

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

Minutes of a meeting held January 8, 2002

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met at the Holiday Inn in St. George, Utah, on Tuesday, January 8, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. Those in attendance at the meeting and the agencies they represent are listed following these minutes on page 6.
2. Vice Chairman Scott Truman called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.
3. Scott Truman asked for all those attending to introduce themselves. Hugh Thompson also indicated that Bob Morgan has been named as the new Executive Director of the Department of Natural resources to replace Kathleen Clarke who was sworn in last week as Director of the BLM.
4. The minutes of the meeting of November 6, 2001 were moved for approval by Ron Thompson. Commissioner Alan Gardner seconded the motion and all voted aye.
5. Scott Truman explained that the budget report will be mailed out to committee members rather than distributed at today's meeting.
6. Scott said he will also distribute through mail the Memorandum of Cooperation for 2002 at the same time for each of the agencies involved in SUPAC to sign. He will also include an invoice for this year's membership for each agency.
7. Scott indicated that a request had been made for Trust Lands Administration to join SUPAC. They have been attendees in the past but they haven't been official members of SUPAC. Commissioner Alan Gardner moved to approve the addition of the State Trust Lands Administration to the council. Ron Thompson seconded the motion and all voted aye.
8. Ron Wilson gave a report on the OHV Technical Advisory Group. He said that Utah sells about 15,000 to 20,000 ATVs a year and approximately 700,000 are sold in the US a year. Since 1997 this has been a 120% increase in ATV & OHV ownership. There are a lot of people riding ATVs. He said there is a lot of OHV activity on Cedar Mountain. The OHV Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was organized to help manage this increase in OHV usage and to make sure there are places for them to ride. Some of the issues they are concerned with are:
 - 1) ATV trails
 - 2) education
 - 3) law enforcement

They don't have enough people now for law enforcement. They had an inventory done on Dixie National Forest and have received the findings of that inventory. There are people using ATVs on trails that are for non-motorized. They have ATVs going across meadows and establishing new trails and they are finding out that there is not much law enforcement. The findings showed that there is a low level of ethics among users. The OHV committee has been discussing these issues for the last year and a half. Their committee had unanimous support today on the proposed policy of a road or trail is considered closed unless posted open but they would like the support of the SUPAC on this. He further explained that this would mean the road or trail is closed unless shown open on a map or posted open. The state has had this policy since 1987 on state lands. They are proposing to SUPAC that federal agencies get on board with the State and have this policy on all lands. This would make it uniform and less costly for them. He said they also think it would require less law enforcement and there would probably be less vandalism.

Ron Thompson expressed concern about how this would be applied. He said he thinks this could be a real problem and is not sure he likes the idea. He said he believes this could cause a real enforcement problem also. Jerry Meredith said it is already state law and is included in the BLM Resource Management Plans which all have transportation plans. Ron Thompson said the Dixie Resource Management Plan doesn't have this and Jerry indicated it was one of the only ones that don't include a transportation plan. Ron Wilson said there is a problem with these roads because a few users start using them and pretty soon it becomes a trail or road.

Mary Wagner asked how the agencies get from their present regulations and policies legally to this policy. Ron Wilson said it would have to go through NEPA, which would be time consuming and require a lot of work to get through it.

He again reiterated that the OHV-TAG is asking SUPAC to support a closed unless open policy on all lands as the State already has in place. There was more discussion. This would apply only to ATVs, not street registered vehicles. The federal agencies have to address this in their transportation plans. The state law reads "designated open by sign, map or description."

Ron Thompson said his main concern would be that simultaneous with this roads are first declared open. He said he would like to see something in writing and then review it before the next meeting and then decide on whether to support this. He said he doesn't necessarily disagree with this proposal but it needs to be done right. It was decided that the OHV-TAG would draft a proposal for this council to review before the next meeting.

9. Ron Wilson said they also talked today about the high desert trail proposal. The TAG discussed that today and feels the federal agencies need more technical review of that proposal. Jerry Meredith said at the last SUPAC meeting Bevan Killpack reported on this proposal they had received from a citizens group. The proposal is an extensive and lengthy trail from the far north end of Beaver County down to the Arizona/Nevada state

lines on the south. The Federal Agencies would have to do a NEPA study. The TAG talked about putting together a group to look into the possibility of doing a single environmental review of this proposal. The agencies that they identified to be involved in this group would be BLM, Forest Service, SITLA, the three counties, State Parks, DWR, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Five County Association of Governments and coordination with the Tribe. The TAG would like to get an official representative from each of these organizations and then get them together to look at the major questions to be addressed such as funding, data, alternatives, secondary impacts, impacts on wildlife, riparian zones, cooperative management, and how it fits into the overall transportation system, etc. They are proposing that this be a technical group to the TAG. They would bring information back to the TAG and they in turn would report it to SUPAC. Ron Thompson made a motion to proceed with establishing this technical working group to work under TAG on these issues. Jeannine Holt seconded the motion and all voted aye.

10. Ron Wilson introduced Fred _____ who gave an update on the Governor's trail. They held meetings throughout the State over the last two months gathering information. The Governor's planning department is taking the information from those meetings and synthesizing it into a report to be given to the Governor. There were 21 different trail opportunities that surfaced as priority issues. The Governor's office will take this information and will make an announcement of this initiative in the State of the State address when the Legislature commences. The Governor would like to see a trail within a 15-minute availability to every Utahn. They feel like lots of great information came out of those meetings.

Ken Sizemore said that some might be interested in what the three trails are in our five county area. They are:

- 1 - Three Rivers Trail in Washington County
- 2 - Red Canyon to Bryce Canyon Trail
- 3 - Hog Canyon in Kane County

11. The next item on the agenda was the Escalante Sawmill. Scott said that Clare Ramsey was not able to be at today's meeting and so he will give an update on this. The owners of the Escalante Sawmill announced they were going to close the sawmill the first part of January. The impact of that closure is more than just for Escalante, there is a loss of approximately 100 jobs in a community of 900 people. Scott said the agencies have, together with the private sector, tried to make something work to keep the sawmill open. The Steed family started putting a proposal together to buy out the present owner and they are working on financing. Jim Matson has been working with them to try and make more timber available from Kaibab. Jim Matson discussed the raw material supply question for a few minutes and some of the options available and answered questions. Scott Truman said he is optimistic that they will be able to keep the mill open with cooperation. It is important to the community and important to the forest.
12. Ken Sizemore spoke briefly about the Community Fire Plan Program. Part of the

national fire plan is some funding to help communities deal with the fact that there is a lot of timber out there but it is small diameter and too close to housing and subdivisions. Congress recognized this program and authorized funding to help the communities deal with this. They have made arrangements with the Utah Rural Development Council to have a planner on board to help develop these community fire plans. They have selected Mr. Paul Fullmer who has 30 years experience with the National Forest Service working with the private and public sector. He understands the system and their goal is to have Paul help the communities in the 11 county area get those plans in place. He will work with the highest risk communities to help them get plans in place first. He will be working out of the Fiddler's Canyon Building in Cedar City and his phone number is 586-7155.

13. Clayton Ramsey gave a report on the RC&D program. Mont Turner is the coordinator in Richfield. RC&D is short for Resource Conservation and Development. RC&D is a federal program, which comes under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture and helps people care for and protect their natural resources in a way that will improve the community's economy, environment and quality of life. It provides a way for people to work together to plan and carry out activities that will make their community a better place in which to live. Local RC&D councils provide opportunities for all partners to be more innovative and creative in funding projects. It is a local program because it places the responsibility on the local people through the RC& D council. The sponsors of the Color Country RC&D are the seven Soil Conservation Districts (SCD), five counties and thirty-five cities and towns within the five county area. The Color Country RC&D Council was authorized in 1972 and incorporated as a nonprofit Utah Corporation in January 1992. All of Utah's 29 counties are served by 7 RC&D areas and a state organization. There are over 348 RC&D areas nationwide. Color county RC&D has a chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer and board of trustees. A few examples of Color County RC&D projects are: Beaver Hospital Equipment; Cedar City Native Plant Display; Kanab City Library and Scenic Byway Study on Highway 12. Others are listed on the handout distributed.
14. Ron Thompson gave a quick update on the Sand Hollow Reservoir Project. He said they expect to be finished in the next month. The work has gone well and they are very pleased with the quality of the work. The water district hopes that there will be some water that they can begin filling the reservoir with.
15. Larry Crist is attending the meeting today for Henry Maddux, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He gave a condor update. Larry is the assistant field supervisor of the Utah Field Office. He said the Condor project has been an uphill battle. They have had some progress but have had problems with lead poisoning, anti-freeze poisoning, etc. They are 25 birds out in the wild. They are planning to introduce another 11 in the next few months. They are continuing to support expansion of the 10j rule. The condor recovery team has made this 10j rule expansion a priority. Region 1 has the lead on this. He indicated they hoped it would be within this year. The condor program is under a five-year review and the 10j expansion may be part of that. Ron Thompson asked if they

were reproducing in the wild. He indicated there had been no reproduction in the wild. There have been some eggs laid but they were cracked so they are attempting to reproduce. Commissioner Dennis Stowell made a motion that the SUPAC committee send a letter in support of the expansion of the 10j rule. Commissioner Alan Gardner seconded the motion and all voted aye.

16. Diana Hawks, a planner for the Arizona Strip BLM gave an update on the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument. They recently opened an office for the monument in St. George. It is jointly managed by the BLM and National Park Service. She showed a map of the monument boundaries. There is one million acres in the monument. There are no services in the monument area. There are some isolated private ranches. She also reported that the Vermillion Cliffs National Monument was declared a monument in August 2000.

Diana explained that in 1992 the BLM finished their Resource Management Plan for the Arizona Strip. They are beginning a new planning process, which will be a revision of the 1992 resource management plan. She distributed a copy of their planning schedule to complete this process by April 2004. They are doing some Community Based Partnership Courses and some public scoping meetings in the next couple of months. She also distributed a handout, which includes tentative dates for these meetings. What they will have at the end of this process will be three stand alone plans, two management plans for the two national monuments and a plan for the BLM lands between them.

Diana also distributed brochures on the Partnership Series, which are workshops they are planning to do about managing the land. They have been told to do collaborative planning so they are sponsoring this series of workshops to help communities get excited about land management. The first one is coming up at Kaibab Village on February 1 and 2.

Ken Sizemore encouraged the BLM to involve SUPAC in the planning process and the alternatives. She said they will bring the information back to this group.

17. Scott Truman called for other business.
18. Hugh Thompson, Department of Natural Resources, reported on a few of the changes in that department. He indicated that they need a new Director for the Division of Wildlife Resources. They also will need a new state water engineer to replace Bob Morgan and also a state forester. The Utah Energy Office with all the energy issues is housed now by the Department of Natural Resources. They are becoming increasingly involved in working with Federal partners in the state. They are also taking a more active role in promoting multiple use.

There was discussion regarding the next meeting date. Scott indicated that the legislature adjourns on the day after we would typically meet. He suggested we hold the next SUPAC meeting March 12 at the Holiday Inn. Ron Thompson indicated that would be in

conflict with the Utah Water Users meetings. Scott said they would try to set it for March 19 if they could find a location. His office will send out a notice of that meeting after they check on arrangements.

20. Scott Truman asked for people to call his office with agenda items. We will plan on having a report back from TAG on language for endorsing a “closed unless posted open” road and trail policy.
21. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary

NAME

Alan Gardner
Angelita S. Bullets
Brad Steggell
Clayton J. Ramsay
(for Vane Campbell)
Dennis Stowell
Diana Hawks
Don Leavitt
Fred Hayes
Hugh Thompson
Jeannine Holt
Jerry Meredith
Jim Matson
John C. Willie
John S. Williams
Karen Alvey
Kenneth Sizemore
Larry Crist
Lou Brown
Monte Turner
Nathan Rathbun
Paul Fullmer
Ron Terry
Ronald W. Thompson
Scott Munson
Wayne Thomas

REPRESENTING

Washington County Commission
Bureau of Indian Affairs (So. Paiute Field Office)
Utah Division of Parks & Recreation.
NRCS

Iron County Commission
Arizona Strip BLM
SITLA
Utah State Parks
Utah Dept. of Natural Resources
Senator Hatch
BLM Cedar City
Joint Economic Dev. Partnerships
Washington County
Five County Association of Gov.
Kanab City
Five County AOG
Assistant Field Supervisor
SITLA
Panoramaland RC&D
Congressman Chris Cannon
Fire Prevention (AOG)
Zion National Park
Washington County Water Conservancy Dist.
UDOT
Dept. of Environmental Quality