

SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES COUNCIL (SUPAC)

Minutes of a meeting September 4, 2002

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met at the R. Haze Hunter Conference Center at Southern Utah University on Wednesday, September 4, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. Those in attendance at the business meeting are listed on Appendix A, page five of these minutes.
2. Vice Chairman Scott Truman called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Introductions were made of council members.
3. **The minutes of the meeting of July 2, 2002, previously sent to council members, were moved for approval by Ron Thompson and seconded by Bob Morgan. All voted aye.**
4. The first item on the agenda was the background and origination of SUPAC. Scott Truman asked Ron Thompson to discuss this. Ron Thompson explained that SUPAC originated when the Dixie Resource Plan for the Dixie Resource became contentious. The water district didn't like what it was proposing to do with the wild and scenic river issue. It started organizing mayors, county commissions, etc., and brought the Governor into the mix. At the same time the water district was trying to develop a river management plan and was working with Fish & Wildlife Service on recovery aspects. The Governor got drawn in and saw problems between local, federal and state agencies and he decided to try and create a planning agency that would put these entities together to coordinate, plan and talk and to have interplay between the three levels of government on various issues. The Governor is the Chairman and the first Vice Chair was Dane Leavitt for about two years. Scott Truman replaced him and has been the Vice Chair ever since. Ron said SUPAC has proven to be successful. Jerry Meredith mentioned that a good process is being used statewide now that was originated through SUPAC. That is just one example of the long-term benefits that have come from this group. Ron indicated that one issue that SUPAC worked on was wild and scenic rivers. Scott Truman mentioned that OHV use is one of the current issues SUPAC is working on with a topical advisory group (TAG). Ken Sizemore said he feels like this has been a very beneficial process. It brings the agency heads down here from up north and helps establish relationships with the local levels of government.
5. The next item on the agenda was the Grand Staircase-Escalante Science Advisory Board Nominations. Ken Sizemore reported that he sat with the planning team during the initial planning process that set the parameters for the management of the monument. They contemplated having an advisory board at that time. The team discussed how that advisory committee should be comprised. It should not be just to advise on science

issues. The scope of the monument advisory committee will be broader than science issues. The BLM wanted expertise in various areas. Some of those areas are grazing, history,

Paleontology, outfitters and guides, archaeology, wildlife, geology, and botany. It has taken three years to get to the point where they are making recommendations. During the monument planning process, a committee of state and local officials was put together and had input into how the nominations would be taken and they put together a slate of nominees which they have had for almost three years waiting for the official nomination process. It was decided that the original slate of nominees was still appropriate. Jerry Meredith indicated there were 55 total nominations. Ken said they haven't forwarded those yet because all nominations didn't have complete background information; however, the nominations did close on August 20. After the Governor and the State Director review this list, it will be forwarded to Kathleen Clarke in Washington, D.C. and then they will go to the Secretary of the Interior for appointment. Ken read the list of nominees to the council.

6. Bruce Palmer of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave a report to the council on the California Condor 10j ruling and status of the program. He has been the condor recovery coordinator for two years and oversees the whole program. Bruce explained that he was involved in the original rule-making process for release of the condors when he was stationed with USFWS in Phoenix. He gave a history and program background and explained the process that brought the condors to the southwest. Bruce listed the many partners involved in this program and presented some interesting information about condors for the council's information. Condors eat only dead things. They have a wingspan of 9.5 feet and weight from 17 to 23 lbs. Their incubation period is 56-58 days. They mature at 5 to 6 years and have a life span of 30 to 40+ years. They usually take their first flight at 6 to 7 months. He also showed a graph of the decline over the years in the condor population. There were 150 birds in 1939 and by 1982 they hit their lowest point of only 22 birds left in the wild. The last condor to be taken from the wild was captured on April 19, 1987. A recovery team process was set up to provide information and recommendations to USFWS at that time. One of the main goals of the condor recovery is to have a captive population of 150 birds. The captive breeding program got underway and the first captive bred condor was hatched in 1988. Through 2002, 240 chicks were reared and today all condors are descended from 14 birds. He showed a map of the condor release sites in California. In a couple of weeks they will be releasing birds in Baja, Mexico. The other population is here in the southwest at the Vermillion Cliffs.

The Arizona condor population is designated as experimental non-essential. The guiding documents for USFWS commitments to release condors in Arizona fall under the Federal Rule – 10j designation. There is an MOU between the cooperators and an implementation agreement with the local governments involved.

In the Arizona program they have now released 53 birds and 21 have died with three returned to captivity which leaves 29 free flying birds. The first birds released in December 1996 in Arizona are now 6 or 7 years old. They were to consider abandoning

the program if the mortality rate got above 40%. The mortality rate is right around 40%.

There have been some concerns over behavioral issues such as destroying property; approaching people; being fed by people; playing with or feeding on trash and inappropriate perching. When there are behavioral concerns the birds are captured and held in a "time out" from a few days to more than two years. The leading causes of mortality that resulted in the deaths 21 birds are lead, coyote, gunshot, eagles, malnutrition, transmission lines, and lethal aspiration. Of those 21 deaths, nine of those were within the first two months of the release.

Their main emphasis is to know where the birds are, what they are doing, and intervene if necessary. The Arizona program is going well. There is local acceptance and support of the program with overwhelming general public acceptance. He said he felt they could do a little better on coordination, communication and management. Some of the things they are looking at doing in Arizona are expanding the partnerships in and expanding the 10j area. They would like to have a lead awareness program, expanded use of a satellite tracking system, intensive field management and breeding in the wild.

He said he is aware they received a letter from the SUPAC council requesting expansion of the 10j area. It was included as a comment in the five-year review. They did not respond to it and he apologized for that, indicating that they interpreted it as a comment. As far as the 10j expansions, Bruce indicated that the commitment from USFWS is there and they are fully supportive of expanding the area. It is a slow process because the expanded area crosses three different fish and wildlife regions, which complicates things. They have a mid-October meeting of directors to discuss the process to work on this. They have to do an environmental assessment; after that, it will take about nine months to complete the public hearings, notices, etc.

He closed by answering various questions, one of which regarded the amount of money spent on the condor program. He said from 1985 to date there have been approximately \$40 million dollars expended.

7. Vice Chairman Scott Truman called for other items of business and calendaring items. Phil Brueck, NPS, indicated there will be a National Park Service 2002 Intermountain Region General Management Conference November 4-7 in Salt Lake City. He passed out brochures regarding the conference. He also announced that Vic Knox had been transferred to Anchorage, Alaska and that position should be filled before the first of next year.

Other calendaring items include:

1. Utah Division of Forestry - Western States conference October 1-3 at the Southern Utah University Cabin.
2. Workforce Services will have a Rural Development seminar on October 10 at the Sharwan Smith Center at Southern Utah University.
3. Rural Health Conference October 24 and 25 in Moab.

4. Dixie and Fish Lake Forests have local level community meetings for their planning revision process. About half the meetings are done with the following still remaining:
 - September 4 - St. George, Washington County Administration Building, 6 pm
 - September 5 - Kanab, Kanab Middle School, 6 pm
 - September 12 - Cedar City, SUU, 6 pm
 - September 17 - Panguitch area
5. September 20 - Arizona Strip Alliance will meet at 10 am (Arizona time) at the Fredonia Town Hall.
6. October 17 & 18 - League of Cities and Towns water conference in Springdale.
7. October 24 & 25 - American Planning Association annual conference Silver Lake Lodge at Deer Valley.

8. The next SUPAC meeting will be November 5 on Election Day at the Holiday Inn in St. George with lunch at noon and the meeting to begin at 1 p.m.
Agenda items proposed for that meeting are:
 - OHV-TAG report - Ron Wilson
 - Presentation on 2002 Farm Bill - Vane Campbell
 - Drought in Southern Utah and related planning and impacts - Ron Thompson

9. Scott Truman reminded council members that the Rural Summit officially starts tomorrow.

10. Bob Morgan announced that the Department of Natural Resources has hired two new people to work with public lands: Val Payne and Mark Ward.

11. There being no further business, Cary Peterson made a motion to adjourn.

Secretary

Appendix A

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
John Williams	Washington County
Phil Brueck	National Park Service
Bruce Palmer	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Wayne Thomas	Department of Environmental Quality
Ray Spencer	Kane County Commission
Lou Brown	SITLA
Randy Swick	Dixie National Forest
Bob Morgan	Utah Department of Natural Resources
Clare Ramsay	Garfield Commission
Jerry Meredith	BLM
Gordon Topham	Utah Division of Parks & Recreation
Vane Campbell	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Scott Munson	UDOT
Larry Crist	USFWS
Cary Peterson	UDAF
Dan McGuire	Washington County Mayor's Association
Ronald W. Thompson	Washington County Water Conservancy District