

**SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES  
COUNCIL (SUPAC)  
Minutes of a meeting held November 6, 2001**

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met at the Dixie Center in St. George, Utah, on Tuesday, November 6, 2001. 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.
3. Scott Truman asked those present to introduce themselves.
4. The minutes of the meeting of September 5, 2001 were moved for approval by John Williams. Jerry Meredith seconded the motion and all voted aye.
5. Ron Thompson of the Washington County Water Conservancy District gave a report on Sand Hollow Reservoir. He showed a computer enhanced picture of the reservoir and surrounding area. The reservoir project should be completed around February 2002. The recreation plan is now complete for the reservoir and surrounding area. It is a six million dollar recreation package and they are lobbying our delegation for funding. Ron said the water district and others are looking at access and transportation issues. The potential roads shown on the computer enhanced picture don't exist yet. There has been a lot of discussion on providing public access. The primary access will be off of 4300 west. This will be a multi-use state park with water based recreation and also ATV and equestrian recreation opportunities. The state parks will operate it. The primary access will be off of 4300 West. The water district is working with school and trust lands for rights of way. There will also be a loop road around the reservoir that comes out at Bench Lake and eventually ties into the road to Washington Fields Diversion Dam.

Ron also discussed the ground water recharge aspect of the Sand Hollow Reservoir. This reservoir may be more important for the ground water recharge than the surface storage. The reservoir site sits on the Navajo aquifer and the reservoir will have a very active recharge program. Sand Hollow Reservoir will ultimately become the terminal reservoir for the Lake Powell pipeline. There will be a drought reserve in the bottom part of the reservoir which will be used when there are serious droughts.

Ron Thompson also said the reservoir will have the opportunity to be a first class recreational facility with an economic benefit of \$20 million a year. Gordon Topham added that it will be a destination reservoir.

Ron also updated the council on the watershed plan for the Virgin River. Some years ago the Virgin River Management Plan was created. Part of that plan was to develop a

watershed plan. The water district started this process about a year and a half ago. It became evident to the committee that was working on this that lay citizens couldn't put this together without some expertise and that it would take a significant amount of money to get the expertise needed. They put together a group to fund the watershed plan. The contributors will be the Department of Environmental Quality, the Water District and the BLM. The final RFP should go out in the next few weeks and then they will have a contractor on board to work with the advisory group to get this watershed plan put together. The watershed plan will deal with general watershed issues, TMDL's and source protection. Kane County is also working with this group. The process probably won't move too fast but the hope is when they are through they will have a product that will be bought into by the various communities on the Virgin River. The TMDL's have to be done by 2003 so that will probably drive this process in terms of timing. The source protection issues will also drive it. Ron will keep this council updated on the progress of the watershed plan activities.

6. The next item on the agenda was on Gateway businesses and National Parks – Finding Common Ground. Scott Truman said that Vic Knox could not be here today and asked him to cover this agenda item. He passed out brochures for an upcoming conference on this subject. Scott explained that last spring NPS held a conference in Colorado about what they as an entity should be doing. Through that conference they came to the conclusions that they needed to engage the communities a little better, especially the communities that sit at gateways to national parks or recreation areas. Vic Knox got together with some others and put together this seminar to be held on December 4 and 5 at Ruby's Inn. The focus on the conference will be on finding common grounds and building better relationships between businesses and our national parks and identify joint concerns. They would also like the Forest Service and the BLM to be involved. Jerry Meredith indicated that he went to a national conference on this and it was very valuable and worthwhile and thinks it is a good idea to have it on a local level. He said the BLM would have some representation at the conference. Scott Truman said everyone is invited and asked everyone that was interested to put it on their calendars and make sure they sent in registrations.
7. Bevan Killpack gave an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Topical Advisory Group (TAG) update report. He said he was speaking for Ron Wilson who could not be here today. He explained that SUPAC had established this group to look at OHV situations, problems, opportunities, etc. in Southern Utah. This group has had several meetings establishing their role and objectives and who would be members. He passed out a handout explaining the OHV TAG that gave them their role and charge. The group felt that they needed to educate themselves when they started out. They decided to invite some different groups to their meetings to talk about their efforts. They have had the Paiute ATV Trail, Emery County and the San Rafael Swell groups give presentations on what they are doing with ATV'S and OHV'S. NRCC is doing a lot of these same things on a statewide basis. They have an education committee, law enforcement committee, communications committee and steering committee. The group felt like they needed their help as they began their work. They also had the BLM give a

presentation on their Sand Hollow efforts for an OHV area. The NRCC law enforcement group came to their last meeting and gave a presentation. They were very impressive and organized. The Forest Service people felt like they don't have the authority to ticket in some places where they should be able to and so they want to try and be more consistent across agencies. They plan on involving the media so that they know that something is being done. They have talked about involving Arizona and Nevada since lots of use in our area comes from Nevada and Arizona. They also met recently to strategize on the High Desert Trail Proposal. There is a group that has organized and proposed this north-south route from Beaver County to the Utah/Arizona border. They want to do something similar to the Paiute trail. The trail proposed would be a very big trail (hundreds of miles) with lots of loops. They have discussed various options for the trail where communities, counties, Forest Service and BLM fund certain parts of it and work through it that way. Jerry Meredith indicated that a majority of this proposal would be on public lands but they need to get more involvement from State Parks, State Trust Lands as well as the counties. There are still lots of concerns and lots of things to think about – trail heads, sanitary issues, etc. It is a big project and as they gather more information they will be able to decide the reality of this project on ground. Bevan said that when you designate a trail many people will come to ride the trail and the damage and destruction of wildlife and public lands increase so there is a lot to work through before deciding what to do with this. Gordon Topham said there might be minimal construction to connect the present trails and roads together as they did on the Paiute Trail. Bevan reminded the council that OHV recreation comes with a lot of problems that have to be solved but it is a very legitimate sport.

Scott Truman reminded Bevan that the OHV TAG's next meeting is set for December 5 which is the same day as the Finding Common Grounds conference at Ruby's Inn.

Bevan said they will change their meeting. Jerry Meredith urged those that are on the committee to be at the next meeting because they are past the education and really getting to the "meat" of the issues now. There was a brief discussion of having OHV TAG meetings prior to lunch on the same day as the SUPAC meetings are scheduled. Scott Truman told Angelita Bullets, who was representing the Paiute Band at the meeting, that they are certainly invited to attend and participate in these OHV TAG meetings.

8. Scott Truamn suggested the council schedule the next SUPAC meeting and OHV TAG meeting. Scott said the first Tuesday of January would be New Years Day. January 8 would be the next or second Tuesday. It was proposed that Tuesday, January 8 be the next SUPAC meeting at noon for lunch and the meeting at 1:00 p.m. It was also suggested to hold the OHV TAG meeting in the morning at 9:00 a..m. of the same day (Jan. 8) prior to lunch. It was tentatively set for the Holiday Inn but Scott will get the word out as to the location. Jerry Meredith suggested that a NRCC person and OHV TAG person attend the SUPAC meeting also.
9. Scott Truman gave an update on the agenda item concerning community fire plans. The National Forest Service and State Forestry have come up with a substantial pocket of money to work on national fire plan efforts in this area. Three pilot projects are going

through the six county area, one of them is small diameter timber reduction project on a pilot basis where they are buying a small timber mill to process lumber. They are going to find out the economic feasibility of logging small diameter timber. This would be used as a management tool. They are contracting with Utah Forest Project of Escalante to run the mill. They will lease it from Rural Development Council and that money will come back to the Five County Association of Governments to put in their revolving loan fund for businesses. On the community fire plans they are working with a grant from the national fire monies from which they will hire through the Five County Association of governments a fire planner to work with the communities to help them establish fire plans for their respective communities. This will be a two year project. If communities get involved and get a community fire plan done they will be put on a list for access to surplus equipment.

10. Scott called for other calendaring items. November 27 the Dixie Forest leadership team will have a presentation on OHV travel monitoring efforts which will be held at SUU's Hunter Conference Center.

Jerry Meredith said that the land use plan for Richfield BLM office (which includes a large portion of Garfield County) will be starting in the next few months. There will be public scoping meetings so watch for notice of these as they have not yet been scheduled. The federal register notice went out last week.

Jeannine Holt said she was asked to excuse Bruce Richeson from Senator Bennett's office for today's meeting.

Henry Maddux said the USFWS has come out with their 12-month finding on the Bonneville Cutthroat. They found it did not warrant listing at this time. There may be some litigation on this decision.

11. Someone asked about the status of the 10J rule on the Condors. Henry said that they are looking to expand the condor reintroduction plan shifting some of the emphasis to Northern California. They are also looking at expanding Northern Arizona reintroduction. They found the first eggs with this years birds. They will probably start seeing some production in the next few years. He will get more of an update for the next meeting in January if the council is interested.

12. The agenda items for the January meeting were discussed. The following was proposed:

Henry Maddux - Condor update

BLM - Parashont National Monument update (Jerry Meredith suggested)

Congressional report - status reports

Scott asked for additional agenda items to be sent to him.

13. Scott called for other business. There was none.
  14. There will be a tour of the Rosenbruch Wildlife Museum directly following this meeting. Scott Truman thanked Commissioner Gardner for making those arrangements and the arrangements for the use of the Dixie Center for today's meeting.
  15. The meeting was adjourned.
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