

SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES
COUNCIL (SUPAC)

Minutes of a meeting held January 5, 1999

** denotes action items

The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met on Tuesday, January 5, 1999, 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 those present.
2. The minutes of the meeting of November 10, 1998, were reviewed by the committee. Jeannine Holt made a motion to approve those minutes as written. Allen Gardner seconded the motion and all voted aye.
3. Jeannine Holt made a motion that the SUPAC council send a letter of appreciation for service to Hugh Thompson, Pug Urie and Howard Roper. The motion was seconded by Dave Terry and all voted aye. Scott Truman said he would take care of sending out these letters. Bevan Killpack will now be representing the Forest Service on the Council.
4. John Williams gave a fiscal report for 1998. The balance brought forward from December 31, 1997 was \$1,906.89. There were revenues of \$1,417.30 making total funds available of \$3,324.19. There were expenditures of \$2,079.17 leaving a balance of \$1,245.02. There will be no need to increase dues this year. Rick Mayfield moved to approve the financial report. Commission Allen Gardner seconded the motion. All voted aye.
5. The Calendaring report was covered by John Harja of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. Copies of a January and February 1999 calendar were distributed. The calendar will also appear on the Internet. Council members were asked for additional items for calendaring. The following dates were offered:

January 14 will be the School Trust land meeting in Salt Lake City.
January 20 is the Five County Steering Committee in Kanab at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
6. The next item on the agenda was a Water Quality Plan Review by Don Ostler. He discussed the status of water quality in Southern Utah. He explained the basis for deciding water quality that the state uses. They classify water according to five uses which are: drinking water, recreation, aquatic life, agricultural use and Great Salt Lake. Each of these classifications have its own numeric set of standards for pollutants. The Clean Water Act requires states to report to Congress every two years on the status of water in their state. Don said they get around the state in about five year increments to

monitor the most important waters.

He showed an overhead of the Lower Colorado - beneficial use support. 67.5% is fully supporting; 4.1% is partially supporting and 28.4% is non supporting. The causes of stream water quality impairment: 64% - total dissolved solids; 29% - high temperature standards; 6.4% related to dissolved oxygen.

The sources of this water quality impairment (406 miles assessed) were shown on overhead and were as follows: 41% agricultural activities; 13% hydromodification; 36% natural sources; and 8% urban runoff.

Don said he could provide a list of impaired waters for the state that could be included with minutes.

He mentioned some of the impaired waters that would be in the SUPAC area of concern: Beaver Dam Wash, Santa Clara River, Santa Clara River near Virgin River, Kanab Creek, Virgin River, North Creek & tributaries.

The reason why these water quality issues may become more significant is that there are issues going on nationally with the Clean Water Act that will effect all of these waters that they monitor and list as impaired or partially impaired.

Don briefly reviewed the requirements of the Clean Water Act and TMDL's (total maximum daily loads) which is the amount of pollution a water body can absorb and not exceed standards. They are required to specifically list all waters that do not meet water quality standards on a 303d list. The act requires TMDL's to be done on all impaired waters on the list. There have many lawsuits throughout the country interpreting the Clean Water Act on this requirement of determining TMDL's.

TMDL's are actually a process, a number and a report. It is a *process* for solving water quality that can be used for a single point source, a non-point source area or an entire watershed. It is a *number* used as a target for a specific pollution reduction and it is a *report* that addresses a way that the *number* reduction will be achieved.

Don said there is a local steering committee sponsored by the Washington County Water Conservancy District underway for the Virgin River drainage through the Virgin River Management Plan which will work locally on this watershed management. The waters in the State of Utah will be undergoing this TMDL process. They have about 11 more years to complete this. They will move around the state to different areas as they do this and will be dependent on local input.

Scott Truman asked the other counties if they had a similar steering committee underway on watershed management as Washington County is doing. Iron County indicated that

they did and Kanab and they were represented on the Washington County watershed committee.

7. Ursula Trueman with the Smoke Management Program addressed the committee next. This comes under the Division of Air Quality and deals with protection of national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), new regional haze program and new standards for particulate matter. Their latest guidance comes from following the Federal Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires. This encourages states and land managers to work together on smoke management issues. They are also working with the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission recommendations. They are developing a Utah Smoke Management Plan. Their goal is to minimize emissions and visibility impacts from prescribed burns. The plan is still in formation. She reviewed the smoke management plan key elements:
 - inventory/burn plan (they will request this from the different land managers at beginning of each year)
 - burn request and authorization
 - accomplishment report
 - emission reduction techniques
 - monitoring (air quality and visibility)

A lot of this is still in the discussion stages. A lot of entities have burn plans in place but there has been a lack of coordination between entities. If anyone has any questions or would like further information call Ursula at (801)536-4015.

8. A short break was taken.
9. Bill Mader discussed the Public Use Plan for Washington County for Lori Rose who is listed on the agenda. She was unable to be at the meeting. Bill is the director of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. They formally signed off on the HCP two years ago. It set up a 61,000 acre reserve. It does permit development outside of the reserve and the tortoise habitat. There are permitted uses outlined inside the reserve such as hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, etc. Where and when these uses can occur was left open and so Washington County developed a committee to deal with land use in the reserve. Bill read a list of the names on that committee. Lori Rose is acting as a facilitator for that committee. Last year the county met with all the land users. They took all information obtained and with the use of a GIS system put in trails and other data. They could not lose site of biological integrity of the reserve while trying to accommodate various land uses. The county approached this by taking a poll of various Washington County residents to find out their attitudes and opinions regarding the reserve and what they would like to see in the reserve. Bill reviewed some of the results of that survey. Multiple use was strongly supported. There was also high support for restrooms, parking, and shade. The highest recreation preferred use from the poll was walking.

They are two to three months into this committee process and it will take a year to complete. They meet once a month. They are spending some time in the field looking at various issues. Bill answered various questions from the council.

10. Jim Crisp of the BLM discussed the Proposed Shivwits National Monument. He is filling in for Roger Taylor who was unable to be at the meeting. Jim said that he is not speaking for the Department of Interior and he is not officially involved in this and so he cannot speculate as to anything related to this. The impacts of this proposed monument are not known at this point. The greatest impacts would be to people in Washington and Kane counties. Roger Taylor is the only person that has had regular contact with DOI individuals. Jim said that in November 1998 the Secretary of the Interior was here with his constituents and Roger Taylor was asked to take them on a tour. There are no official boundaries determined yet. The area of discussion is approximately 400,000 acres north of Lake Mead National Recreation Area and adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park. The Secretary has asked the BLM to not allow any new mining claims in this area for two years.

Norm Carroll asked if it would be appropriate for this council to form a committee to follow the development of the plans for this monument. Jim Crisp he thought that was a good idea and that would be his recommendation. John Williams made a motion to create a subcommittee of SUPAC to investigate and keep informed on this proposal and become a key player in this process. Commissioner Carroll seconded the motion and all voted aye.

There was some discussion of who should serve on this committee. The following names were suggested: Jim Matsen, Commissioner Allen Gardner, a representative from the Washington County Water Conservancy District, Bruce Richins as a congressional delegation representative, John Harja from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Gene Anderson and/or Charlotte Doinges (alternate) from the Paiute Tribe and Angelita S. Bullets from the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians. The Five County Association of Governments will provide the staffing resources to the committee. **Scott Truman will work with John Williams on setting up a meeting and getting the members together to discuss this process and then update this council.

**The March agenda will include a committee report on this proposed monument.

11. Kate Cannon gave a report and update on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. In November their draft management plan came out. The public comment period is through February 12. They had eight public hearings in early December. This week they will have another four public hearings. They will wrap up on January 12 in Washington D.C. with their last meeting. They have had about 800 or 900 comments in writing thus far. They don't take testimony at the hearings but just present information so people can give credible comments. They are still expecting many more comments. The

comments so far have pointed out areas that may have been overlooked and have generally been fairly positive.

12. Bevan Killpack of the Forest Service said he would like to clarify the forest service road closure meeting which will be in Cedar City tonight from 6 to 8 p.m. at the middle school. There will also be a meeting January 12 in Kanab from 6 to 8 p.m. He said that Swains Creek and Strawberry areas are the only areas involved in this.
13. Louise Liston said she wanted to let the SUPAC council know about the Utah Land Foundation Solution Summit this coming weekend January 8th & 9th at Little America in Salt Lake. They are trying to find sensible solutions to public land issues. There will be two panels each day on wilderness and public perception of public lands and economics of public lands. Governor Leavitt will be giving the opening keynote speech. Senators Bennett and Hatch will also be speaking. Jake Garn will give the final wrap up of the summit. **A recap of this conference will be an agenda item for the March meeting and will be given by Louise Liston.
14. There was discussion of changing the March meeting date. On March 2 the legislature won't be done. March 9 is the Utah Water Users meetings here at the Holiday Inn. It was decided to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, March 16.
15. **Commissioner Allen Gardner requested that an update on the latest condor release be added to the March meeting agenda. A BLM biologist was at the meeting and said he could give a quick update. He said that the birds were doing very well until one was found dead last Friday. Other than that incident they are doing fine. The birds at Vermillion Cliffs are generally staying in that area, however, some have gone as far as the Grand Canyon. The Hurricane Rim birds haven't gone more than three or four miles.
16. Scott Truman reminded everyone to contact him with any additional agenda items. **Someone suggested that the Grafton Heritage Project might be a good agenda item for the next meeting. Don Falvey said he would call Mayor Hatfield of Rockville to see if he could make a presentation on that.
17. Jeannine Holt said she needed to know any changes of names on the council before the next meeting for making new nametags. Don Falvey indicated that Victor Knox has been selected as the new state coordinator for the National Park Service to replace Marty Ott.
18. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Scott Truman will work with John Williams on setting up a meeting and getting the members of the new committee on the new proposed monument together to meet and then have them update the council at the March meeting.
2. Louise Liston will give a report on the Utah Land Foundation Solution Summit at the March meeting.
3. Commissioner Allen Gardner requested that an update on the latest condor release be added to the March meeting agenda.
4. The Grafton Heritage Project will be added to the March agenda for a report. Don Falvey said he would call Mayor Hatfield of Rockville to see if he could make a presentation on that at the March meeting.

Attendees

David Terry
John S. Williams
Dennis Stowell
Don Falvey
Alan Gardner
Norman Carroll
Rick Mayfield
Bevan Killpack
Jeannine Holt
Morgan Jensen
Darin Bird
Lynn Kitchen
Jim Crisp
John Willie
John Harja
Chris Blake
Wayne Thomas
Scott Truman
Louise Liston
Ursula Trueman
John Jordan
John B. Jordan
Charlotte Deming
Pete Rowley
Clayton Ramsay
Bill Mader
Bruce Richesen
David McGillivary
Clark Mackay
Ken Adair
Scott Munson
Mel Herrick
Kate Cannon
Angelita S. Bulletts
Mike Small

