

SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES COUNCIL (SUPAC)

Minutes of a meeting held January 4, 2005

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met at the Five County Association of Governments Building in St. George, Utah, on Tuesday, January 5, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. Those in attendance at the business meeting are listed on the roster attached as Appendix A to these minutes.
2. Vice Chairman Scott Truman was excused and Ken Sizemore conducted the meeting. Introductions were made and a roll was passed.
3. The minutes of the meeting of November 2004 were moved for approval by Mayor Kim Lawson. The motion was seconded by Lowell Braxton and all voted aye.
4. Ken Sizemore reminded all the entities present who haven't already signed the 2005 Memorandum of Cooperation or paid their 2005 dues, to please do so. He read the name of those agencies that haven't paid dues yet. Signature pages were distributed for those wanting to sign at the meeting.
5. Bevan Killpack gave an OHV TAG Report. They met this morning. He said they revisited the hot spots for OHV's in Southern Utah again. They felt like they needed to look at those areas and see what they can start doing to get organized and communicate with each other in those areas. They didn't feel they had all the hot spots on their map that should be. They want to focus on three areas in Southern Utah which are Three Peaks, Enterprise Reservoir and Gunlock Reservoir.

They also discussed the OHV coordinator position. Not much has happened on this. The Forest Service and BLM have had budget concerns and haven't been able to move forward in advertising this position. The funding situation for this remains unclear. It may be spring before any real progress can be made on this. The State has some money and they discussed using some of the state money this year to hire a contractor locally that has knowledge of trails and issues in Southern Utah. It is critical to have this position filled so they will work to try and get the funding identified so that this position can be advertised and filled. A meeting has been set for January 18 in Cedar City to meet with key people and put together a scope of work for this position and discuss it.

6. The next item on the agenda was a presentation on a proposed scenic driving tour on Cedar Mountain by Paul Roelandt, National Park Service. Last summer they got planning funds to develop wayside exhibits for visitors to the monument. Their partners in this are the Iron Mission State Park, US Forest Service, Southern Utah University and NPS. Since most visitors see Cedar Mountain as one experience the concept of a driving tour was born. In the 1990's the Forest Service had already identified 50 potential sites for wayside exhibits. He showed a map of Cedar Mountain vicinity. GPS was used to produce a very accurate map. He showed pictures of various sites along the route. For each location they have identified topic, theme and sub-themes and what information could be presented at each site. They would like to expand their efforts to include other key players. They are working with SUU faculty and students to plan and design 14 wayside exhibits. The funding thus far is for planning only. They are looking at some grant opportunities. They now have a Cedar Mountain Driving Tour Grant Team which is meeting this week to review progress and coordinate the support needed. They will continue to look for sources of funding and will provide regular e-mail updates to keep all partners informed. One of their goals is to provide strategically located pick up and drop off points for PDA type devices that people could use for information as they visit the wayside exhibits. If you have questions or your agency is interested in participating contact Paul Roelandt, Superintendent, Cedar Breaks National Monument, 2390 West Hwy 56, Suite 11, Cedar City, UT 84720. Phone number (435)586-9451 ext 21. Email address: paul_roelandt@nps.gov

7. Ron Thompson, Washington County Water Conservancy District gave a water update. He gave the council the SNOTEL data from last January 4 as compared to today (January 4) this year. We are at 247% of normal this year and last year on this date we were at 135%. Ron said the soil moisture conditions are better now than they have been for over 20 years. Kolob Reservoir was at 10.1 ft. a year ago and today is at 17.8 feet. All the reservoirs on the Santa Clara drainage are full. Ivins is not quite full. Baker and Gunlock are both full and have spilled already. Warm rain on the present snow pack could cause some flooding. There is 26,000 AF of water in Quail Creek and 13,000 a.f. in Sand Hollow. Ron said we had a good fall and the district hopes to be able to store quite a lot more water before the season is over. Cloud seeding has ceased because we at 200% of normal.

Ron also said the Governor's task force that Governor Walker created regarding funding for the Bear River project and Lake Powell Pipeline Project have been meeting. These two projects combined will cost about \$800 million dollars. By this summer they should have a funding report.

7. Ken Sizemore reported on the County Resource Management Plan. County resource management plans are intended to bring local county plans into a situation where federal land managers can utilize the information. That evaluation

process is still ongoing. No formal decision has been announced. He said our application did not make the first cut.

8. Vane Campbell, NRCS, reported that Fitz Elder, a staffer for the Agriculture Appropriation Committee, came down and looked at some of the sites in Ivins that were built by NRCS to protect crop land at one time. The sites have now been encroached on by houses.

He also reported they have three watersheds that were selected for a conservation security program which is a new way of cost sharing with farmers. NRCS will pay for good management of their resources that improve the environment up to \$40,000 per individual per year. Over the next eight years every watershed in the state will have the opportunity to participate in this program. They didn't get one in this area this year but they will in the next few years. He also said they are dealing with the EQIP program for next year if there are any projects in our area that can qualify.

9. Congressional reports were next on the agenda. Bryan Thiriot with Senator Bennett's office reported that today Sen. Bennett will be sworn in for his 3rd term. They are organizing in the Senate for the month with committee assignments. Most likely Senator Bennett will remain on most of the same committees with maybe one change. He will be on the Joint Economic Committee; Rules Committee; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee; Appropriations Committee and Governmental Affairs Committee. He also reported that their office received a letter from the San Francisco Airport Division that Mesquite, Nevada is going ahead with an EIS for an airport.

Mike Empey from Congressman Matheson's said it is also the first day back for the House. They are swearing in and organizing. He said the Congressman anticipates staying on the same committees which are Financial Services, Science and Transportation Committees. He said the Transportation Committee would be of the most interest to this council. If anyone has transportation issues with a federal component please let him know, so they can get them in the mix for funding. He also mentioned that Congressman Cannon's 25 year old daughter passed away for those who may want to send their condolences.

Maureen Casper of Senator Hatch's office was also present and reported that he will still be on Judiciary Committee and Finance Committee. New assignment is Health, Education Labor and Pensions Committee and Pensions Committee.

Commissioner Gardner added that he heard today that Congressman Bishop has been appointed to the Rules Committee.

10. In other business Jim Crisp, BLM, gave a planning update. In Washington County the BLM will be starting an EIS level plan amendment for the OHV route designations. The Notice of Intent to prepare that EIS was published yesterday and is official now. The scoping period has started and the notices will go out today. There are two locally scheduled public hearings on February 2 in Hurricane and February 3 in St. George at Holiday Inn. Both are from 7 to 9 p.m. They have already gathered data from Washington County, St. George City and other sources and put together initial route maps. They are anticipating a draft EIS will be out sometime next Fall. He said he or his planning staff are available to meet with agencies, answer questions, make presentation, give briefings, receive information, etc. The scoping period for the public will end about March 4.
11. Ron Wilson reported that they also have a plan, the Lower Virgin River Fire Plan, which will involve eradication of Tamarisk along the Virgin River. The planning effort will start by the bridge in Hurricane and go through Washington, St. George and Bloomington. SWCA won the bid and is starting today. The final plan is supposed to be done by June. There is lots of interest in this because of the amount of water tamarisks use and because of the fire threat. They will get the plan done and then start getting funding for implementation after that.

Ron Wilson also mentioned that they got a couple of prestigious national awards for outreach for cooperation in fire control in Albuquerque in February. They are also getting a national award for fuels work done by the Color Country Fuels Committee. He said the firebreak in Central worked very well and reminded the council that community fire plans do make a difference.
12. Ken Sizemore called for any other items of business. Jim Crisp said that Paul Briggs from Five County Fuels would like to be on next meeting agenda.
13. The next meeting will be the first Tuesday in March which is March 1 at the Five County Association of Governments. Ken suggested any potential agenda items for that meeting be sent to Scott Truman.
14. The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary

APPENDIX 'A'
SUPAC ATTENDANTS
January 4, 2005

Ron Thompson, WCWCD
Bevan Killpack, USDA/Forest Service
Dennis Stowell, Iron County Commission
John Willie, Washington County Commission
John Williams, Five County AOG
Kim Lawson, Kane Co. Mayor's Assn.
Alan Gardner, Washington County Commission
Marreen Casper, Senator Orrin Hatch
Vane Campbell, NRCS
Henry Maddux, Fish & Wildlife Svcs.
Paul Roelandt, NPS/Cedar Breaks NM
Lowell Braxton, Utah DNR
Randy Trujillo, BLM Cedar City
Wade Judy, BLM Cedar City
Roberta McMullin, WCWCD
Scott Hacking, DEQ
Bryan Thiriot, Sen. Bennett's Office
Mike Empey, Congressman Matheson
Jim Crisp, BLM St. George
Ron Wilson, DNR FFSL
Lou Brown, SITLA
Curt Gordon, SITLA
Rob Quist, Utah State Parks

