

SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES
COUNCIL (SUPAC)

Minutes of a meeting held September 8, 1999

** denotes action items

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met on Wednesday, September 8, 1999, at 10:00 a.m. at the R. Haze Hunter Conference Center in Cedar City, Utah. Those in attendance are listed on the roster 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 July 13, 1999, having been reviewed by the council were moved for approval by John Williams as written. Jeannine Holt seconded that motion and all voted aye.
4. Scott Truman reminded those present that the Utah Rural Summit begins today on the SUU campus. There will be some very good speakers and sessions and everyone is invited and encouraged to participate.
5. Don Falvey gave an update on the Zion National Park General Management Plan (GMP). Don explained that this GMP sets a conceptual framework for the park over the next two decades. The plan will provide a framework for proactive decision-making, including decisions on visitor use, natural and cultural resource management and park development, which will allow park managers to effectively address future problems and opportunities. The document is still in draft form and they are working now on the final changes. They will be circulating it for public comment until the end of October and then they will hold public workshops throughout Utah.

Don showed drawings of the proposed wilderness throughout the park. He also pointed out the research natural area, which is approximately 1/4 of park. This is a special management designation and is supposed to be used for research purposes with very limited visitor access. Another constraint is inholdings within the park boundaries. This is primarily for grazing.

In the GMP they started out with five concepts and they are now down to three. He pointed out the different zones on the maps such as primitive, pristine and research areas. He explained the different concepts. Each alternative presents a different approach to managing visitor use and resources, directing development, and resolving conflicts. Concept A provides the most opportunity for use. Concept B has the most amount of resource protection. Concept C has proposed action. All three alternatives

call for adjustment to the park boundaries. Don also showed drawings that reflect the rivers in the park boundaries that were found to be eligible for Wild & Scenic Rivers.

Don reported that the transportation system is well underway. The visitor center building should be complete about New Years Day. Exhibits will be installed in there. Their target date for start up of the system is May 26 of 2000. The shuttle stops in the Upper Canyon will be worked on this winter. Springdale is working with UDOT to do construction there in late fall or early winter. Springdale will be made more pedestrian friendly and there will be shuttle stops in Springdale. Don showed pictures of the busses that will be used for the shuttle system. They will collect transportation fee and entrance fee when people enter park.

6. The next item of discussion was the calendaring of dates. Don Falvey indicated that the public review period on the ZNP General Management Plan would begin on October 25. There will be public review workshops the end of November and first part of December. He will get those dates to Scott Truman for inclusion on the calendar.

UDOT will be holding a public hearing on September 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. on the North Cedar Interchange at the SUU campus.

7. Ron Thompson, Washington County Water Conservancy District, showed a video and discussed the Navajo Aquifer Protection Study done by the District. Ron explained that since the water table is fairly close to the surface in many areas of the Navajo Aquifer and since much growth has occurred on top of the aquifer where this pristine water is close to the surface and is used by the communities for culinary water, the District along with the Mayors of the various communities and Washington County undertook this study. They wanted to find out if there was any risk to the aquifer and, if there was, how we should deal with it. The study recommends densities for septic tanks which would provide adequate protection to the groundwater resources. It was decided to have this video made to inform and educate the public on the findings and recommendations of this study. It is currently being shown on the public education channel and has been distributed to schools, libraries, etc. throughout the county. It is used by the district in addressing public meetings, groups, service clubs, etc. on this subject. The video was shown after which Ron Thompson answered questions.
8. Harlan Miller of the Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration gave a presentation on the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. This is six year legislation, 1998-2003. It was signed into law June 9, 1998. It authorized \$217 billion (44% increase over ISTEA) with a minimum guarantee of 90.5%. He explained to the council that the bill has a highway portion to it and a safety portion. He showed a breakdown of program categories for \$174.9 billion for highway and highway safety programs and also a breakdown of the \$42 billion for transit programs. He also showed the guaranteed funding and obligation limitation levels and reviewed some of the

changes from ISTEA.

Some of the other elements of the act include priority for Olympics projects, matching flexibility expanded, design-build regulations to be issued, county road access to Indian lands and FHWA reorganization.

New programs under the act include National Corridor Planning and Development; Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act; Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program; Job Access/Reverse Commute Grants and Refuge Roads.

Protecting the environment is part of the program and includes: continuation of recreational trails, scenic byways, streamlines federal agency environment review process, and continues and simplifies ISTEA planning provisions.

The transportation planning process emphasizes seven areas of planning: economy; safety/security; accessibility/mobility; environment; integration/connectivity; efficiency and preservation.

There is more information on this available on their website which is:
www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/index.htm

9. Scott Truman called for any other business before adjournment. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 2. Vic Knox, Bryce Canyon will be on the next agenda to discuss their shuttle service and transportation plan. The meeting will be at the St. George Holiday Inn with lunch at noon and the meeting to start at 1 p.m.
 10. The meeting was adjourned.
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APPENDIX A

Ron Thompson
Reed Harris
Don Falvey
Sherman Hoskins
Mary Wagner
John Williams
Chris Blake
Jeannine Holt
Lynn Kitchen
Wayne Thomas
Wayne Jager
Clark Mackay
Harlan Miller
John Willie
Les Prall
John Harja
David Terry
Alan Gardner
Scott Truman