

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

## **Minutes of a meeting March 11, 2003**

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met at the Interagency Building in St. George on Tuesday, March 11, 2003, 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. Introductions were made of council members. Kevin Carter was introduced as the new director for the State Institutional Trust Lands. He has been the director for two months. Kevin Carter introduced Kim Christy and Lou Brown from SITLA who were with him at the meeting. John Andrews will be the associate director and legal counsel. Also introduced was Bruce Hamilton as the new Sand Hollow State Park Manager.
3. The minutes of the meeting of January 7, 2003, previously sent to council members, were moved for approval by Jeannine Holt and seconded Kim Lawson. All voted aye.
4. The status of the 10j rule for Utah as it pertains to the California Condor was next on the agenda. Henry Maddux reported that he had talked to the USFWS lead person on this and he indicates that funding is the problem. The funding covers five states. Henry said they intend to publish notice of the start of this 10j rule process in May.
5. Henry Maddux also reported that the recovery plan for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher is finalized and came out of Region 2. He passed copies of the newsrelease containing the e-mail address to obtain a copy of the recovery plan which is <http://arizonaes.fws.gov>
6. Henry also reported that the Center for Biological Diversity sent a FOIA

concerning all grazing on BLM lands in Southern Utah and Arizona for endangered species. USFWS also received a Notice of Intent to file a lawsuit on the Utah Prairie Dog to move it from threatened to endangered. He will give an update on the Condors at the next SUPAC meeting.

7. Jerry Meredith gave a status report on the OHV Cooperative Agreement. He provided a little history on this to the council. An agreement has been put together by some members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG met this morning and they are still considering the best way to handle this proposal. A copy of the draft agreement was passed out to council members with the agenda today. Jerry said the most critical part of this draft agreement is for each partner involved (county, federal and state agencies) to look at it and see how they can help this move forward or help with it. The draft is just for discussion to get this going at this point. Jerry said that Brad Stagle from State Park is the Chair for this. Bevin Killpack from Forest Service is also helping along with himself. Comments can be sent to any of them after which they will take it back to TAG and then advise SUPAC on their recommendation for the best way to go through this procedurally.
8. Scott Truman led a discussion on the concept they have been working on with the Department of Natural Resources, the logging industry and some of the counties. They are working on a Sustained Yield Unit for Dixie, Fishlake and North Kiabab National Forests. Scott explained that our local logging industry has not been able to be competitive with other areas and they have not been able to get logging contracts. Sixty percent of the lumber cut in these areas has been shipped out of the state for use. The idea with this sustained yield unit is to protect the local industries so they don't have to go out of business. They used to be a viable industry and it is starting to dwindle away. This proposal would create a sustained yield unit where companies in this area would have the first right of refusal for contracts in this area and the big companies couldn't come in and bid it up so that our local companies don't have a chance. Scott said this is just an informational item for now and as they get more information they will bring it back to SUPAC. This involves three forests in 13 counties. The next meeting on this will be March 26 at 10 a.m. at the Hunter Conference Center in Cedar City. The name of the group is Central Colorado Plateau Sustained Yield Committee.

9. The next item on the agenda were Congressional Reports. Quinn Warnick from Senator Bennett's office reported first. He said there has been some shuffling of Senator Bennett's staff. He has given up the legislative branch subcommittee and is now chairman of subcommittee on agricultural appropriations committee. He feels this committee will be more beneficial to Utah. Fitz Elder from his staff is going to the agricultural subcommittee as Deputy Subcommittee Director. Luke Johnson will be the natural resources contact person in Senator Bennett's office. The Highway 89 bill and the bill for Sand Hollow Reservoir will be introduced in the next few weeks. They want to get the Sand Hollow Bill introduced before the dedication on April 18.
  
18. Jeannine Holt from Senator Hatch's office reported next. She said that Senator Hatch has taken over the Western States Coalition for the Western senators. There will be a hearing on March 25 in Washington DC on the Mormon Pioneer Trails. Jeannine said to feel free to contact her with any questions or concerns for Senator Hatch.
  
19. Peggy Harrison, from Congressman Cannon's office reported that Congressman Cannon is chairman of the Western Caucus and they have now become staff for that as well. The two issues that were identified as top priorities in the Western Caucus meetings last week were: Wilderness and asking for a withdrawal of the Wilderness Handbook (14 senators and representatives signed a letter requesting this - a copy of the letter was passed around for the council to see); and the Healthy Forest Initiative. She also reported that there is a bill to revise the boundaries of the Glen Canyon Recreation Area that should go to the floor soon. Congressman Matheson will go sponsor this with Congressman Cannon. Congressman Cannon's office sponsored a briefing meeting on this for all of the congressional offices last week.
  
20. Mike Empey from Congressman Matheson's Office introduced himself. He will be running Congressman Matheson's Southern Utah office which just recently opened with a ribbon cutting last week. The address is: 321 N. Mall Dr. #E101B and the phone number is 627-0880. He will be working with Iron, Washington, Garfield, Paiute and Kane Counties. He said to feel free to call him any time. Congressman Matheson is on the finance

committee, science committee and transportation committee.

21. Scott Truman gave a report on the County Tax Notice Report. He thanked the County Commissioners who helped provide this data to analyze. Scott passed out copies of the property tax owner profiles for the Southern Utah counties of Iron, Garfield, Washington, Kane and Beaver for the 2002 tax roll. It shows total properties for each of the five counties and how many of those total properties were billed (tax notices) locally or out of state or out of state or country. Some of the observations made from this data were that 4% of homes are second homes (the US average is 3%) and Utah had the largest growth in 2<sup>nd</sup> homes from 1990-2000. For Iron County 45% of the tax were billed local, 13% in the rest of the state and 42% out of state or country; Washington County had 48% local tax notice billings, 13% in State and 39% out of state or country; Iron Kane County had 25% local billings, 26% in state and 49% out of state or country billings. Scott said this is just for information for the counties.
22. Scott called for other items of business or calendaring items.

Alan Gardner informed the council that a large group of counties in the state have decided to go with another wilderness bill this year. They met about six weeks ago and each county is to submit areas within their county. Washington County is going to have a hearing next Tuesday during commission meeting and an open house next Thursday from 6 to 8 pm in the commissioner chambers.

Ron Thompson said the Sand Hollow Reservoir dedication will be Saturday April 18 at 10 a.m. Senator Bennett will be the keynote speaker at that.

RC&D State Convention is April 16 and 17 at Holiday inn in St. George.

UAC Convention in Price - April 16, 17 & 18

Senator Bennett's Rural Technology Conference will be May 28 and 29. The CEO of Dell Computers is the keynote speaker. It will be at the Dixie Center in St. George. [rubtc.com](http://rubtc.com) is the website where you can register for the conference and get more details.

23. Bob Morgan reported that this was an interesting year at the legislature. The Department of Natural Resources took a 33% cut overall. The operating budget took a 17% cut. They are working on sustained yield and on wilderness study areas with the BLM. The Endangered Species fund also got cut and they just have the sales tax money now.
24. Ron Wilson of the Forest Service said the Sanford Fire review provided good information they can use in the future. They need to coordinate more closely with other agencies such as the Park Service and BLM in prescribed burnings. These prescribed burnings are getting a lot more attention now and they are getting a lot more opposition on these now, primarily on smoke issues. They will be doing a few things different because of that review. They also need to look at different ways to get rid of fuels that need to be reduced on forest.
25. Vane Campbell said the last day to comment on the rule regarding EQUIP money is tomorrow. After that they will come out with the final rule.
26. Lou Brown of SITLA said in regards to the Endangered species Mitigation Funding that they are partners in an effort to try and participate in a mitigation agreement for the prairie dog. He also informed the council that twice a year they conduct their trust lands auction. There will be one on May 9 in Salt Lake City with six or seven parcels to be sold (3 in Kane Co., 1 in Wash. Co. and 2 in Beaver Co.)
27. Ron Thompson reported on the drought situation. We are looking at about 50% of normal on our snowpack after these last storms. It did go up some. The river flows are very low compared to historic averages. All of this may lead to restricted watering practices throughout the summer in our communities.
28. Wayne Thomas of DEQ told the council that the division is looking for a location for an air monitoring system in the St. George area because they are picking up elevated levels of ozone in Mesquite and some of the parks.
29. Commissioner Stowell, Iron County said they are working on a wilderness study area in Spring Creek Canyon that has two sections of SITLA land.

They are working with Congressman Matheson's office to get some legislation going in on this to try and find some compromise solution.

30. Scott Truman asked for agenda items for the next meeting which will be May 6 at the Holiday Inn. Agenda items suggested for that meeting were:
  - a) Hendry Maddux : report on condor
  - b) Apple Report (public lands impact on education) - Alan Gardner will contact Steve Urquhart to see if he can do that.
  - c) Sand Hollow State Park - update on recreation - Gordon Topham
  - d) Updated information on drought - Ron Thompson from the water district and appropriate federal agencies
  
31. There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned.

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Secretary