MINUTES
Emery County
Public Lands Council
Aug 2, 2022

PLC: Rod Player, Ben Grimes, Kim McFarlane, Ed Geary, Ray Petersen, Les Wilberg
PL STAFF: Jim Jennings (ECPL)
Visitors: Clay Crozier (Sen Romney), Larry Ellertson (Rep. Curtis), Joel Brown (Sen Lee's), Commissioner Kent Wilson, Commissioner Lynn Sitterud, Commissioner Gil Conover, Mark Boshell (PLPCO), James Wells (State Parks), Kyle Beagley (BLM), Kevin Jensen, Chris Wood (DWR), Addison Healy (UDAF), Darren Olsen (USFS), Wayne Ludingtor (SRBCH)
Electronically: Dana Dean (DOGM), Jordan Leonard (USU)

1. **Welcome**
   The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rod Player.

2. **Approval of Minutes for July 5, 2022**
   Les Wilberg motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and Ed Geary seconded it. Motion passed.

3. **Chairman Comments**
   Chairman Player made three announcements. There will be a meeting on August 11 at the Red Seeps to discuss a mountain bike trail on Little Cedar Mountain. Another meeting of the BLM RAC Board will be in the County Administration Building at 8:30 a.m. on August 29, 2022. There are three open positions on the board. Members representing one Native American, non-motorized and motorized positions are needed. These nominations are due by August 18th. His last announcement was the planned field trip to Goblin Valley on October 4, 2022. This trip will take the place of the regular scheduled October Public Lands meeting.

4. **Commission Report**
   Commissioner Wilson then asks for a report from Mark Boshell, PLPCO, Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, about the San Rafael Travel Management Plan. Mr. Boshell reported they had spent time looking at the routes and trails under reconsideration. He stated that they want to work closely with Emery County and follow their recommendations. He

also said that it was a tough spot for the BLM because of the litigation settlement agreement between SUWA and the BLM.

5. **Agency Reports and Council Member Comments**
    - **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**
      Kyle Beagley, BLM, announced that there is now a shop at the Jurassic Monument, and sculptures will be put there in late September. There is also a meeting on the road site at the first culvert tomorrow, Wednesday, August 3, at 9 a.m. A large bone was found locally and will also be displayed at the Monument. He then spoke about the permits issued to the Horizon Film Production. He again reminded the board about the meeting at the Red Seeps on August 11, 2022. He said they expect a final decision on the San Rafael Desert Travel Management Plan by late September, which gives two extra weeks for the comment period. Trail work is scheduled for September 12, 13, and 14th.

    - **Division of Water Rights (DWRi)**
      No one in attendance

    - **Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM)**
      Dana Dean, DOGM, then addressed the council virtually. She requested a mine plan with changes from the Bear Canyon Project. Commissioner Sitterud said he would take care of this request.

    - **Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)**
      Chris Wood, Department of Wildlife, told the council that they are 100% committed to wildlife habitat but will agree with mitigation permits regarding the filming permits and travel across their land in Fullers Bottom. He also said that license requests are at an all-time high and fees have increased. His report on bison included the removal of bison from private land. One private landowner wants to make a bison reserve and not have any bison removed, while the other landowner wants them all removed. The over-the-counter bison hunt started on the first of August.

In the first year of the hunt, 125 bison were removed, and in the second year, only ten were removed. An Elk Commission is established, and a bear commission will be set up. He reported that Kyler Stilson is a new employer for the DWR.

- **School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA).**

- **Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF)**
  Darin Olsen, Forest Service, spoke first about a meeting for Guide Outfitters and reaching out to outfitters. Timber crews are preparing for timber sales. The north Manti-LaSal range improvement has been completed. Fire season has been perfect for this area. The mountains are green, and even though there have been lightning strikes, they have been put out in a short time. GAOA (Great American Outdoors Act) funding has been used to improve forest campgrounds.

- **Utah State Parks and Recreation**
  Goblin Valley State Park manager, Jim Wells, announced the installation of new signage now that the property has been conveyed. The larger campground at the park has been delayed for at least another 18 months. Law enforcement has increased. The old trail plans are being edited and hope to be changed to include equestrian and OHV trails. He has been working with archaeologists on trail clearings. Disc golf is also available at the park. There has been a 16% reduction in visitors, and the 2022 season has been calm.

- **Utah State Department of Agriculture**
  Addi Healy, with the Department of Agriculture, announced that the Water Optimization Grant deadline is September 1, 2022.

- **Washington Delegation Staff**
  Clay Crozier reports that Utah has two on the infrastructure Commission. The Great Salt Lake bill was passed to help save the Great Salt Lake and help with the Colorado River.
  Joel Brown reported on the house act to create affordable housing.
  Larry Ellertson reported that they had pushed legislation to allow those who are a danger to themselves to push out the ability to purchase a gun.

6. Additional Issues from Council Members

The North Long Street concern to push forward with Access was approved and sent to the County Attorney's Office.

7. Concerned citizens with Emery County-related issues.

No comment

8. Adjourn