

**SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES COUNCIL
(SUPAC)**

Minutes of a meeting held July 7, 1998

**** denotes action items**

The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met on Tuesday, July 8, 1998, at 1:00 P.M. at the Holiday Inn in St. George, Utah. Those in attendance are listed on the rosters attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

1. Vice-Chairman Scott Truman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked all attendees to check the list of e-mail addresses with the roll and make any needed corrections to their e-mail addresses.
2. Marty Ott made a motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 1998 as written. Lloyd Johnson seconded the motion and all voted aye.
3. The next item on the agenda was a calendaring report by Luke Smart. Scott said Luke was unable to attend today's meeting but had e-mailed the calendar and copies were circulated with the agendas. Scott asked for any update items for the calendar. The following items were offered by the committee:

September 9, 10 and 11 is the rural summit in Cedar City at SUU Hunter Conference Center. The keynote speaker will be former Governor Lamm of Colorado. Also Governor Leavitt and Senator Bennett (tentative) will speak. Scott Truman wondered if we wanted to change the SUPAC meeting date or hold it in conjunction with the rural summit. Information on the summit will start being circulated in the next week.

Jerry Meredith said on September 24 -26 in Tacoma, Washington there will be a Gateway Communities conference. It is for communities adjacent to parks, monuments, etc.

Dean Reeder, Utah Travel Council, has additional information on this national conference.

Commissioner Gardner noted that the first Tuesday of September was September 1 and so SUPAC wouldn't coincide with the rural summit in Cedar City. Scott Truman said that would work better. The next SUPAC meeting will be September 1 at the Holiday Inn in St. George. Lunch will be at noon with the meeting to start at 1 p.m. Scott Truman said committee members should plan on lunch at noon unless notified differently. Those people giving presentations at the meeting are also invited for lunch.

Marty Ott announced that the Zion National Park ground breaking for their new visitor transit center will be August 21. The ceremony will be at 8:30 a.m. at Loop A, Watchman Campground. That will be followed by refreshments at the Cinemax Theater. There will be a premier screening of the movie "Everett" at 10:00 a.m. Senator Bennett and Congressman Hansen will both be there. The SUPAC committee members are invited. Call Don Falvey if you will be attending.

4. Lloyd Johnson discussed the Statewide Digital Orthophoto Quads program. He passed out the most current version of the index map dealing with digital orthophoto quads. Last July those CD's were delivered for Washington County with one set to John Willie and one sent to Ron Thompson at the water district. Lloyd passed out a map showing the status of the digital orthophoto work for the State of Utah. The map indicated by colors what areas are completed, what is in progress and what is planned for the future. He said that information for every completed area is available at the AGRC as they are the repository for this information. These are large amounts of data. Washington County is about 45-50 gigabytes of data. In the last legislative session there was \$200,000 earmarked for rural government geographic systems assistance. This money is for helping local governments implement GIS systems. Proposals for these funds are being sent out this week to county commissions. Local entities would need to work with their county commission to generate a proposal for requesting some of these funds. Lloyd said if anyone needs help with this they can contact Dennis Gorman at AGRC or contact him. He said this was a good chance for getting state money to bring GIS systems up to date. Lloyd also gave Matt Peters phone number (538-3168) if anyone needs to obtain information on these digital orthophoto quads.
5. Ron Thompson of the Washington County Water Conservancy District was next on the agenda to discuss the Lake Powell Pipeline Study and give a status report on the Sand Hollow Project. Ron Thompson introduced Eric Loveless of Boyle Engineering who is doing the update on the Lake Powell Pipeline water study for the water district.

Eric explained in that in 1994 Boyle Engineering prepared a purpose and needs study for Washington County which addressed meeting the water needs in Washington County for the next 20 to 30 years. The district recently asked them to update that study. The purpose and needs study covers population projections and the current developed water supply. It also discusses the 59,300 a.f. of developed water in Washington County right now and the per capita use. Some of the data the study showed was that residential, commercial and industrial water use totaled 335 gallons per capita daily (GPCD). 8% to 12% of homes in Washington County are secondary homes and so they can adjust that figure to 280 GPCD. The study also discussed secondary water use and showed a residential and commercial secondary water use for a total of 120 GPCD. The study showed agricultural water use at 87,800 a.f. per year.

He showed on a graph future water demands up to the year 2050. In 2050 the demand would be 240,000 a.f. The current supply is 50,300 a.f. They identified the

following possible ways to meet that demand in the study:

Quail Creek Reservoir can probably produce an additional 8,000 a.f. of available water. Sand Hollow Reservoir - 10,800 a.f.

Ash Creek - 3,000 a.f.

Treat Wash Fields ag water - 62,300 a.f. to convert to M&I

Santa Clara River (piping) - 3,600 a.f.

Beaver - 4,600 a.f. (could be as high as 8,000 a.f.)

Crystal Creek - 4,000 a.f.

Lake Powell pipeline - 100,000 a.f. (when & if built)

Groundwater development - USGS is currently wrapping up ground water study in Washington County. They are unsure what available groundwater might be at this point but might be as much as 16,000 a.f. available

Water reuse- using treated wastewater on parks, golf courses, etc. could produce up to 20,000 a.f. per year

6. Eric Loveless also reported on the Update on Lake Powell Pipeline Study that they are doing for the water district. They earlier did a feasibility study and looked at possible alignments, potential pumping, power generation, facilities, operations and capital costs. The purpose of this project would be to transport some of Utah's developed water at Lake Powell to meet Washington County needs and also possibly 120,000 a.f. to Kanab. The initial feasibility study was completed a couple of years ago and identified a favored alignment that starts at north Lone Rock, follows Highway 89 to Kanab and then north or south and ends up at the Sand Hollow Reservoir. The cost varies but it is approximately \$220 a.f. They have recently looked at an all Utah alignment. The unit cost on that would be \$410 a.f. Their conclusion is that on a reconnaissance level the pipeline is feasible from both an engineering and a unit cost viewpoint. He answered various questions from the committee.
7. Ron Thompson gave an update on the Sand Hollow project. The archaeological field work is completed. Approximately one million dollars has been spent on archaeological work. The district is getting ready to send out requests for proposals for design. A study on ground water recharge potential in the basin has been finished. Ron said they hope to make the final sizing cost estimates and go into final design this Fall. The current thinking of the board is to build the reservoir so that they have a drought buffer in reservoir. The District has hired John Willie to do a long term master plan for the land around the reservoir.
8. Ron Thompson also reported on the ESA Mitigation Program. The attorneys are trying to put a final document together. The document attempts to put a recovery program together for the Virgin River dealing with the fishes and other endangered species on river corridor which will have within it a mitigation bank. It will provide long term habitat protection. They have been successful at a state and federal level at lobbying funds for this program. It is being funded 1/3 locally, 1/3 state and 1/3 federal government. The intent is to try to restore and rehabilitate native fishes in the Virgin River corridor.

9. Reed Harris was unable to attend the meeting and so the Condor update was passed over.
10. Iron County HCP Update - Commissioner Urie explained that Iron County has been working on a habitat plan for the prairie dog for five years. He hoped he could report today that it had been signed but it is now back to the Solicitor General for more review by the Department of Interior attorneys. He said they have had good cooperation from the Division of Wildlife Resources and some members of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The further up the ladder it gets the more delays there are and the longer it takes. He said they have had a real problem in their cemeteries because of the prairie dog burrows. They got permission to remove some burrows from the ball park so the kids would not get hurt and some have been removed from the golf course but they have not been given permission to remove them from cemetery. He said that they are making slow progress.
11. Karen Sudmeier of the Utah Division of Travel Development gave a report on visitor tracking. They have been looking at visitor counts on public lands. She gave a report at the last SUPAC meeting on how visitors are counted on public lands. At that time it was suggested that she contact Utah State University for assistance. She said that tracking recreation visits on public lands is very important for the larger issue of planning, for projected recreation use and other related issues such as ecological impacts, visitor service and also economic impact.

Karen introduced Dale Blahna who is with the Forest Department with Utah State University. Dale discussed two things: the Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism and visitor counts on public lands. He explained that the institute lost their funding in 1986 and they have been trying for the last couple of years to get more funding to do recreation and tourism research in the State. In the last legislative session USU received \$150,000 continuing funding to do recreation and tourism research in Utah. He passed out a handout about the institute and the focus of their program. Their primary goal is to provide a program of research and extension in the Department of Forest Resources, focusing on the relationship between recreation and tourism, natural resource management, and community economic development and quality of life. They want to collaborate and get scientists and resource professionals together to identify issues that they need to look at to reach their goals. He also identified some of the sample project reports that they would try and produce.

12. Dale Blahna also discussed developing visitor use counts on public lands in southwestern Utah. He said identifying the objectives for visitor use studies is the key. There is no one process or correct way of doing this. How to do it is totally dependent on the objectives of the people involved. He passed out a handout containing the key considerations and thoughts that need to be considered before deciding on processes. This is a complex issue especially in dispersed areas. The most accurate counts are generated by the National Park Service, the Army Corp of Engineers, and State Parks because of controlled access, relative number of fee areas

and staff size but even in these areas data problems exist. Since there is no one way or best way to count those visitors, area by area has to be identified because of different conditions involved. Counting cannot be accomplished as an add-on to staff's existing duties. Other thoughts from his handout included starting simple and low cost and increasing complexity over a number of years. Even simple counting will require a coordinated effort of the agencies. He also suggested starting with the numbers and information they already have. Increasing complexity should be based on specific objectives, needs, funding and a thorough review of the existing counting program. Surveys should be implemented before using mechanical devices. The most sophisticated counting/research approaches would only be implemented in specific areas and for specific purposes.

He also reviewed a possible plan of attack identifying steps over a period of four years.

Karen Sudmeier indicated she would be willing to head up working on ways to increase comparability of permits and registration forms, collection methods and data bases.

Scott Truman asked Marty Ott if he had any recommendation. Marty said that he felt the real issue was the dispersed areas and how they are going to get a count of people that are hunting, fishing, rock-hounding, bird-watching, etc. He said there is information out there that they can begin with in the form of permits. This would at least be a starting point. Marty said he feels very strongly that we should only be concerned with counting if it will lead to a useful product and not just collecting data if it isn't useful and they can't afford it.

Jerry Meredith said that getting the agencies together and looking at what they already have and capitalizing on this information they are already getting is a good first step that they can do with their present staffs. He said he felt sure the BLM would support this kind of approach.

**Karen Sudmeier will follow through with the various agencies and come up with an agency summary and then report back to this organization as to where they are all at and a direction we could go from there.

13. Gordon Topham gave an update on the Coral Pink Sand Dunes lawsuit. Gordon explained that they took a proactive approach to protecting the coral pink tiger beetle before it got listed and now they are in the middle of a lawsuit for trying to protect it. The sand dunes were mainly used for off road vehicles over the years. They took motorized vehicles out of some areas for the use of the public. They spent about a year putting together a plan to protect habitat and at the same time have foot traffic on the dunes used by tiger beetles. They started implementing the agreement and then the lawsuit was filed. The lawsuit was filed by Navajo Trails Coalition, Inc. and Utah Trail Machines Association to get a restraining order to keep them from implementing the tiger beetle program.

14. Gordon also reported on state parks visitation. He said they have been trying to collect data and see what the impacts were for these state parks that are gateway to the monument. The first year from 1995 to 1996 Anasazi state park had an increase of 19%. Coral Pink had a 4% increase. Kodachrome and Escalante had 0% increase. Last year 1996 to 1997 the Anasazi visitation was down 15%, Coral Pink had 3% increase and Kodachrome and Escalante down 12%. He said they have learned from this data that the impact has not been in the number of visitors but in the information being sought in connection with the monument
 15. Gordon Topham also informed the committee that tomorrow evening there will be a report of their recommendations by the transportation consulting group that has been looking at transportation issues in Snow Canyon. This meeting will be telecast to the EDNET system at Dixie College in Student Council Center, Room 7 (downstairs). The public is welcome to come and express concerns or support at this time. This consulting group looked at six different alternatives. Their recommendation will be that there be two way traffic into a central parking location (about a mile north of campground) and from there on through it will just be exit traffic. The Board will have to approve this.
 16. The next item on the agenda was a report from Natalie Gochmour of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget on Southern Utah Group Projections. Scott Truman indicated that she was in France at the present time and would like to give this report at the September SUPAC meeting and so this agenda item was continued to September.
 17. Scott Hirschi gave an Economic Development Report for Washington County. He reported on the Strategic Plan for Economic Development for Washington County. This plan has been in place for about a year. There were over 200 people involved in the process of putting this plan together. He is very pleased with the plan. They started with a group of focus meetings throughout the County and created a task force of about 60 people. They met on a regular basis trying to put information together and hammer out this strategic plan. Scott said he had a few copies of the entire plan with him today if those who are interested will let him know. He passed out an executive summary of the plan to the council members. The focus group identified core economic values for the county and these guided the process. Nine goals were identified and in the executive summary distributed each goal is stated with a measure of success, critical strategies and who will implement. They will hold an annual economic summit and report on the successes and failures as it relates to these goals and the plan. There is also a business incentive package and those incentives are listed on the back of the executive summary pamphlet.
- 210 Scott said the income in the county is rising and they are making progress. Last year business moved into the County. They are looking forward to the announcement of a major company coming within the next 30 to 60 days. This plan has been a great road map to accomplishing economic goals for the County.

18. Dale Peterson of UDOT gave a Transportation Update. They hold Transportation Partners Meetings on an annual basis. These are area meetings between UDOT's Region 4 staff and local, federal and state agency officials to develop a better understanding and working relationship concerning transportation systems, issues, needs and solutions. He passed out a handout identifying the dates for these meetings. In Washington County it will be Wednesday, August 19. They also have transportation open houses for the public. This is on the second page of the handout. Ken of UDOT reviewed the UDOT projects for the Washington County area. On Monday, July 13, requests for qualifications are due on the Southern Corridor project. Those will then be reviewed and a selection made to get started. The pavement preservation program was also discussed. This is a maintenance program where they are trying to preserve pavements. They are trying to keep roads in good enough shape that it costs everyone less. Timely maintenance can make this happen. This is an important program in UDOT. There is a 8 ½ million dollar budget for maintenance in Cedar district. Of that amount 3 ½ million is dedicated to preservation activities such as seal coat, lane leveling, etc. This year the funding for contracted maintenance has gone from 6 million to 2 million and so there are many things they will have to put off for a year. He reviewed some of the work they will try and do this year.

of He also discussed traffic on State Route 12 and whether traffic had increased because the monument. He passed out data for 1991-1997 of the AADT (annual average daily travel). They are not seeing any great increase in traffic.

19. Jerry Meredith gave a Grand Staircase Escalante Planning Team status report. Jerry indicated that one month ago they sent out their latest update letter announcing the preliminary alternatives for management scenarios. If anyone still wants to comment on those, it is not too late to do so.

one Jerry also discussed facilities for the monument. They will have two major facilities, will be part of the Escalante Center and headquarters located in Kanab. They will be working with City of Kanab on space to lease. They will have two secondary office spaces and visitor contact centers in Cannonville and one in the town of Big Water. One contact center will be in Glendale in Kane County. In Garfield County they will provide a permanent person to help with information at Anasazi State Park. Jerry said that one reason they reached an agreement so soon and easy on the facilities was because the Commissioners and mayors got together. They worked with the BLM and they were able to work together between both counties and all the mayors. They took the initiative, did the work and deserve the credit.

20. The last item on the agenda was a CED Report by Commissioners Louise Liston and Norm Carroll. Garfield County is a partner in the Escalante Center. It will be a major partner shipping effort. Garfield County School District donated 38 to 40 acres. It will be staffed by college professors. This will be a major component of the

monument in Garfield Co. With a planning grant Suzanne Winter has been hired as the executive director. They met with EPA and they toured the proposed center which resulted in a \$98,000 grant to the two counties.

has Commissioner Carroll said that Kane County is really pleased with partnership that been formed. He is pleased that towns and cities in Kane and Garfield Counties have been able to work together and communicate. The Kane County Commission is working with the City of Kanab as far as headquartering the facility.

Commissioner Carroll also expressed that in regard to the Coral Pink Sand Dunes litigation a lot of effort went into putting a habitat plan into place and they felt like they had a good thing going until the litigation was filed. His concern is if they win this litigation and the dunes are opened up again then the beetle might end up getting listed and then all of the dunes would be closed.

21. Scott Truman reviewed the agenda items for the September 1 SUPAC Meeting. The items he as so far are:

Planning Southern Utah Growth Projections - Natalie Gochnour, Governor's Office of and Budget
Jim Crisp - if ready to give report on Dixie Resource Area management plan.
Hugh Thompson - report on combining of Dixie & Fish Lake
Ron Thompson - public education video (if finished) or report on groundwater protection study.

22. The meeting was adjourned.

Action Items:

1. Karen Sudmeier will follow through with the various agencies and come up with an agency summary and then report back to SUPAC as to where they are all at and a direction that could be taken.