

Southern Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC)

Minutes

November 8, 2011

Kane County Search & Rescue Building

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** Brian welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Commissioner Clayton welcomed SUPAC to Kane County and to the City of Kanab. SARB (Search and Rescue Building) is a new building and houses public safety and search and rescue. The area has a lot of search and rescue issues and many tourists tend to get in trouble in the back country areas. Also, it's a great building for meetings and trainings. Medical emergency trainings and law enforcement trainings are done in the building and today it's being used for a voting precinct. Many thanks to Kane County for hosting the SUPAC.

2. **Utah Office of Energy Development** – Samantha Julian, Director of Office of Energy Development for Utah. Samantha stated that rural communities are the best place for energy development. She worked for EdCU prior to becoming the Director of the Office of Energy. They have an active working task force developing and overseeing strategies, including an Energy Coordinating Council consisting of: OED; DEQ; DNR; DOGM; SITLA; UDAF; PLPCO; GOED. Their goal is for greater coordination with PSE, UDOT, and other offices, crossing agency boundaries including GOED and USTAR.

The establishment of Office of Energy Development was a result of HB 475 and is creating the following:

Energy Business Assistance – Organizing pre-designed meetings to include all players for permitting.

One – Voice on energy from the State of Utah;

The Uinta Basin Air Quality is a priority;

Created in 2011 and opened May 2, 2011.

Progress Energy Development;

Single point of contact;

Development of all energy resources;

Shape and implement policy;

Assists industry and citizens;

Streamline processes and will be tracking data with state and federal agencies

Track all data – They will disseminate for public and industry

Strategy Formulation Process

Vision & Mission

To serve as the primary resource for advancing energy development in Utah

Mission is to provide leadership

Create & Implement Policy for the Governor

Industry Assistance

Relationship Building

Funding Opportunities
Energy Education.

The USDA came and asked for assistance to reach out to rural communities for energy development. So they are working on this project. The newly created website will have education on it. Papers will be published on line.

Policy Governors Energy Plan Priorities;
Funding diversification
Tracking/Mapping resources
Communication Transparency
Governor's Energy Development Summit – (February 15, 2012 Salt Lake City)
Assessments are being made currently to “Start, Stop, or Continue” current practices and/or processes at the local, state, regional and national levels

22 people are currently on staff and they will reduce to about one-half around April 2012. They will ask legislature for support to create depth. New hires will probably be on a cost sharing basis. They will hire a Conventional Energy Development Manager and an Unconventional Energy Development Manager.

Rural Outreach & Special Projects -- Currently they are surveying the industry projects and gathering data. The rule is they will figure out regulatory guidelines and give it on line. SUTREC is helping GED opportunities to run loan programs.

Dave Clark asked for an update on oil shale production. Right now the OED feels Red Leaf Resources are the best process of mining and they have just received a permit to begin operations. Samantha explained the process they use which is eco-friendly compared to other processes.

Samantha is here today to start a relationship with local and federal members of the SUPAC. Dave Clark had several questions about wells – Samantha said there were 11,000 permits for wells in the basin.

3. **Kaibab National Forest Update** – Gary Snider, USFS Assistant Forest Planner said the Kaibab consists of 1.6 million acres. Elevations range from 5,500' to 10,000.' There are variety of vegetation types. North Kaibab district matters to the citizens of Southern Utah and makes a major contribution to sustaining the vibrant rural communities. There is a sustainable supply of wood to support wood based industries; protect communities' watersheds and infrastructure from wildfire.

4 Priority Needs for Change:

- Re-adapt conditions and restore the ponderosa pine
- Aspen regrowth
- Restore grassland
- Water – Natural waters - water is scarce

The Colorado River provides socio-economic analysis

DEIS – Alternatives

Alternative A – No Action alternative which is what we're doing now.

Alternative B: Proposed forest plan and preferred alternative 0- proposed 11,900 acres of restoration and would need to be – Primary prescription is no diameter cap.

Alternatives C & D: Developed to address issues raised

Alternatives are pretty much the same – High quality scenery and diverse recreation opportunities; opportunities to ranch and graze livestock; Objectives and guidelines are to provide restoration.

Recommended wilderness is being treated as wilderness now.

Wilderness – Alternative C - Would establish a new management area the North Kaibab Wildlife Habitat Complex (260,000 acres) Issue: "lands of high conservation value such as the Kaibab Squirrel Area and National Natural Landmark and the surrounding ephemeral drainages are critical wildlife core areas and linkages that should not be managed for timber production. Recommended for restoration and maintain for fire.

Alternative D – No lands would be managed for timber production.

Issue: The negative effects associated with regular mechanical disturbance outweigh the benefits. Restoring nature fire regimes

Alt C & D

Would not cut trees with physical characteristics indicating they were established prior to 1890.

Issue: The proposed plan does not adequately protect existing and provide for future old growth.

Note: The proposed plan contains a tree retention guideline that is typical of 175 year old tree.

It takes into consideration the Gossett guidelines - 10-10-10-20 can it be covered.

Desired conditions are trying to get away from that.

Alternative C & D

Would recommend 5 additional wilderness areas

Issue: Areas should not be excluded from wilderness consideration just because they have evidence of past human activity, provided they are substantially unnoticeable and could be rendered as such, through restoration. **(PowerPoint Presentation is incorporated herein)**

Dirk Clayson said he was happy to see Alternative B because it would produce these kinds of jobs to build up the infrastructure and it's refreshing to see the analysis.

Sometime in Jan – Feb, 2012 the proposed FMP and DEIS will be released through Notice of Availability and they expect that in the fall 2012, there will be publication of the FEIS and Record of Decision.

4. Round table

Rick Torgerson, UDOT reported on the SR-14 slide repair which occurred in Cedar Canyon on October 7, 2011 early morning. 250 million cubic yards to 1.1 million slid and removal will be expensive depending on the innovation. The unit price of Roadway Excavation is anywhere from \$2.50 to \$10 per cubic yard. They have haul length, amount of blasting and finding a waste location to worry about. There are slide stability issues; private property access and acquisition; stream alterations; and other environmental requirements. Another thing they are looking at is removing loose material from tunnel headwall and construct a half-width bridge over tunnel inlet. The Aerial & Topo survey is complete and they have a Design Consultant under contract and the CM/GC contractor is advertised and out for RFP. Next Steps: Obtain CM/GC Contractor, Geotechnical, Proposals are due 11-23 and evaluations will be done 11/28 – 30. They want to start constructing by February. For updates go to:

<http://www.udot.utah.gov/main/f?p=100:pg:0:::1:T,V:3571>

In Kane Co 14 miles resurfaced just east of here. \$14 million on 89. Kanab Ranchos Rd should be finished by Thanksgiving. \$16 million in Kane Co. Next year will be \$14 million for fixing Main street and resurfacing. First \$3 million came system-wide for Hwy 14 slide.

Dave Clark – reported that legislature Dec 2007 received a positive forecast and we as a State came up with a consensus number. It is something which helps our rating. Every quarter since 2007 the economists said they were wrong. We lost revenues over those 4 years. In February 2012 we could be up to \$250 million and up. We haven't lost \$100 million and we are flat lined and we'll wait until we see if we will go up to the \$250 million mark. Federal system budgeted for Utah. We need to change stewardship. Public education will be on the radar to watch for management of resources and although the legislature doesn't want to intrude on what they will need to do quality teaching. There are tight borrowing guidelines for Utah. Statutorily 2001-2002 we set aside rainy day funds. We have \$200 million in rainy day funds. We our fiscally sound and that is why we have been named the best managed state each year. A higher bar is set for accessing rainy day funds and requests are scrutinized very closely.

What are the areas of the economy that revenues were going up and reported by the economists? 25 years ago if Kennicott had a bad year we all had a bad year. Other construction and manufacturing has waned but we are more cosmopolitan now and the various economies are steadily recovering and growing. Utah uniquely manages early for catastrophic conditions. Our entitlement programs of our general fund were 9% and

are now 23%. The trend we're on we may have 50% on Medicaid by the end of this next decade.

Marreen Casper reported that the bill on the floor for a balanced budget is in.

Army Corps of Engineers is making a bid to take over the AZ strip district.

5. Other Business – There was no other business
6. Next meeting – **January 10, 2012 in St. George. Location to be determined.**

APPENDIX "A"
SUPAC ATTENDEES
NOVEMBER 8, 2011

Perry Thomson, USTAR & Office of Energy
Samantha Julian, Office of Energy
Alan Gardner, Iron County
Marreen Casper, Senator O. Hatch's Office
Mike Empey, Congressman Matheson's Office
Kelly Stowell, CEBA
Rick Torgerson, UDOT
Victor Iverson, Senator Mike Lee's Office
Paul Wright, Utah DEQ
Dave Clark, Utah Legislature
Jake Hardman, SUTREC
Paul Wright, Utah DEQ, SW District Engineer
Kevin Carter, SITLA
Ken Sizemore, Five County AOG
Dirk Clayson, Kane County Commissioner
Mike Worthen, Iron County
Lawrence Twitchell, Utah State Parks & Rec.
Clare Ramsay, Garfield County Commissioner
Matt Betenson, BLM – GSENM
Ron Wilson, Utah Forestry, Fire, State Lands
Scott Florence, BLM – AZ Strip District
Gary Snider, USFS Kaibab National Forest
Evan Curtis, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
Brian Cottam, SUU Regional Services