

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

Minutes of a meeting held July 6, 2000

** denotes action items

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met on Tuesday, July 6, 2000, at 1:00 p.m. at Cedar Breaks Lodge in Brian Head, Utah. Those in attendance at the business meeting 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 table. The Mayor of Brianhead, H.C. "Dutch" Deutschlander was welcomed and introduced.
3. The SUPAC Memorandum of Cooperation was passed around to council members to complete signatures for all entities.
4. The next item of business was the calendaring of events. The Utah Rural Summit meetings are September 6-8 at the Hunter Conference Center at SUU. Last year we held our SUPAC meeting in conjunction with the summit. He asked the council's opinion of doing that again this year. Scott said his suggestion would be to hold it Thursday morning, September 7 and have a breakfast meeting at 7:00 a.m. It was agreed to do this.

UDOT will be holding "Transportation Partners Workshop" on various dates in August throughout the state. Washington county is August 16 at 9 a.m. at Hurricane City Council Chambers; Iron County is August 16 at 1 p.m. at the Cedar City District Office and Garfield, Kane and Paiute counties are August 23 at 9 a.m. in Panguitch. A schedule was passed out with the remaining schedule of meetings.

Jeannine Holt said that Senator Hatch is holding a Senate Field Hearing tomorrow at SUU at 2 p.m. on drugs and law enforcement.
5. The minutes of May 2, 2000 were reviewed by the Council after which a motion to approve the minutes with one correction in the spelling of a name was made by John Willie. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alan Gardner and all voted aye.
6. John Willie gave a report on the St. George Regional Airport. He introduced Larry Bulloch, St. George City Public Works Director, who gave a presentation on the replacement airport proposal. He explained that the problem with the current airport is the site is too small and is bounded on all side by cliffs. This prohibits the needed expansion to accommodate large commercial service and business jets. There is also a safety factor in that the existing airport would fall short of meeting FAA design standards due to the limited size of the airport. Not having a larger airport is restraining economic growth. Studies show that continuing to operate out of the existing airport will result in

missed economic and transportation benefits estimated to be \$300 million over a decade. Also there is inadequate passenger service – two third's of all passengers must travel to either Las Vegas or Salt Lake City for air travel service not available locally. It was decided that another site had to be located to accommodate this growth. It has been a five year process of evaluating sites in a 40 mile radius and even into other states. They don't want to have any conflict with existing communities, mountains, etc. The preferred site is the CAA site southeast of Washington and St. George. This site is in open space out of the range of mountains and also provides a huge area for expansion as necessary. The airport approach path goes over undeveloped areas, landfill, etc. very well. They will be able to avoid conflicts that airports often experience with residential development.

The benefits are that as far as safety they will be able to meet all FAA criteria now and in future expansion. Another benefit is there will be jet service which would be faster service and direct flights from St. George to areas such as Denver, Boise, San Francisco, and other major hubs throughout U.S. could be added. Another benefit would be the ability to attract bigger businesses and high tech businesses with higher paying jobs this our area.

The City has completed a master plan, a site study, an environmental assessment, a benefit costs study needed to get federal funding and a financial plan. This is all in place now and a final date for public hearing has been set for July 18 at the St. George City offices to receive input from interest parties on this project.

7. Ron Thompson and Bruce Barrett were next on the agenda to discuss Colorado River issues and other water issues. Ron Thompson showed a video recently completed by the Washington County Water Conservancy District on water conservation and planning issues. Ron said this video will be shown on public education channels and used for other public service groups, etc. It will also be made into two shorter videos of about 15 minutes each.

Bruce Barrett, Bureau of Reclamation gave an update on Colorado River issues. Historically, Colorado River Water was initially allocated in 1922 under the Colorado River Compact, ratified by the Basin States and Mexico as follows:
Upper Basin - 7.5 million acre feet; Lower basin - 7.5 million acre feet and Mexico - 1.5 million acre-feet.

Utah has about a half-million foot allocation. There has been an effort to try and get California to reduce their water consumption to the amount they are entitled to under the compact. Bruce also discussed surplus guidelines which are the key to enforcement. He said they expect the guidelines to be issued shortly.

Bruce also discussed the Lake Powell Pipeline. Over the next few years they will be obtaining rights of way and looking at environmental and other issues more closely. The studies to date have been funded one-half by the State and one-half by the Washington County Water Conservancy District.

Bruce also discussed potential pumping plant locations that they are investigating. The Bureau of Reclamation is doing a feasibility study to look at details for the best locations, costs, etc. He passed out photos of the three potential locations they are looking at. One location is 1/2 to 1 mile up the baby from the Wahweep Marina; the second is clear up the bay, one mile north of Lone Rock Rd. (this is the park service's preference visually and environmentally) and the third is right on the edge of the sandstone cliffs in the foreground of Green Haven.

8. Vic Knox and Marty Ott discussed the Cedar Breaks closure to snowmobile use. On April 27 the Department of Interior banned snowmobiling in park units with certain exceptions. The exceptions include a short route through the national park unit that allows access to other recreational lands or to private property and on state right of ways. They had a meeting this morning in Brian Head on this issue. They are taking a long hard look at the exceptions to see if they would apply at Cedar Breaks. They need to study the fine print of exceptions. They agreed to take a month to two months and then get back to the group that met this morning on what to do. They would have to apply for exceptions.

There are a lot of concerns about this possible closure to businesses at Duck Creek and Cedar Breaks. Also there are concerns about recreational access. There is presently snowmobiling allowed on unplowed roadway – there is a designated route in this area. Gordon Topham indicated that what they are doing now works very well and protects the resources well. Steve _____ said it would be a challenge to protect the resources while trying to enforce a ban. Scott Truman asked if there is anything that the SUPAC council can do to help with this. He asked if a formal request from SUPAC would be helpful. Denny Davies indicated he thought it might be helpful to have a letter or request from the SUPAC council suggesting they look at a variance or exception from this policy for Cedar Breaks. Marty Ott said a letter SUPAC which represents interagency interests would be very appropriate in this matter. Commissioner Alan Gardner made a motion that a letter be written from the SUPAC council to the National Park Service Regional Director in Denver or Karen Wade the Director for the Intermountain region. The motion was seconded by Ron Thompson and all voted aye. Scott Truman said he would make sure that letter gets prepared.

9. Scott Taylor gave an update on the Arizona Strip/Parashants National Monument. The monument was originally set up by proclamation on January 11, 2000. There are 1,054,000 acres in total in the monument - 216,000 of that is Lake Mead National Recreation Area. He showed the boundaries for the monument on the map. There are 800,000 acres of BLM, 22,000 acres of state land and 8500 acres of private land within the monument. All of three designated wilderness areas and a portion of a fourth wilderness area is in the monument. This monument has no paved road and is quite wild and remote with no facilities.

They got a little funding this fiscal year and they are going to hire a monument manager and planning coordinator. They will also be hiring an administrative assistant and law

enforcement officer. The monument will be jointly managed by Lake Mead National Park Service and the BLM as set forth in the proclamation. A staff of 30 will be headquartered in St. George with the monument manager. That manager will report to Arizona Field Manager, Roger Taylor.

As far as funding, the Fiscal Year 2001 Special Areas request for \$431,000 included costs associated with the management of lands on the Shivwits Plateau. In addition to that \$431,000 for day-to-day management, the BLM Arizona Field Strip Office has requested in 2001 an additional \$2.4 million to further protect the valuable cultural and natural resources and provide education and outreach.

He also discussed the National Landscape Conservation System which the BLM has recently established. This is a management system, similar to the National Park Service's Park System and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Refuge system. The National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) will provide better for coordination and management for existing and newly designated National Monuments, Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Scenic and Historic Trails. Areas established by Congress or proclamation will be included in this system. The purpose of this system is to increase the public's awareness of and appreciation for these premier public land treasures, and to focus more management attention and resources toward them.

10. Gordon Topham was next on the agenda to discuss Kodachrome State Park Management Plan. He reported that this plan has been approved and they are in the process of implementing it. He reviewed the process they went through of bringing stakeholders together, putting together a planning team representing various interests and meeting over the last year to put the plan together. They had a biological inventory done, a flood management statement completed and did a visitor survey along with holding several public meetings to get an understanding of what people would like them to do. There was very little controversy. People wanted Kodachrome to stay with its uncongested use pattern but still offer more campsites and opportunities. The majority of the users are day users so they wanted to include day use facilities including turnaround and parking areas. The planning team issued several specific recommendations in support of the plan's vision elements. Six issue areas form the basis of the team's recommendations and those six areas were Natural Resource Management; Education, Interpretation and Information; Facilities Development; Staffing, Operations and Funding; and Land Acquisition and Use.
11. Mary Wagner discussed the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Off-Highway Vehicle Management. She explained that at the last SUPAC Meeting (May 2000) the council voted to establish a topical advisory group to improve coordination, communication, etc on OHV issues. They identified 16 people, with SUPAC's input to be participants on a topical advisory group. She has a letter drafted with an address list and those letters will probably go out tomorrow inviting people to sit on that topical advisory group and will ask about any other individuals that should be involved. She distributed to the council members the OHV Interagency Partners Progress Report

Handouts which included a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding. They are targeting July 27 for their first meeting at the SUU Hunter Conference Center at 10 a.m. The Washington County Water Conservancy District will be added to the list for the topical advisory group.

12. There was some discussion of status of the CARA bill and the importance of understanding the contents of that bill. Wes Curtis from the Governor's office reported that he recently met with our two senators on this bill and he reported on that. There will be additional discussions and updates on this bill at future SUPAC meetings.
13. Scott Truman reviewed tentative agenda items for the September 7 SUPAC meeting in Cedar City:
 - 1 - Update on Cedar Breaks closure to snowmobile use - Vic Knox
 - 2 - OHV task force report - Mary Wagner
 - 3 - Update on Upper Sevier Restoration project - Mary Wagner
 - 4 - Presentation on rivers and trails program
 - 5 - Dale Peterson - Presentation about new STIP and new Initiative transportation decision making
14. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary

APPENDIX A

ATTENDEES

Larry Bulloch
John Willie

Scott Hacking
John Williams
Wes Curtis
Gordon Topham
Jeannine Holt
Chris Blake
Sherm Hoskins
Marty Ott
HC Deutschlander
Peter Rowley
Peggy Mason
Hugh Thompson
Roger Taylor
David Terry
Mary Wagner
Rick Mayfield
Dennis Stowell
Scott Munson
Vane Campbell
Vic Knox
Alan Gardner
Bruce Barrett
Ronald Thompson