

Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC)

Minutes

May 4, 2010

Beaver County EMS, 1090 N Main St., Beaver, UT

1. **Welcome & Introductions** - Wes Curtis, VP SUU Government Relations and Regional Services welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Thanks to Rob Adams for setting up the field trip and Commissioner Willden for hosting us at EMS. It's appreciated.
2. **2010 Legislative Review** - Wes said that higher education did better this year. Going into the session last year a cut of 17.5% was expected. The state back-filled with only 9% cut and stated that we would have a 17.5% cut for July 1, 2010. We have a total of 12% cut. Thanks to the tobacco tax to backfill higher education. There were no other issues for higher education.

GOPB received a fairly good budget. It could have been bleak for them as well. They were funded at nearly the same level as last year. They have a planning projects budget available of \$400k and applications are due 5/10/2010. The timing of bills for the Utah Planning Association worked well. Go to their website and you can look at all the planning statutes in the state.

Kevin Carter – SITLA reported that there was a lot of legislation dealing with state sovereignty – John Harja has a lot of work to do to see where state rights may or could be violated. A number of bills and funding were introduced on access, water rights, etc.

Don – Contracts and having UAC look at their energy projects has worked well. Pending legislation would preclude counties from working with cities.

Rob Adams said GRPB to put together legislation somewhat like the Universal fund to extend broadband and fiberoptic and Questar was very responsive. Rocky Mountain Power did not respond. They need better representation for infrastructure and Senate Bill 76 U-green was put together for renewable energy.

3. **Public Lands Policy Coordinator's Office** – Wes introduced John Harja, PLPCO Director. Governor's idea about public lands roads. Searching for a path to follow. People are speaking to each other. Land use bill for Beaver and San Juan County has one in the works too. The governor hired Ted Wilson to coordinate land use bills and wilderness plans. He is more aware of details regarding roads. In a display of bipartisan he is also appointed chair of Natural Resources Council. The members include Mike Noel, Lynn Stevens, Pat Shea, Kathleen Clarke, Mike Styler, Amanda Smith, Nielsen, Leonard Blackham, and John Harja. Land Use bills were discussed at 1st meeting; RS2477 road issues; wild & scenic rivers and water rights are paramount to Utah. Governor wants to balance the resources council and add additional members. Secretary Salazar attended one of their meetings. It was a nice visit. The issues PLPCO has on the table are

national gas lines, magnum energy, bills passed on eminent domain issues, sage grouse, etc. San Juan County and Kane County are currently litigating public roads. Trial was held and Utah is awaiting judge's decision. Litigation of roads in Juab County is currently underway. Emery County has litigation of roads and an air strip as well. They've used these public land roads for many years. 2,500 roads are involved in access for Utah. They have documented past public roads being used and they are still in existence. DOI has not responded to requests for access roads. Proposing a used road be assigned to the entity using (city/county/state) for access to continue they will maintain and if not used, BLM will be responsible for maintaining. 10th Circuit court issued a determination that entities cannot decide who gets what. The court will decide. The energy pipeline is set to go down the middle of the state. They want to protect and prevent land grabs. They are protecting the transmission lines for the wind turbines. The biggest problem is the boundaries. General definition of the wilderness is that motorized vehicles are prohibited, except for fire fighting, health and safety, grazing, and private property access to manage the wildlife. Grazing may continue; hunting is not affected and gathers are allowed with a permit. Red Rock has been proposed since 1989-present for wilderness designation. Each year it gains momentum. 220,000 acres in Beaver County is proposed. Forest Service has areas of concern. The wilderness society groups were invited to come to the table and only came out of the woodwork in the past two weeks. Beaver County has 93% federal or state owned. They have no control over that 93% as a county. Preserve land is proposed at 168,000 acres and Red Rock is 218,973 acres. There is no Forest Service land in the 218,973 acres. They've had several field trips and maps produced and meetings with the wilderness groups. They will finalize maps and the bill in the next couple of months. Utah environmental Congress tried to tie up access to the Tushar Mountains.

4. **SUTREC** – Rob Adams showed a map of area for the Southwest Utah Renewable Energy Center. Credit is to Milford HS for establishing a renewable energy training center for a job that would be created there. A partnership was formed with Beaver County, schools, economic development, USTAR, SWATC, GOED, SUU and Utah Workforce Services – Last Thursday was the renewable energy fair. There were electric cars to race to show how long they can run in an hour. Even Blanding showed up. It worked out great instead of the weather creating a problem. They have an operating solar panel putting out 20 kilowatts with a photovoltaic cell. Eventually they would like to have bricks and mortar. There were 20 booths as opposed to 7 last year. The Utah Renewable Energy Zone Phase I identifies renewable energy zones. They have energy wind farms and the second phase is going to begin construction in the next couple of weeks. In a year or 18 months the geothermal plant should be producing. Solar energy is also in the future.
5. **Next Meeting** – September 7, 2010 Brian Head.

APPENDIX "A"
Meeting Attendees

Marreen Casper, Senator Orrin Hatch's Office
Mike Empey, Congressman Matheson's Office
Mike Worthen, Iron County
John Harja, PLPCO
Larry Crutchfield, BLM GSENM Kanab Field Office
Brian Cottam, SUU Govt. Relations & Regional Services
Scott Albrecht, Beaver County
Donald Willden, Beaver County
Rob Adams, Beaver County Economic Development
Kevin Carter, SITLA
Brent Bluth, SITLA
Evan Curtis, Governors Office of Planning & Budget
Todd Stowell, Iron County
Gary Zabriskie, Five County AOG
Bryan Thiriot, Senator Bennett's Office