

Five County Association of Governments

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

Fax (435) 673-3540



Post Office Box 1550
St. George, Utah 84771

Office (435) 673-3548

MINUTES FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.

THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA THE ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE OPTION WHICH WAS ALREADY AVAILABLE.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Jerry Taylor, Chair
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead
Commissioner Andy Gant, Vice Chair
Hurricane City Mayor Nanette Billings
Tyler Fails
Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Escalante City Mayor Melani Torgersen
LaRene Cox

REPRESENTING

Garfield County Commission
Beaver County Commission
Kane County Commission
Washington Co. Mayor's Representative
Beaver County School Board
Iron County Commission
Garfield County Mayor's Representative
Washington County School Board

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bryan Thiriot
Allison McCoy
Gary Zabriskie

REPRESENTING

Five County AOG Executive Director
Five County AOG Chief Financial Officer
Five County AOG Deputy Dir./Chief Tech. Officer

AGENDA ITEM I. WELCOME BY CHAIR

At 10:15 a.m., Garfield County Commissioner Jerry Taylor, as Steering Committee Chair, welcomed everyone to the Five County Association of Governments Steering Committee meeting via the Zoom video conference meeting, and acknowledged that there was, at that point of time, a quorum, with eight Steering Committee members in attendance online. It was noted that a public meeting cannot be started without a quorum of that public body being present, which, in the case of the Steering Committee Bylaws, requires at least eight voting members of the fifteen-member committee.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chair then asked Allison McCoy, Chief Financial Officer at the Five County Association of Governments, to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BEAVER

GARFIELD

IRON

KANE

WASHINGTON

AGENDA ITEM III. FY2022 AUDIT REPORT PRESENTATION.

The Chair Turned the time over to Mr. Steve Quinn of Hafen|Buckner who presented the FY2022 Fiscal Audit for the Five County Association. Mr. Quinn said that he hoped that everybody got their draft copy that they sent. Mr. Zabriskie stated that the staff had received it from him late last night from him and was too late to send it out, so they are seeing it for the first time right now. Mr. Quinn said that it is a draft because it has not been reviewed. He said that the table of contents will be updated as it is maybe a page off, or something like that. He referred to page one, which is the independent auditor's report. He said that the report says in the second paragraph that the financial statements referred to "present fairly in all material respects the respective financial position of this association as of your ending June 30, 2022." He said that this means this is a good report. Mr. Quinn went through multiple pages of the financial statements. He said that if anybody had any questions to please stop him. He said that there is a new item required government-wide, that has been done on business type accounting and it will be on the final report but does is not anything that affects the report significantly. He said it is a new thing with leases and Allison McCoy worked hard to get that to me today, but I failed to get it on here. He referred to the Statement of Activities that there have been over \$10 million of expenses and revenues.

Mr. Quinn briefly discussed the balance sheet that is done in governmental accounting. He said that this is what they are used to in governmental accounting as there is a significant amount of receivables because of outstanding checks. He indicated that this is because those receivables were likely received shortly after the fiscal year end. He referred the Board to the reconciliation sheet. He referred to the page that governments are usually most in looking at and that is the combined statement of these expenditures that shows where the revenue came from. He said that the Association got over nine and a half million dollars in state and/or federal contracts this year. He said of expenditures, besides deliverables, which is the largest, most of the rest is payroll, but there's also a lot of consultant and contract services as well and several other things there. He mentioned the RLF Fund (now named the Southwest Utah Microloan Program) where loans that are given to businesses. He said that the RLF used to be a federal program, but it is no longer that, but it is still handled basically the same way except the AOG does not have to do the federal financial reporting on those funds.

Allison McCoy, Chief Financial Officer at the Association, clarified that we have take excess money above what one financial institution has FDIC protection and it goes into a sweep account that is separated into other banks, so there is no uninsured and uncollateralized money. Mr. Quinn said he would make note of that in the final report. Mr. Quinn briefly discussed the dollars going into the state retirement program (Utah Retirement System). He said that the pension fund in Utah has always been in really good shape, so there is no problems there.

Mr. Quinn discussed the single audit compliance section where for government auditing standards they are required to look at some of the internal control to look at different areas. He said since they do not do the whole area, they cannot give a complete opinion on it, but in everything that they looked at, nothing came to our attention that had any deficiencies at all in the internal control and it was the same with compliance. He said that the results of their tests disclosed no instance of non-compliance in matters related to government auditing standards. He discussed the major federal programs only and that they have to pick some major programs to emphasize their testing in those areas.

He said that it was their opinion, on each major program, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements that the program has, that could have a direct and material effect on each of the major programs, that everything was good in that area and the internal control is the same type of thing they did in the other report.

He said that nothing came to their attention in testing those major programs in connection with internal control either. He said that Kevin Jones from their office did the testing, and nothing was raised to his attention. He told the staff and Board his phone number so that if they have any questions to give him a call.

The Chair stated to Mr. Quinn, that while he appreciates that, he was a little concerned that this is at the very end of the last month, on December 29th, and all the audit papers show draft. He said that something needs to be done about this, for the future, because to accept this at this late minute kind of puts the rush on board members who do not even actually have the report in their hands, or had a chance to even look at it, other than this review. The Chair said he was not blaming Mr. Quinn personally, or the Association staff, but was primarily faulting the outside people, and outside agencies that need to get to the auditing firm [verification] information in a more timely manner, so that the auditing firm can do a complete and more timely audit, because the Association wants to make sure we are doing things right, and are in compliance.

The Chair thanked Mr. Quinn for the report.

AGENDA ITEM IV. ACCEPTANCE OF AUDIT REPORT.

The Chair called for a motion to “accept” the Audit Report as presented.

Commissioner Wade Hollingshead moved to accept the audit report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andy Gant.

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

The vote of the members on the videoconference was unanimous in the affirmative to accept the Audit Report.

AGENDA ITEM V. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW (SITLA SALE OF LAND IN KANE COUNTY).

The Chair turned the time over to Mr. Gary Zabriskie, Director of Community and Economic Development at the FCAOG, to present an A-95 Areawide Clearinghouse Review for the Boards consideration and decision. Mr. Zabriskie said that he previously sent out the information on this to the Board. He stated that this is a proposed land sale in Kane County of 150 acres north of Kanab that is currently leased by Best Friends and the sale would be subject to that lease, which expires in 2054. He said the information provided indicates that this will be a negotiated sale unless there is some competitors. Mr. Zabriskie said that he contacted the Kane County commissioners and they said that they do not have any concerns over this sale, and based upon that response from Kane County, staff recommends the Steering Committee vote to support the SITLA sale of this property.

Kane County Commissioner Andy Gant was asked who SITLA is selling this to. Commissioner Gant said Best Friends owns two thirds of the section now, and they lease the center third, and they are going to buy that center third.

The Chair called for a motion.

Commissioner Wade Hollingshead moved to support the SITLA land sale as proposed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyler Fails.

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

The vote of the members on the videoconference was unanimous in the affirmative to support the SITLA land sale as proposed.

AGENDA ITEM VI. STEERING COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE/LOCATIONS – DISCUSSION / DECISION.

The Chair invited discussion on whether to set a fixed location for Steering Committee meetings for 2023. After thorough discussion including information provided by Executive Director Bryan Thriot, it was the consensus of the members of the Steering Committee present at the meeting to hold all regularly scheduled Steering Committee meetings in one central location throughout 2023, starting with the January 11, 2023 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM VII. LOCAL AFFAIRS DISCUSSION.

The Chair inquired if Mr. Dale Brinkerhoff was joined in on the videoconference, and was informed that he was not. The Chair then thanked Andy Gant, and said he will thank Mr. Brinkerhoff when he sees him, as those men have both probably been at their last Five County meeting, as members, and the Chair thanked them for their service. He said *“the service you have done was not only for Five County, but for each of your individual county and for my county”*. He added: *“You two just have gone above and beyond, and he loves and appreciate both of you guys more than you will know.* The Chair told Commissioner Gant: *“Andy, I am getting a little choked up, but both Dale (Brinkerhoff) and you are dear to my heart, and you guys have done tremendous things for all of us, and we just really appreciate you.”* The Chair also said to Commissioner Gant: *“We would love to invite you back, buy your lunch, do whatever, because we so appreciate you.”* The Chair said *“I am going to call Dale Brinkerhoff ‘Commissioner’, when I call him, because he will forever be commissioner in my heart, and the same with you Andy.”*

The Chair asked if anyone else wanted to chime in?

Beaver County Commissioner Wade Hollingshead said *“I echo those sentiments, too, and agree with what was just said. He said “I don’t know Dale Brinkerhoff real well, but I have heard a lot of good things about him and I appreciate his service.”* He then said *“Andy has been super kind to me and very helpful, so I appreciate that and again, too, his service, so I echo the same thing.”*

Commissioner Gant said *“Thank you, guys. It's a blessing to get to know all you guys. Maybe I'll show up at one of these and have lunch with you, because I really didn't get a last meeting to say goodbye and shake everybody's hand, so I might do that next year.”*

Mr. Gary Zabriskie, one of the two Deputy Directors at the Association, added these final sentiments: *“I Want To thank Commissioner Gant also for coming out to the CIB meeting back in November, near Moab, and sitting with Bryan Thiriote and I as we presented the Association's CIB application to remodel this FCAOG-owned office building to make it more secure and make it better able to serve the public with easy to access restroom facilities for the public, give us more storage, and give us the ability to expand our services, especially for the aging programs which are continuing to grow in this region. I just want to thank you Commissioner Gant for that support we had from you out there, and for Commissioner Taylor for his support serving on that CIB board. It's very important for all of us.”*

AGENDA ITEM XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair asked if anybody else had anything to bring up and then thanked all for attending the meeting. The Chair, determining that there was no further business to discuss or act upon, and using his non-debatable prerogative, adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

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

These minutes will be presented for approval by the Steering Committee at their January 11, 2023 meeting.