

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

Minutes of a meeting held September 1, 1998

**** denotes action items**

The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met on Tuesday, September 1, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. at the Zion Park Lodge in Zion National Park. 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 those present. Introductions were made of visitors to the meeting.

2. The minutes of the meeting of July 7, 1998, were reviewed by the committee. Rick Mayfield made a motion to approve those minutes. Lloyd Johnson seconded the motion and all voted aye.

3. Don Falvey reported on the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the new transportation system at Zion National Park. He indicated that it went very well. Senator Bennett attended. Drawings are available at today's meeting for anyone who would like to look closer at them. The transportation system will have two loops, one loop in the park and one loop in Springdale. Springdale has cooperated very well with the park service on this project. There will also be more parking available in Springdale. They also have a partnership with the Zion Cinemax Theater wherein they will provide parking for tour busses and also a shuttle stop at their own expense. They will also provide food service there. That will be the northern terminus of the Springdale shuttle stops. Construction has begun. There is construction fencing up at Watchman campground now. They hope to complete construction by December 1999 and by Memorial Day weekend of 2000 be ready to open the transportation system to the public. They have already contracted for about one-half of the shuttle vehicles. They hope to get funding for the other half of the vehicles. Don said there had been some misunderstanding circulating that the main canyon road would be closed when the transportation system goes into place. He said that is a rumor and that this road will be staying open. The system will be in operation during daylight savings time, holidays and other high visitation weekends. The system will start early in the morning and go to late a night with shuttles every six to seven minutes. The system will also accommodate the handicapped. Generally, things are progressing very well. Bud Mahas, a Utah contractor was the low bidder.

4. Don also reported that their draft general management plan should be available this winter. They have had a lot of public and focus group meetings on the plan. Once the draft plan is out they will have more public meetings.

5. Don encouraged council members to stop by Watchman Campground

before leaving the park and see the improvements that are being made. Don answered various questions including a question about the park entrance fees. He said they have not much had resistance to raising the fee to \$10. They get more flack about the backcountry fees.

6. Don introduced and welcomed Bruce Powell who is the acting Utah State Director, National Park Service, in Marty Ott's place.

7. Jim Crisp gave an update on the Dixie Resource Area Management Plan (DRMP). It is now at the printer's office. He said he expects it to be available for public mailout within the next two to three weeks. It has taken 12 years to get it to this point. There will be a final 30 day public review period and protest opportunity and a 60 day government office review. They expect to resolve protests and issue a decision by early next spring. When the plan does come out it will look very different from the draft. The draft came out in October 1995 with 4 alternatives, one of which was their preferred alternative along with many management opportunities for public lands in Washington County. The document responds to public comments received on the Dixie Resource Area Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The plan also corrects errors in the draft plan identified through the public comment process and internal BLM review. The Proposed Plan and associated analysis presents a refined and modified version of the Preferred Alternative and the accompanying impact analysis contained in the draft plan. The proposed plan represents a plan that has responded to all comments received to this point. This proposed plan is in a condensed Final EIS format and does not include the detailed description of the four alternatives or their environmental analysis presented in the draft. It does, however, reference the draft. BLM's strategic plan, Washington County HCP, Virgin River Management Plan have all been referenced in the plan.

8. There are number of major adjustments since the last draft. They tried to put people back into the document and recognize the importance of public plans to the economic development of Washington County and surrounding region. The plan does emphasize collaborative planning and envisions adopting local plans. They have also inserted general goals and objectives for each resource program. They have used planning guidelines from various sources such as the Washington County General Plan and other federal, state and local programs to draw out objectives that fit. The plan provides for Cooperative Management Agreements.

9. There were a number of areas of controversy and Jim said he would try and address some of those at today's meeting. The most vocal group was the off-road vehicle community from which the BLM received many, many comments. The proposed designations have been revised and they have tried to conform them to off-road vehicle guidelines and coordinate with adjacent land management agencies. The Sand Mountain Area and other areas will be left open for off-road vehicles. One of the issues that they really couldn't fix was RS2477. They did insert a transportation section which says there are lot of roads in Washington County on public lands that are important for the economic development of Washington County and which will be left open. On utility corridors all major corridors have been accounted for and the opportunity to get rights-of-ways is there.

On wild and wild & scenic river issues, they couldn't really fix this area. There was a number of changes made in inventories, minor changes in eligibility. They have gone forward with their suitability recommendations. The MOU that this committee put together has deferred designation on five parcels adjacent to Zion National Park. There will be a joint review of those parcels.

10. Jim said the BLM has responded to some 850 comments and worked with authorities from many agencies. Jim answered questions. He said the plan doesn't close the door on a lot of issues. If plans aren't consistent with this document things can always be inserted.

11. Mike Small, a biologist from the BLM (Arizona Strip) discussed the second condor release site. He passed out maps showing where release sites are. The condors were introduced in Arizona in 1996. There have been 3 releases. They have generally been successful. There have been 19 birds released and 15 are still out there. They are an endangered species. There are 25 condors in the wild in California and 149 total population in the world. It is one of the rarest birds in the world. They have selected another site for future releases. Many different areas were looked at for this site but they have to have certain criteria for a release site. This reintroduction program is a cooperative project with many partners such as U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, BLM and the Perrigin Fund. They have found a site 66 miles west of present site (36 miles south of St. George) along the Hurricane rim on the Hurricane Cliffs in Arizona. In early October nine birds will be brought to this site and released. They would stay in this area until they learn how to feed and to fly and then start going further and further out. Section 10J of the Endangered Species Act gives relaxed protection to the condors. The oldest birds out now are 3 years old. Mike said there had been talk about a major expansion of the 10J area so that wherever the birds go they would be under this 10J rule. Some of the council members suggested they felt this should be taken care of before these new birds are released. Another council member asked why they have not involved the public more in this process. He indicated they are trying to do this. They will give local congressional offices a list of the public hearings.

12. The time was turned over to Natalie Gochnour, an economist from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. She put together a presentation of her observations for demographic and economic trends in Southwestern Utah and will discuss issues related to planning. The population growth rates for 1996-97 for Utah were 2.3%. For Washington and Iron Counties it was 4.7%; Kane County 1.4% and Garfield County 3.2%. Washington County was the fastest growing county for that time period besides Tooele County. Population for Washington County for that time period 76,000 and 118,00 for the region.

13. She also gave a breakdown for population in 1996 for the following cities: St. George-42,763 (she said this is closer to 45,000 now); Cedar City-17,811; Washington-6,121; Hurricane-5,821; Santa Clara-3,857; Kanab-3,616; Ivins-3,149; La Verkin-2,684; Hildale-2,049; Panguitch-1,408; Enterprsie-1,110; Escalante-876; and Toquerville-724.

14. The growth rates (percentage changes) in 1995-96 for St. George were 5.7%; Cedar City-2.6%; Hurricane-9.6%; Kanab-negative 2.2%; Panguitch-negative 0.8%; Escalante-2.7%; and Ivins -13.1%.

15. She also gave historic and projected populations for Washington County. In 1900 the population was 4,000; in 1950 - 10,000; 1990 - 50,000 and nearly 100,000 is projected for the year 2,000.

16. The projected fastest growing counties in the state are Washington, Grand, Summit, Iron, Wasatch and Kane.

17. In Washington County their projection is that 80% of growth will be from migration. The largest sources of net in-migration to Washington County from highest to lowest is from Salt Lake County, Utah County, Clark County, Nevada, Davis County, Utah and Los Angeles, California. They have also seen a dramatic change in the age structure in Washington County. There is a very high dependency age. There are a lot of people under 18 and over 65. This peaked in 1990.

18. There is also a urbanization trend in the State. Utah is the 6th most urban state in the country. There is a consistent trend to become more urban. Washington County is currently 88% urban, Iron County - 76% urban and no urbanization in Garfield County. She showed a bar graph from 1900 to 1990 that gives the percentage of population that is urban for the State of Utah. In 1990 it was at 87% as compared to 38.1% in 1900.

19. Natalie said additional information is available on the Internet through the governor's home page. www.governor.state.ut.us

20. Joe Judd reported on Plan 2000 for Garfield and Kane Counties. This Plan 2000 will ask the President to appoint a seven person team from county, state, university and public interests for a voluntary six month period to look at the situation in Garfield and Kane Counties in regard to mitigating the impacts of the Grand Staircase Escalante Monument designation and the resulting BLM/SITLA land exchange on local counties. Other purposes of the Plan 2000 would be to carry on the joint local, state and federal cooperation and programs beyond the Monument's planning period ending about October, 1999 and to maintain the Governor's office commitment and involvement in the monument and local development needs. This Plan 2000 team would survey, study and recommend legislation and appropriations needed for: 1) Infrastructure Development; 2) Community Development; 3) Economic Development; and 4) Local government, state and federal agency coordination. They presently have enlisted Senator Bennett and his staff to review the program. They have no funding now but hope in the next new session to have a bill prepared and hopefully get some funding so they can bring this to fruition.

21. Don Falvey mentioned a book that he has used that has ideas for community image and how to market that image. He gave a presentation on it to the chamber of commerce in Springdale and it has some very good ideas. He will get a copy of

it to Mr. Judd and provide the name of it for inclusion in the minutes. The book is "Marketing Places" Philip Kotler, Donald Heider, and Irving Reiss. The Free Press, 1993; ISBN 0-02-917596-8.

22. Both Commissioners Carroll and Liston at the meeting expressed their support of this effort on Plan 200 and the need for addressing these issues.

23. Louise Liston gave an update on the Escalante Center Partnership Report. She is very excited about how this is moving forward. Since Escalante is the gateway community to the monument and it has received a lot of attention. The center will be housed on the Escalante High School campus. Approximately 30 to 40 acres of land around the high school have been donated. The center is unique because of the players involved. The BLM monument center and staff will also be located at this center. An eleven member board of directors is in place and Suzanne Winters has been named the executive director. It will cost approximately \$12,000,000 to build the center. The major hurdle is raising the funds to build it. It will be done in phases.

24. The next meeting of the SUPAC council will be on November 10, 1998, at the Holiday Inn at 850 South Bluff Street in St. George.

25. Calendaring items: The next Escalante Center meeting will be October 27 at the Escalante High School. The rural summit begins next Wednesday. The community impact meeting will be September 10 at 1:00 p.m. At the Cedar visitors center. The briefing meeting will be at noon.

26. Please call Scott Truman with agenda items for the next meeting.

27. The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary

SUPAC MEETING

September 1, 1998 1:00 p.m. Zion Lodge

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
1.	Roy Urie	Iron County
2.	Alan Gardner	Washington County
3.	Louise Liston	Garfield County
4.	John B. Williams	5 County AOG
5.	Norman Carroll	Kane County Commission
6.	Joe C. Judd	Kane County Commission
7.	Pete Rowley	USGS, Las Vegas
8.	Don Falvey	Zion National Park
9.	Mike Small	Arizona Strip BLM
10.	Jim Matson	Kane County
11.	Reed E Harris	US Fish & Wildlife Service
12.	Lloyd Johnson	Utah Dept. Of Natural Resources
13.	John C. Willie	Washington County
14.	Natalie Gochnour	Gov Office of Planning & Budget
15.	Rick Mayfield	DCED
16.	Scott Truman	URDC
17.	Bill Lund	Utah Geological Survey
18.	Bruce M Powell	National Park Service
19.	David Terry	Utah School & Institutional Trust Lands
20.	Don Leavitt	Utah School & Institutional Trust Lands
21.	Wayne Thomas	Utah Dept.of Environmental Quality
22.	Ronald Thompson	WCWCD
23.	Jeannine Holt	Senator Orrin Hatch
24.	Rick Arial	Congressman J.V. Hansen