

# SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES COUNCIL (SUPAC)

Minutes of a meeting held May 1, 2001

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met at the Holiday Inn in St. George, Utah, on Tuesday, May 1, 2001, at 1:00 p.m.. Those in attendance at the 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.
3. The minutes of the March 6, 2001, meeting had been mailed to council members. Jerry Meredith moved to approve the March 2001 minutes. Clare Ramsey seconded the motion and all voted aye.
4. A membership report was passed out to council members. Those entities that have not paid their dues for the year were reviewed. They were asked to send a check in to John Williams at Five County Association of Governments.
5. Congressional delegation reports were the next item on the agenda. Jeannine Holt from Senator Hatch's office reported that Chris Iverson has been appointed as the Under Secretary of Labor. She said Senator Hatch and his staff are working hard on the Internet fairness issue. Anyone with any suggestions or ideas on this should sent it to the judiciary committee. Also Senator Hatch's office in Washington D.C. has moved and his new address is 104 Hart Senate Office Building. Bruce Richeson of Senator Bennett's office said their office is waiting for the decision on road policy in the forest areas. The moratorium expires on May 11. The judge is expected to make an interim ruling on May 4. They are also working on some issues involving the Grand Staircase monument. Bruce said their former state director is now working with the Governor's office on identifying roads. The new state director for Senator Benett is Tim Sheehan. Nathan Rathbun was introduced from Congressman Cannon's Provo office. He said that Congressman Cannon's office is holding public hearings for input on various issues on June 1 at the Kanab High School Auditorium at 7 p.m. and June 2 at Escalante City Offices at 1 p.m. Congressman Cannon is very concerned about the proposed changes in arsenic in water ruling. Congressman Cannon is trying to educate other congressmen on the impact and costs.
6. Scott Truman read a letter from Secretary of Interior, Gale Norton, to Governor Leavitt regarding the national monuments. They are asking for active participation in decisions regarding boundaries and the course the Department of Interior should take in determining the future of these monuments. They would like input as to what role these monuments should play in Utah. They asked for recommendations on boundary adjustments the DOI should consider and uses inside the monuments that should be

accommodated. They are also asking for views on different issues such as grazing, water rights, holdings, vehicle use, access to private inholdings, right of way etc. They also want to learn which areas inside these monuments are truly special and should be preserved for their unique environmental or historic characteristics. They also asked in the letter for an opinion on the benefit of tourism or recreation. The DOI will soon begin the process of developing land use plans for the monuments and expressed in the letter that it is their goal to work with interested parties to identify the activities that are best suited to the needs of local residents and others. Scott Truman suggested that if any council members have input or suggestions on this that they could send it to the Governor's office. Kathleen Clarke indicated that they are evaluating the natural resource issues so they would appreciate receiving copies of input sent to the Governor on these issues.

7. Jerry Meredith discussed the BLM restructuring next. He explained that the BLM started a restructuring program several years ago to eliminate district offices. The only district office that was left for the last few years in the four corner state region was Cedar City and now that is gone. Jerry is the manager for the Cedar City office which is responsible for Beaver and Iron County. Jim Crisp is the manager of the office in St. George. Jerry also manages the fire program for all of Southwestern Utah. Kate Cannon is the manager for the monument office.

Jerry told the council that because of concern about the stalemate on roads and RS2477 issues the BLM state director met with the new Secretary of Interior and asked her to let Utah try and settle this again. Jerry was appointed by the state director to work on a small team to see if they can't find a resolution to the disagreements over road issues on BLM administered lands in Utah. Each county will be involved and contacted as they move forward with this.

8. Scott Truman asked Jerry and the council how we can make sure with the different BLM field offices that we have SUPAC representation covered. Jerry said his assignment is a coordinator with all four field offices. He can represent that group of managers on this council if that is agreeable with the council or if we want all four offices to be represented that can be arranged also—whatever the SUPAC council prefers. John Williams suggested that Jerry could be the official member of the council and the due payer but any of the others could come and would be welcome at any time. After discussion it was agreed that Jerry will be the signatory to the SUPAC organization but an invitation will be extended to the others that they are welcome to attend any time or if there is something specific to their areas then they would be specifically invited. Ken Sizemore indicated he has felt some frustration with the BLM restructuring in relation to mailing out NEPA notifications. Ken said they have not been receiving them from some of the offices. They rely on the mailed notices on NEPA to keep up. They prefer to receive the written notice even though they are available on the Internet bulletin board. Jerry said he will check on this.
9. Gordon Topham gave an update on the Sand Hollow recreation plan. He distributed maps to the council. He said the draft recreation resource plan is done now. A

committee has been involved in writing this for the last seven months. The BLM, WCWCD and Utah Division of Parks and Recreation are the partners involved in the recreation plan. He highlighted some of the benefits, facilities, costs, etc. from that plan.

Sand Hollow will have a major economic benefit and may be responsible for the generation of more than \$3.4 million in income (wages, rents, interest, profits) and about 77 jobs within Washington County during its first five years of operation and could reach \$21 million and 478 jobs annually. It will also create 1,324 acres of additional water based recreation and provide 20,500 acres of open recreational opportunities.

The proposed reservoir facilities include: full hookup campground near boat ramp; beachfront campground; group campground; marina; boat launch ramp; day use areas; misc. roads, fencing and contact station; and separate PWC launch ramp. The proposed Sand Mountain facilities include: OHV campground & staging area; separate equestrian campground and facilities; signing and trail guides; and cattle guards.

Some other features he pointed out on the map were the wakeless area proposed along the deeper dam and subsurface rock features, the five lane boat ramp, parking for 150 boats/ trailers, concession operations and campground. He also pointed out the area below the lower dam which won't have a view and so this is where they propose to put some dry dock storage and a maintenance yard. The sandy beaches on the low end of the reservoir are where they are proposing the day use areas, campground with no hookups and an event area for family reunions, church events, etc.

After the team completes assessment of the draft plan they will then meet with the stakeholders and report back to them and then go public with it.

10. Ron Thompson reported on the Shivwits Water Right Settlement. Ron gave a short history of what led to this settlement. The water district became heavily involved in trying to put together a conservation program for the Virgin River Spinedace. They proposed piping the Santa Clara River and pooling the water rights of the irrigation companies with the Indian water rights. The agreement contemplated funding one-third by federal, one-third by state and one third by the water district. The district attempted to get an easement from the Indians for the project and they wouldn't do it until the water right issue was solved and so the district has spent the last four and a half years working on this. The Indians had an aboriginal claim that was for more than the flow of the Santa Clara River. The history on the Santa Clara River has been contentious.

Ron said they now have a settlement that the parties have entered into that he feels is a win-win agreement. They went to Congress to ratify the settlement agreement and were authorized 24 million dollars in federal funding to help settle this matter. The agreements have now all been signed. There are still several conditions to be met before it will be final. The settlement agreement has a drop dead date of fiscal year 2003 before which things have to happen. The agreement calls for the pipeline to be built from Gunlock Reservoir to Ivins Reservoir. The three lower companies and the Indians will pool their water resources for a total allocation of 1900 a.f. of water to be put under the pressurized system. The District will build and become water master of that system.

The city's reclamation plant will provide 2000 a.f. of water to the Indians. There will be a five million dollar economic development fund for the Indians to spend on water economic development on the reservation. There will also be a three million dollar environmental mitigation fund for habitation restoration and native species protection. As far as funding the Congress has funded five million this year with 19 million next year to fully fund it. Ron said the Utah delegation is working on trying to get it fully funded this year but they don't know if this will happen. The EA on the pipeline should be out this summer.

11. Scott Truman asked for any additional items of business.
12. Mary Wagner informed the council that Dale Bosworth is the new U.S. Forest Service Chief. Mary said he will be very good to support rangers and local decision makers.
13. Ron Thompson reported to the council that the water district is going to prepare a basin wide watershed plan. They are getting grants from EPA and hope to get going this fall. It is anticipated that they will have it accomplished over the next year or two.
14. Vic Knox gave an update on the personal water craft issue at Glen Canyon. He said there has been some misinformation going around. The Park Service entered into a settlement agreement with Blue Water Network who sued them. On the rule issued a year ago it stated that personal water craft use could continue in 11 recreation areas. The rule allowed superintendents to put additional restrictions on it if needed. They have now settled the suit with Blue Water Network by agreeing to a date of September 2002 in which they have to move forward and put in place special regulations in those places where there will be continued PWC use. They will begin the process of special regulations but use will continue at Glen Canyon. They have hired two contractors to assist them in the process. Vic said he would be happy to ask the Glen Canyon superintendent to come to a future SUPAC meeting and discuss this in further detail.
15. Gordon Topham informed the council that the bike trail at Snow Canyon officially opened last Saturday. He said it is a very beautiful trail and encouraged everyone to visit it.
16. There was a discussion of the next meeting date. Clare Ramsey suggested the meeting be held at a higher elevation like Ruby's Inn. July 3 would be the next date but it was decided it was too close to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. July 10<sup>th</sup> was suggested. It was agreed to hold the next meeting on July 10 at Ruby's Inn at 10:00 am. with lunch following the meeting at 12:30.
17. Agenda items for the next meeting were suggested:
  - Sen Bennett's office - federal land management video
  - 501C3 status and helping community based organizations
  - New superintendent from Glen Canyon
  - Briefing on changes in fire management program and what's going on in Southern

Utah in terms of new resources - help to community fire departments and their coordinated efforts in the Color Country fire area

- Bryce Canyon bus tour and report on what is happening there

18. Scott Truman reminded the council that the September meeting is usually held in conjunction with the Rural Summit at SUU in Cedar City. September 5 was suggested as a good date with the suggestion of the possibility of a tour of Circle Four Farms.

19. There being no further business John Willie made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ron Thompson and the meeting was adjourned.

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Secretary

## APPENDIX A

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
John Willie	Washington County
Ken Sizemore	Five County AOG
Kathleen Clarke	DNR-SLC
Gordon Topham	Utah Div. of Parks & Recreation
Scott Munson	UDOT/Cedar Dist.
Vic Knox	National Park Service
Clare Ramsay	Garfield County
Nathan Rathbun	Congressman Cannon
Vane O. Campbell	NRCS-Richfield
Jeannine Holt	Senator Hatch
Bruce Richeson	Senator Bennett
Jerry Meredith	BLM
Mary Wagner	Dixie National Forest
Mike Empey	Leeds Town
Wayne Thomas	Dept of Env. Quality
John S. Williams	Five County AOG
Don Leavitt	SITLA
Henry Maddux	Fish & Wildlife Service
Ray Spencer	Kane County Commission
Scott Truman	URDC
Roberta McMullin	WCWCD