

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

Minutes of a meeting held March 16, 1999

** denotes action items

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met on Tuesday, March 16, 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.
2. Vice Chairman Scott Truman called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Introductions were made around the council table.
3. The minutes of the meeting of January 5, 1999, had been mailed out to committee members. Jeannine Holt made a motion to approve those minutes as written and Commissioner Alan Gardner seconded the motion. All voted aye.
4. Ron Wilson gave a report on the National Forest road closures. Scott said that there is an environmental assessment underway to amend all forest plans on the six national forests in Utah. They have had several public meetings and a draft is expected out in May and a final decision in July. The interim road rule is that they have to call a time out on all construction or reconstruction of roads. The committee will be looking at all the information they can and then in 18 months will come out with a final rule on road construction and reconstruction on the National Forest system. One project that this ruling has effected is the Jacobs Well Project where they wanted to move some roads. They can't do that now and can't even use the existing roads to haul timber off .
5. John Williams distributed a list of the dues received to date. Scott Truman asked everyone to review the list and if their organization is not on it to please submit those dues to John Williams at Five County Association of Governments as soon as possible. Scott said they will try and reinvoice those who have not paid as a reminder.
6. Roger Taylor of the BLM presented a slide presentation on the Arizona Strip/Shivwits National Monument. He showed a map of proposed location for the monument in the Arizona strip area. Within the proposed boundaries there are 380,000 acres of BLM administered public lands; 13,6000 acres of state lands, 8,000 acres of private land and 156,000 acres of Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The focus of the monument is to protect objects of scientific and historic interest including cultural resources, wildlife, plants and vistas. The proposal for the monument includes continued current management by BLM and the National Park Service; continued scientific based ecological restoration; remaining open to live livestock grazing and hunting; retaining water rights status quo; withdrawal from mineral entry and leasing (presently 13 claims in proposed boundaries) subject to valid existing rights.

There was a meeting in Flagstaff last night on the proposed monument which was very well attended. There was more opposition than support at that meeting.

Roger said there is a group of environmentalists, headed by the Grand Canyon Trust, that would like to expand the proposed monument to include some additional area. That is being looked at.

The Secretary of Interior appears very adamant that something will happen here. He would like to see it happen legislatively but if not he will go to the President and ask him to sign a proclamation.

He was at an afternoon meeting with Secretary Babbitt and local officials yesterday and the Secretary agreed that before he did anything as far as a proclamation that he would bring the draft proclamation to these people and let them review and comment on it.

Roger answered various questions from council members and audience members. Shauna Johnson in the audience expressed concerns about the mineral wealth in the proposed area. There are high grade deposits of uranium that are economical to mine. The Secretary is very adamant that he is going to protect this area from mining. Also on the valid existing rights you have to take into account the road closures and the difficulty of proving upon those claims. They have had some experience with this same thing in a designated area and it is very difficult to do. Ron Thompson asked about public access areas such as four wheel drive trails and how would this be handled. Roger indicated it would have to go through the process.

Scott Truman said the SUPAC committee organized a subcommittee to look at this proposed monument with Commissioner Carroll as the Chairman. That committee has met and would like to put together a resolution to deal with these issues. Scott asked the committee where should we go with this now as a group? Ron Thompson said he feels that a presidential proclamation that doesn't have public support and doesn't go through the public process is bad public policy that circumvents the public and this committee should take a position of opposition to that. The Mayor of Kanab recommended that the subcommittee develop strategy for this and also ask for the legislative process rather than presidential proclamation. **Scott Truman will work with John Williams to draft a resolution to present back to the subcommittee and this committee.

There was some discussion of conservation areas and the possibility of BLM, under their planning process, expanding their conservation areas to protect the resources. Roger said that the BLM cannot withdraw mining in conservation areas.

7. The BLM/State incremental wilderness proposal was passed on the agenda to another meeting. Commissioner Gardner indicated he was at the last meeting on this two or three weeks ago with the Governor. Commissioner Liston said she felt it might be helpful to have Commissioner Bill Redd come and talk about GIS funding for counties. **Scott will have Brad Barber's office come and talk to the SUPAC committee on this

incremental wilderness approach at the next meeting.

Jim Crisp said their inventory was completed this last fall after two years on wilderness study areas. Local managers were given an opportunity for input. A planning process will be used to prepare the draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Utah. This has become their #1 priority. There will be open houses beginning in April to facilitate public involvement. The meeting for St. George will be on April 22. **Jim will provide dates for other meetings in Southern Utah to Scott. Also bulletins will be mailed out containing those dates. They plan to have a draft of the EIS out in the Fall with the final coming out in Spring or early Summer 2000. **Jim will arrange for a team leader to come from the BLM in Salt Lake to our next meeting to discuss this. Jim said the municipalities really need to get involved in this process.

8. The next item on the agenda was the Utah Land Foundation Solution Summit. Louise Liston said that she and Commissioner Gardner sit on the board of the Utah Lands Foundation. This group hosted a solutions summit on January 8 and 9 at the Little America in Salt Lake City. The purpose of this organization is to find real solutions to Utah's land use problems and to bring truth and integrity to the public lands debate. They had panels on wilderness, public land management and other topics at the summit. They would like to have another summit like that one in Southern Utah this summer. They had a lot of good speakers and very good feedback. The organization is seeking funding through help from Congressman Cannon and Senator Bennett. Jake Garn is also trying to help get this off ground.
9. Reed Harris gave a Condor release update. There are two areas now with condors. The Vermillion Cliffs and Hurricane Cliffs. There are not any more releases planned at this time. The 10J rule says you have to designate whether experimental population is essential or non-essential. These condors are considered non-essential experimental and lots of endangered species laws don't apply here. Incidental take is allowed under 10J. Reed says the process is going well. The only problem is they are not staying within the area they thought they would stay. They are going places like Flaming Gorge. They can move quickly but they always come back to where the food is. The commissioners and a number of other people are concerned about what happens when the birds get out of the 10 J area. It has been suggested to expand the 10J area. The recovery team has agreed this is a good approach to expand the 10J area. A scheduled release in New Mexico is also prompting discussion of changing the 10J rule. He said the discussion is of expanding the 10J area to include Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico. He hasn't seen any proposed rule change yet but he said it shouldn't be too long. They are trying to find the funds to make this change and do the necessary NEPA compliance. Mike Small added that at the Vermillion Cliffs the birds move more. They are finding about 20% their food on their own and there has been some display of mating. At the Hurricane Rim they generally stay within five or six miles of the area.
10. The next SUPAC meeting will be May 4. Give any calendaring items to Scott Truman.

11. Mayor David Hatfield of Rockville gave a report on the Grafton Heritage Partnership Project. Their purpose is to preserve the outstanding heritage and historical values of the Grafton town site. Grafton is four miles down river from Rockville. He showed the town site on a map. In 1860 Brigham Young send some people down and they started a town called Adventure which was flooded out and so they moved down river a little and started Grafton. There was a continual history of flooding. In the 1930's they abandoned the town and it was left as a ghost town. About two years ago a group of individuals and organizations had an exploratory meeting to see what they could do about this area to preserve the church and school house which were built about 1886. The Grafton Heritage Partnership Project is made up of private landowners, Rockville, Washington County, Rockville Historical Society, Washington County Historical Society, Rockville Historical Society, Zion Canyon Chamber of Commerce, Hurricane Park Heritage Foundation, Sons of Utah Pioneers, Virgin River Land Preservation Association, Arid Land Consultants, Zion Natural History Association, Grand Canyon Trust, Utah Heritage Foundation and others. Funding has been obtained for emergency stabilization of the shcoolhouse. They have put new roof on the schoolhouse and done other work. They are seeking grants for stabilization and restoration. Other buildings at the town site include the Russell House, a log house, wood house, the Ballard home and barn. They want to preserve these buildings and will also be seeking funding to obtain much of the 227 acres of private land owned by the Stout family. The preservation of privately owned historic sites is one of their main objectives. They have a lot of support and are going to keep working on this. He passed out brochures regarding the project to those present.
12. Kate Cannon from the BLM introduced Chris Kllingsworth who is their new planning chief (she replaced Pete Wilkins) on the Grand Staircase National Monument. Chris gave a report on the Grand Staircase National Monument. The draft management plan came out in November of last year. The public comment period was extended to March 15 and just closed yesterday. They have received over 6300 comments; 2500 came from within the state the rest from out of state. The comments are being read individually by the team. The comments range from votes on certain alternatives to very specific comments. The big issues seem to be access, air and water quality, group size, livestock grazing, wilderness, overflights, visual resource management, wild and scenic rivers, and actual zones. They are categorizing comments to address them. They will prepare the proposed plan from their consideration of these comments. The approved plan should be out in the Fall. She answered various questions.
13. The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary

Action Items:

1. **Scott Truman will work with John Williams to draft a resolution with SUPAC's position on the new Arizona monument to present back to the subcommittee and this committee
2. **Scott will have Brad Barber's office come and talk to the SUPAC committee on the state's incremental wilderness approach at the next meeting
3. *Jim Crisp will provide dates for wilderness study area public meetings in Southern Utah to Scott Truman for the SUPAC members information.
4. *Jim Crisp will arrange for a team leader to come from the BLM in Salt Lake to the next meeting to discuss the BLM's planning process in regarding to the draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement on the establishment of new wilderness study areas.
- 5.

APPENDIX A

John Willie
Christopher Blake
Alan Gardner
Ronald Thompson
David Terry
Reed Harris
Don Leavitt
Don Falvey
Wayne Thomas for Dianne Nielson
Kyle R. Stephens for Cary Peterson
Scott Munson
Clayton Ramsay
Sherman Hoskins
Jim Crisp
Pete Rowley
Ron Wilson
Gordon Topham
Jeannine Holt
John Williams
Karen Alvey
Dennis Stowell
Louise Liston
William Lund
Lin Alder
Chris Killingsworth
Kate Cannon