would give Congress two years to get back, or stay, at the negotiating table. Mr. Hansen said that the senator wants to negotiate a long-term extension plus expand the program, so we do not have that arbitrary cut-off-line through the middle of Juab County where anyone north of that line is no longer eligible for the downwinder program. He said that the program will not expire this year, so we now have until 2024. He said that if anyone knows of anyone who is interested in applying for assistance with that program, they can send them his way. He said they can help them with the application with that program. He said that there is a lot of concern expressed, especially in the five-county region, about that act expiring. He said it is reauthorized for two more years. He said they have had a lot of inquiries the last six to eight months, but to please send the word out that it has not expired. One big concern that Mr. Hansen brought up is the arbitrary line that separated the state of Utah. He said that expansion would have included places like Salt Lake County. He explained that we have much better science since the program was first created in 1990, which shows that radiation exposure has had impacts further out than originally thought. He said that is what the senator's office is negotiating on. He said that Senator Lee has another bill to expand the program beyond it's current scope that he has identified funds to pay for, so it does not add anything to the federal deficit, and would also extend it for ten more years, just to make sure they are not missing anybody. He said that the senator will continue to push for this over the next two years.

Mr. Hansen said another issue that everyone is facing right now is inflation. He said that back when he last met with the Steering Committee, according to the government numbers, inflation was 7% nationally, but 9% in the west, but by May that number had risen to 9% or 10% nationally, and in the west, it was actually 11% to 12%. He said that if you put that in real numbers, if you take the average Utah family, and compare it to what they were spending on basic needs, housing, energy, and food last year in May, in May of this year it was almost \$752 higher. He said that one of the biggest drivers of that is obviously out of control federal spending. He said that we have got to control federal spending. He reminded the Steering Committee members that Senator Lee has long been a proponent of a balanced budget amendment. He said the senator introduced a few months ago a bill that would require a three-fifths majority vote in the Senate for any bill that would increase spending if we have been in an inflationary period of 3% or higher in the previous quarter.

Mr. Hansen said that another one of the issues is that it is just too hard to ship products to our borders and get those products to store shelves. He said that there is far too much regulatory red tape. He said that Senator Lee has introduced the "*Shipping Act*", to try to get through some of that red tape. He said a bill just passed last week did not go nearly as far as Senator Lee would have liked, called the "*Ocean Shipping Reform Act*". He said that Senator Lee was able to get three amendments from his Shipping Act into that bill to start to cut through some of the red tape, and to get some reporting requirements so

we can figure out how our ports are performing relative to foreign countries and figure out how we can institute some more efficiencies into our ports.

Commissioner Almquist opined that it is too hard to get electronics assembled outside the country into our country. Mr. Hansen said that we need to figure out what is going on in our ports, why is it so difficult?, and start cutting some of that red tape.

Mr. Hansen said that one of the other things driving the inflation is the cost of housing. He said that he is sure by now most on the Steering Committee are aware of Senator Lee's "*Houses Act*", which would allow state and local governments to acquire certain BLM lands for affordable housing purposes. He said that they had Jake Garfield in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee two or three weeks ago testifying in support of that bill. He said that unfortunately, the Biden administration had Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives at that hearing, and they testified against it because under no circumstances do they want any federal land to leave federal control. He said because of that, the prospects of this bill passing while President Biden is in office are not good. He said that Senator Lee will continue to build support and momentum for that bill so that when we do have a more favorable Congress, and a more favorable president, hopefully we can have it ready to get that through.

Mr. Hansen said that Senator Lee has a bill called the "*Formula Act*" that would remove some of the red tape that is preventing some of the European and foreign baby formula from getting into the United States. He said the Senator is currently in negotiations with the Democratic side of the aisle on getting that through. He said that they do not want to give up any FDA authority over foreign formula, even though many of those countries have similar standards to what we have here. He said that they are trying to negotiate on that to try and get more access to formula here in the country.

Mr. Hansen brought up another item about how the World Health Organization just put out some pretty extreme abortion guidelines. He said that WHO has advocated for all countries to get rid of all abortion restrictions up to birth, and also called for getting rid of any sort of religious exemptions, or conscience exemptions. He said that Senator Lee read in a letter in the Senate along with Representative Lamborn of Colorado, in the House, strongly condemning those new WHO guidelines.

Mr. Hansen reported on what was happening with the Northern Corridor in Washington County. He said that he had mentioned this the day before at the transportation meeting. He said that Secretary Deb Haaland from the U.S. Department of the Interior was getting pressure from House Democrats, and from environmental groups, to rescind the "record of decision" on the Northern Corridor. He said that the entire Utah delegation, and Washington County, sent a letter to Secretary Haaland saying that would be a really bad idea and to not listen to "out-of-staters" on this matter, but instead listen to the people here in the state. He said that they have not gotten a response from Secretary Haaland on that yet, but they are hoping that DOI and DOJ will defend the lawsuit with all resources that they were expected to bring to that. Mr. Hansen discussed Lake Powell saying they are continuing to monitor the low water levels there. He said the water is rising there right now because of spring runoff, so there are two operational boat ramps out there.

He finished by discussing Beaver County and the news of Smithfield Foods wanting to shut down the hog operations which has really rocked that county. He said that the senator's office has had a lot of discussions with the county and with the state and they will continue to do everything they possibly can to help from a federal perspective on that.

The Chair thanked all the Congressional staff members for their updates to the Steering Committee.

AGENDA ITEM XIV. STATE AGENCY UPDATES

There was no one in attendance to provide state agency updates, therefore the Chair moved on to Agenda Item # XV.

AGENDA ITEM XV. UNIVERSITY UPDATES

The Chair recognized Mr. Henrie Walton, representing Dixie State University, who was appearing via GoToMeeting. Mr. Walton thanked the Steering Committee, and its staff, for enabling him to be able to appear virtually.

Mr. Walton said that he wanted to make the Steering Committee members aware of some grants or grant-like applications that Dixie State University (DSU) applied for that many of on the committee are aware of, or have helped with, in the last several months. He said that the first is the EDA's (Economic Development Administration) "*Build to Scale Capital Challenge Program*". He said that despite the growth in Washington County and Kane County over the past several years, there are a lot of businesses in the region, particularly "tech" businesses, that grow to a certain size and then lack the equity capital they need to continue to grow. Because of that many leave the region and go elsewhere, primarily to the Wasatch Front. He said that because of this, the university applied for a grant that will allow the university to scale up its existing innovation fund, the "*Angel Investment Seed Fund*", to help solve this problem. He explained that this fund would provide basically angel investment for local businesses that are looking to grow. He explained that what they would do if they received the grant is to hire a seed fund organization director, establish a board of advisors, and raise additional capital for that Innovation Seed Fund up to \$1 million, so that we can support local businesses so that they do not have to leave the region. Mr. Walton said that they are really excited about that grant. He said that they appreciate the support of many of those in attendance at Steering Committee who wrote letters of support and said he will keep everyone posted on that grant.

He said that one of the things that Congressman Stewart's staff has helped with is the Community Projects funding, or appropriations request, that the university submitted, with the help of LaRene Cox. He said that project, if funded, will allow DSU (soon to become Utah Tech University) to move forward with what they are calling a Variant Science Training Program. He said the obvious question always asked is what is variant science? He said that variant science plays a critical role in clinical genetic laboratories, and yet, there are currently no formal training programs other than extensive on-the-job training, and this would be an online program allowing participants to self-pace and work around existing jobs but will also include job-shadowing and hands-on lab experiences. He said that there is all kinds of exciting things going on in genomics here in Utah. He also explained that this program will be an online certificate that allows undergraduate, students and existing professionals to upskill and earn a certificate in variant science so that they can better carry out their work and upskill and get paid more. He said they are excited about this opportunity, and they have met with Congressman Stewart, met with LaRene Cox, and many others. He said they received letters of support from several cities and the county and appreciate their support. Mr. Walton said that they are excited to have both programs and hope that they both receive funding, so that we can move forward at the university. Mr. Walton said he would be happy to answer questions.

Seeing that there were no questions, the Chair told Mr. Walton they appreciate him joining them electronically to give the DSU update.

AGENDA ITEM XVI. 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 XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair again thanked all for attending the meeting and seeing that there was no further business to discuss or act upon, and using his non-debatable prerogative, adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

These minutes were transcribed and typed by Mr. Gary Zabriskie, Deputy Director at the Five County Association of Governments.