

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

**Minutes of a meeting held July 13, 1999**

\*\* denotes action items

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met on Tuesday, July 13, 1999, at 1:00 p.m. at the R. Haze Hunter Conference Center in Cedar City, 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. Don Falvey was excused due to his wife's illness. Brad Barber is heavily involved in wilderness work today and also asked to be excused. His report on the West Desert Wilderness Proposal will be given at another meeting. Also Diane Neilson is excused today and will not be on the agenda as indicated. John Willie was also excused because of a conflict with other meetings. Bevan Killpack introduced Mary Wagner who is the new Dixie National Forest Supervisor.
3. The minutes of the meeting of May 4, 1999 meeting were moved for approval by Kathleen Clarke. Jeannine Holt seconded the motion and all voted aye.
4. The calendaring events for the upcoming months were reviewed by Scott Truman. The Rural Summit will be September 8 - 10 at SUU in Cedar City. The keynote speakers will be Governor Leavitt and Secretary Babbitt. Information on the summit should be mailed out shortly. Scott Truman said if council members don't receive anything in the mail and are interested to contact him and he would provide more information for them.

November 11-13 the Center for Rural Life will provide a leadership program for youth. This program entails putting high school students together with mentors in their communities such as commissioners, mayors, etc. to help them understand the government process in communities and counties. They also go on to the legislature to expose them to state government and some are selected to go to Washington D.C.

The Forest Service is setting up meetings with the various county commissions to introduce the new forest supervisor. August 3 will be in Escalante; August 4 in Iron County, and August 10 in Kane County. More will be set up after that.

Scott asked for any additional calendaring items.

Jerry Meredith, BLM, said that on July 23 the CED committee for the Grand Staircase monument will be meeting at 11:00 a.m. at Ruby's Inn for a final update on their EIS.

UDOT will be having their 4<sup>th</sup> annual UDOT Partnership Workshops in August. August 19 in Iron County; August 25 in Washington County; August 25 in Kane and Garfield Counties. They will pass out a schedule and draft agenda of those meetings.

Scott said this SUPAC calendar page is posted on the web at [utahreach.usu.edu/rosie](http://utahreach.usu.edu/rosie).

5. Dale Peterson, of UDOT discussed their new STIP. He passed out a document entitled Region 4's Organization and Planning & Program Development Process that was prepared recently with updated information. He explained that Region 4 is divided into three districts: Cedar District, Price District and Richfield District. The handout also showed the organization for each of the three districts along with addresses and phone numbers for key personnel of UDOT. It also sets out their program and project development process key activities.

He also distributed a meeting schedule and draft agenda for Transportation Partners Workshops being held by UDOT. Dale encouraged everyone to attend or send a representative from their agency or entity. He said these meetings have proven very productive in the past.

He turned the time over to Robert Dowell to talk about projects in this region. He passed out a handout containing stip projects for this area for 1999 through 2002. Spot improvement projects aren't included on this list. He explained that their statewide improvement plan is a five year plan approved each year by UDOT. The first three years are referred to as program years and the other two years are concept development.

A few of the projects of concern in our area were discussed. The Southern Corridor project is underway to do an EIS on a bypass to go around the southeast side of St. George. They are currently in the evaluation stage there, developing alignments and alternatives and coordinating with various resource agencies

The North Glendale to Long Valley Junction project to add some passing lanes through this section is in right of way acquisition and should be bid this Fall.

The North Cedar Interchange project Environmental Assessment (revised) has been submitted to FWHA. They anticipate a public hearing to occur in August.

Scott Munson reviewed some local projects. He also reported that the rest areas throughout the state have recently been contracted out to an agency called VMI, who will be taking over all maintenance and upkeep.

UDOT will also be using a prisoner crew from Purgatory Flats prison for a one year contract \$49 an hour for a seven to nine man crew. If any other agencies or entities

interested in using this crew on a temporary basis let UDOT know and they could work something out. It may help them out as it was a little more of financial commitment than they wanted to make.

Scott Truman asked about the T21 program. They will discuss this at their partnershiping workshops. Dale Peterson suggested it might be interesting and appropriate to have the Federal Highway Department make a presentation on the T21 program at a SUPAC meeting. \*\*This will be put on the September agenda.

6. Jerry Meredith reported for informational purposes that Sally Wisely is the new BLM state director. She comes to Utah after serving four years as Associate State Director in Alaska. She also worked in Colorado and New Mexico before that. Jerry said he has worked with her for 20 years or so and she will be very good to work with.

Jerry reported on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. After the SUPAC meeting in May they finished up their work on getting a final EIS and proposed management plan together. It took them a great deal of time to go through 7,000 comments. This is the largest amount of comments ever received on a BLM land use plan. This large amount of input created more work than they had planned on. They had some meetings with government officials and interest groups during this process. On June 17 they finished up their internal work on the document. It is at the printer now being prepared for public release. July 23 is the date set for public release. He explained the Director's review process. By regulation the public protest period is 30 days and the Governor's Consistency Review runs consistently with that. Anybody that participated in any public meeting, wrote to them, e-mailed them, etc, has been written and asked if they would like a copy sent to them. It will also be available on July 23 on their web page for review and downloading. He said overall they feel very good about the process that they went through and they have had very positive and constructive participation.

Jerry answered questions. Louise Liston expressed concern about the wilderness reinventory on the monument plan. Will this negate all the work that has been done? Jerry said they don't have a lot of details on this yet but the Secretary Babbitt is concerned about this and very aware of the details in that plan and has concerns about making those work together appropriately. He has directed the team that is working on the reinventory to meet with the monument team and see where those processes match well and where they don't match well.

Scott Truman asked if the positive things that have happened in the planning effort on the monument will have any influence on future planning efforts of the BLM. Jerry indicated that the BLM has issued a private contract to a university to look at the process to see what they did right and wrong. He said he just doesn't know at this point what influence this planning effort will have. The Governor's office and Secretary

Babbitts office have been very positive about it and the approach used. They have not as an agency done any formal evaluation yet. He said he does feel it will make a difference in the future, but how much he doesn't know yet. He said he does hope that the very open access to data and information in the process was useful and hopes that it will become institutional within the agency.

7. Dave McGillivary from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) gave an update on the 10J ruling for California Condor. This 10J ruling concerns an expansion area for the experimental population of the condor. After the last meeting they had a conference call within USFWS to talk about how to proceed with this expansion. They decided to prepare a briefing paper for the respective regional offices within USFWS. The other issue that came up on that conference call was the possibility of establishing another population in New Mexico. That issue was included in this briefing paper distributed within USFWS to the regional directors around the middle of June. Right now they are trying to set up a working meeting with the regions involved to come up with a time schedule. The proposed expansion would include Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. They will keep this council advised of the progress of this.
8. The next item on the agenda was a report on the Iron County Utah White Tailed Prairie Dog Habitat by Commissioner Dennis Stowell. He explained that they were placed originally on the endangered species list and then moved to the threatened species list. Most of them are located on private land, especially on the land being developed along the I-15 corridor. In June of 1998 they developed an HCP with a goal to move prairie dogs from private lands into colonies on public lands. The BLM has been cooperating in preparing sites with a long range program to prepare additional sites. They have to take the brush off, then seed them and prepare the habitat for them. It takes a couple of years to prepare a site and then they can start making transplants. As they can get more and more sites they can increase transplants. There are two kinds of take on the HCP: the non permanent take which is to clean up cemeteries, ball parks, airport, etc. where you do not permanently destroy habitat and the permanent take which destroys habitat such as putting in an oiled road and making it no longer suitable habitat. The HCP allows 400 transplants per year except in 1999 it only allowed 200 because of site development. Last year it allowed 40 prairie dogs of permanent take and this year allows 50 prairie dog takes. Commissioner Stowell said the problem with the plan has been that this just isn't enough take. They have way more demand for permanent take than 50 dogs a year. The other problem they have run into is that the HCP doesn't give any incentive to the developers because the take is so limited.

As far as funding, each entity committed certain amount of money. The BLM has committed money to develop sites and Iron County is committing \$20,000 a year towards hiring people to do transplants. The HCP also received a one time appropriation of \$560,000 through Fish and Wildlife Service over the next five years.

A question was asked about the agricultural community. He explained that the 4j rule allows agricultural people to be exempt from HCP. They can go in and get permit to kill up to 50 prairie dogs. They cannot poison them, they have to shoot them.

They are going to continue to work on some of these problems and see if they can get them resolved.

9. Gordon Topham discussed the planning processes for Escalante and Kodachrome Basin State Parks Master Plan Development. Gordon said there had been some conflicts between some of the divisions of the Department of Natural Resources. Kathleen Clark asked them to meet together and try and solve these problems and improve communication. They are now meeting every three months. Anyone that has any problems with or needs to deal with multiple resource agencies is welcome to attend these meetings.

Gordon also explained that they are trying to get some additional funding legislatively before the presidential elections next year for land and water conservation funds. The proposed bill would give about 6.5 million dollars per year to the State of Utah that would be used for recreational development: 1/3 would go to state parks and recreation to be matched with state funds and the other 2/3 would be available to cities and counties in grants with matching funds.

He said they have just started into the planning process for Escalante State Park and Kodachrome Basin State Parks. In Escalante State Park they are doing a biological inventory. It will be a period of years a master plan can be completed because of the new reservoir and the need for further direction.

At Kodachrome this sits into a wilderness study area and they have a dry well there so they are working with BLM and others to try and get water there. They have brought the stakeholders together recently to nominate names for a planning team. They have selected the planning team which includes the park manager, Gordon and one other from the state and the other seven will be from counties, communities, etc. Their first meeting will be July 19. They will do a similar process to what was done at Snow Canyon. This process will involve the public at two or three different times. There is not a lot of controversial issues here and they don't have endangered species to deal with or visitor conflict problems so this should move ahead well.

10. Scott Truman called for additional business. Commissioner Gardner said he had been asked to give an update on the proposed Shivwits Arizona National Monument. He attended another meeting last week. Things seem to be moving slowly at the present time. There seems to be some difference of ideas between Utah and Arizona on what needs to happen. The message coming out of Washington D.C. doesn't seem to be the same as we are getting out here regarding legislation. There will be another meeting

on July 23 at the Five County Association of Governments office in St. George.

Commissioner Liston said she had heard rumors that President Clinton will designate eight more national monuments before he goes out of office. Two of those are in Utah -- San Rafael and Dark Canyon in San Juan Co. There are senate hearings on legislation to amend the Antiquities Act coming up in Washington D.C. on July 20. Commissioner Liston will be testifying at those. There is also some rumor that the Shivwits monument may be increased to include Utah lands.

11. Scott Truman indicated that the next meeting of this council would be September 7 which is right before the Rural Summit and might be difficult for those attending both meetings from out of the area. Scott said it had been suggested to hold the SUPAC meeting on the morning of September 8 before the summit start. Another suggestion was for the second Tuesday, September 14. After discussion Ron Thompson made a motion to hold the meeting on September 8 at 10 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gardner and passed that the next meeting of the SUPAC council would be Wednesday, September 8 at 10 a.m. with a noon adjournment and lunch after the meeting in Cedar City on the SUU Campus. Scott Truman will make the necessary arrangements.
12. The agenda items for the September meeting were reviewed:
  - West Desert Wilderness Proposal - Brad Barber
  - Regional Haze Rules - Diane Neilson
  - Forest Issues - Jody Gale, USU Extension
  - T21 funding - Federal Highway Dept. (Dale Peterson of UDOT will arrange)
  - Zion National Park General Management Plan - Don Falvey (if possible for Don)
  - Bryce Canyon Transportation Plan - Vic Knox will arrange for presentation on this
  - Interagency Watershed Assessment Agreement - Jerry Olds
  - Navajo Aquifer Protection Study video - Ron Thompson, Wash. Co. Water Conservancy District
13. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Secretary

**SUPAC MEETING July 13, 1999**

Attendees

Chris Blake  
Les Prall  
Vic Knox  
Wayne Thomas  
Louise Liston  
David Terry  
Jeannine Holt  
David McGillivary  
Lynn Kitchen  
Scott Munson  
Bevan Killpack  
Mary Wagner  
John Williams  
Dale Peterson  
Jerry Meredith  
Kathleen Clarke  
Gordon Topham  
Dennis Stowell  
Scott Truman  
Alan Gardner  
Ron Thompson

Audience:

Mike Small  
Liz Thomas  
Pete Rowley  
Judi Flowers  
Shauna Johnson  
Arthur Tait  
Clarke Mackay  
Chad Reid  
Robert Dowell