

SUPAC
Minutes
May 10, 2011

1. Welcome & Introductions: Brian welcomed everyone and introductions were made.
2. SUTREC – Jake Hardman, SUTREC Coordinator (Southwest Utah Renewable Energy Center). The center began with Andy Swapp suggesting the use of wind speed with his students and having First Wind creating a farm in Milford. Andy Swapp is a local hero with his students and the community. SUTREC is a partnership with Beaver County Economic Development, SWATC, SUU Regional Services, USTAR, DWS, and the Beaver School District. Its location is Milford High School. It produces \$30 million in tax revenues. It advanced Renewable Energy (RE) training and research in the workforce. The showcase and promote at the Annual Milford Renewable Energy Fair; have an RE mobile education trailer; and market that we are resource rich in Southwest Utah. It has provided a local economic boost. Jake showed a map of the Geothermal, Solar, and Wind Zones within the state of Utah.

SWATC is training wind techs, solar techs, and currently have 21 students in the program. They developed a model RE curriculum for statewide adoption, and an industry where input is taken and feasibility studies. The goal is to have advanced RE techs and production managers. Promoted and marketed the southwest Utah with highly skilled, high wage employment. They train a qualified workforce and work with industry partners to determine skills needed. This type of promotion will attract RE industries.

If you have any questions, or need further information contact: jhardman@swatc.edu
Telephone 801-891-9969.

They will have a total of five (5) phases will produce 400 windmills. 97 in phase 1; 68 in phase 2; and 68 in phase 3 and so on.

3. Utah State Parks Update – Larry Gray expressed thanks for voicing support for the State Parks and Recreation. Ogden standard examiner; Davis County Chamber of Commerce; 3 from KSL and 1 from Davis County Tourism will be taking a 2200 mile state park road trip to 43 parks. Southwest region suffered a 10.5 % budget reduction. For Larry it will equate to 7 FTEs were lost (3 law enforcement are included in this count). Mary Tullius, State Director spoke about the audit that was done a year ago February 2010. The auditors suggested a privatization of parks. The auditors suggested they be self sustaining parks and run as a business. They will have to report to the legislature about feasibility of privatization and seasonal operational hours. \$4 million is what the auditor said they could get by with. Right now they have \$6.8 million. They will report on what they will look like working with \$4 million. Heritage parks are very much our history and cost about \$3 million to run annually. The scenic and recreational will take a hit for maintenance. \$4 million is ongoing - \$2.8 million was a one-time money for this year. Downsizing will have a domino effect on all communities if state parks are being closed due to lack of funding. How do you decide which ones are being closed. Fees collected are utilized for maintenance of trails in partnerships with USDA FS and BLM lands. The distribution of the fees collected by Utah State Parks delineates all subject matter. (Informational flyer is included in these minutes.) This cut in the budget will result in 25 FTEs statewide. 20 of which are law enforcement officers.

4. Dixie National Forest RAC Update

Kenton Call distributed the Resource Advisory Committee at a glance (RAC) flyer. The RAC distributes money to all. The next deadline is May 31, 2011 for the second round to be used for aspen regeneration; implementing community wildfire plans (even on private lands); Watershed projects; and they are looking for projects like they had in the 1st round. The rural schools funding process - Title 3 monies come directly to the communities for fire protection. That equated to counties receiving anywhere from \$100,000 - \$350,000. Title 2 monies only come to the RAC. Rob MacWhorter offered that county commissioners and the forest service are represented on the RAC committee. (See attached flyer.)

5. Round Table:

Paul Roelandt said Cedar Breaks is 150 % of normal on snow; they are working on trying to get roads open hopefully by 5/31/11. NPS hasn't seen numbers but they are expecting an 8-10% budget cut. Cedar Breaks will lose their long term seasonal help. There is a bright spot in that youth funding is available and our interns will be working throughout the summer and year around for career track interns. Cedar Breaks have maintained 500-550,000 visitors in the year. Winter use is up from 60,000 to 80,000 and has included an increase in snowmobile use.

Jake Hardman SUTREC - SWATC is a UCAP campus and received budget cuts. They were first on the list for a new building but were bumped by Tooele ATC.

Kevin Carter reported he is working with Cedar City BLM on the RMP and have met with Iron and Beaver counties will be getting out a next iteration of maps in the next month. The State of Utah joined the lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers who decided that streambeds were part of the US waters. They sued UDOT for the building of the road to the new airport in St. George. The finding was that USACE overstepped their bounds. SITLA is doing a video contest for OHV trail safety for students. The winner will receive \$500 to the teacher, student and school.

Clare Ramsay said that the most exciting thing is the gutting of the old courthouse. They have moved to the Fair building. They'll be there a little over a year. At the end of the month (May 28th) we're invited to the grand opening of the heritage center in Escalante.

Dirk Clayson appreciates working with Garfield County on the Hole in the Rock road; They are within three months of finishing the reservoir; and they started with their Economic Development activities. They've hired a new director and his name is Matt Brown. The jail is 50% finished and is a 160 room contract facility. 190 beds are for the county. They have a Senior Citizen center for Kanab in the works. They are trying to work with federal regulations to deal with issues. The educational efforts are being stepped up so that individuals will be well-informed and not misinformed. Transient room tax was up 32% from last year not including the AmanGiri Resort which would have put it at 50%. Kane County appreciates State parks which makes it all possible for their tourism revenues.

Ken Sizemore, said that Five Co AOG is in a position for state and federal funding and trying to figure out their budgets. They are feeling the cutbacks and may have to lay-off people through attrition and layoffs. Too much uncertainty right now. The highway 9 project was approved by the legislature and spearheaded by Dennis Stowell. Hwy 143 from Parowan to Panguitch will

have a celebration during the summer. As fiscal agent for this committee Ken said there were unpaid dues by some outstanding.

Ellen Schunk, Senator Mike Lee's office said there is a continuing resolution for the next big discussion on raising the debt limit and he wants to tie it to the balanced budget amendment and unless it passes, he won't vote to raise the debt limit. Ellen said she is the new kid on the block and she is located in St. George and will relocate to new offices on June 1st. At that time she'll let us know the address and phone.

Mike Empey said Matheson supports the balanced budget amendment. Everyone recognizes that there needs to be cuts. Community health centers look at being cut. They are looking at trillions in cuts. The EPA is undergoing a fiscal impact analysis and how it plays into cap and trade on regulations and there is a bill in the works.

Marreen Casper, Senator Hatch said the budget is being discussed and President Obama is not supporting renewable energy. As a ranking member on finance he is supporting the Jobs Act 2011 will give states the right to use unexpended unemployment funds any way they want. USACE is trying to assert their authority over anything that will carry a kayak is going to be considered navigable water. There is a meeting next Tuesday in Kane County.

GSENM reported they had 3 projects: One was the Hole in the Rock for the EA which allows for 25 overnight and will be open for commentary. The BLM NEPA process allows for a protest period and we won't know until the end of the week the number of protests. The Lake Powell pipeline study project is underway. There are 30 study plans and the GSENM gave their comments last week. Matt is the new Planning Division Chief. BLM was not affected for the budget for 2011-2012. Where is the Monument Advisory Committee in the process? The nominations are in the GSENM and the nominations have been sent to the White House. The charter ran out.

Arizona Strip BLM – Draft EIS went out for public comment Wednesday May 4, They've received 300,000 substantial comments were made and they are trying to do fast track. Briefings will be scheduled in the next month (June) to develop a briefing packet. The summary will include tribal and substantive comments. Will discuss three options to the Secretary for the Interior – Final EIS should be out this fall. The field office for the Arizona Strip are going through a travel management process.

Ron Wilson introduced Kelly Washburn the community forester for the southern part of the State. They have a Community Forest plan for Hurricane and SUU Mountain property. The legislative budget impacts UFFSL did well. They didn't have to lay off anyone. The fire situation – they have thick cheat grass in Iron County to work on. They had a 22 acre fire in Garfield County. They also trained 154 people on the engine use to get ready for wildfire season. Kelly helps cities, towns, and unincorporated areas manage their forest lands. Major projects include GIS inventories in Washington, Iron and Kane counties. She is going to put in RAC proposals.

Rob MacWhorter has been known to stretch the Nexus' on forest land for county commissioners. We are a month behind on water melt for their Dixie forest lands. Washington county and Enterprise reservoirs have had issues already for the water flow. There is a lot of resource damage. Be prepared for the downfall. 140 – 160% level of snowpack. Cedar

Mountain is still at 10 feet of snow. Budget for the Dixie was okay and they will be funded at the 2010 level. 2012 level will be some 5-10% cut or ½ million dollars. The Forest Service never gets funded for capacity for fire fighting and they had a \$750,000 deficit each fiscal year. It means the FS is ready to change how they finance funding. They are still working on timber sale projects. Rural Development being done to improve water and they are still trying to keep the mill in Escalante open. Scenic Byway 12 received \$360,000 to give significant improvements to the Red Canyon visitor center. They received a handful of more kids in the woods grants and are working with Iron County for \$900,000 to do bridge and road reconstructions and the county will take over the road through Dixie forest lands. The Navajo lake road improvement is on the 2011 plan of work but there is no funding today. Rob MacWhorter thanked county commissioners and our federal congressional staff for helping push this through.

Alma Adams said that UAC got together and got \$10 million out of the legislature for jails. SB221 will help to create a limit on wilderness areas within the RMPs. RS2477 for inventory probing and they went on a tour with the facilitator. Iron is improving the fairgrounds and they are putting in more seating and bucking shoots.

Larry Gray said he heard two comments operate more like a business and Brian made a comment that he wonders how much the gardens in the State Capitol earn so they are self-sustaining. Larry and Mary appreciate the support of the State Parks.

Brian Cottam said that higher education received a 1.5 % budget cut. (A total of 23% over the past 3 years has been cut) Dozens of students are hired for seasonal work in the intergovernmental internship program. The demonstration forest at SUU Mountain Ranch will begin work as soon as weather permits. The Rural Summit is August 11-12. Former Senator Bennett, Robin Phelps, National Center for Rural Economic Gardening, and Lt. Governor Greg Bell will all be keynote speakers just to name a few.

6. Our next meeting will be September 13, 2011.

ATTENDEES
MAY 10, 2011

Brian Cottam
Paul Roelandt
Jake Hardman
Kevin Carter
Clare Ramsay
Kenneth Sizemore
Ellen Schunk
Mike Empey
Marreen Casper
Matt Betenson
Rene Berkhoudt
Scott Florence
Ron Wilson
Rob MacWhorter
Kelly Washburn
Mike Worthen
Kenton Call
Larry Gray
Alma Adams
Mary Tullius