

**SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES
COUNCIL (SUPAC)
Minutes of a meeting held May 3, 2005**

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah, on Tuesday, May 3, 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 is out of state and was excused. John Williams welcomed those present and conducted the meeting in his absence. Introductions were made and a roll was passed.
3. The minutes of the meeting of March 1, 2005 were moved for approval by Kevin Carter. Alan Gardner seconded the motion and all voted aye.
4. Bevan Killpack gave an OHV Technical Advisory Group (TAG) report. The group met this morning before the SUPAC meeting and took a tour of the Three Peaks area which is northwest of Cedar City. He said the County and the BLM have done a lot of work out in that area with pavilions, picnic areas, etc. They have a master plan that includes land exchanges and a whole spectrum of recreational opportunities. They have had good cooperation with the county and it is a beautiful area with a lot of uses.

Bevan said the preliminary High Desert Trail information and data have been submitted to the contractor. They have started working on the data that the agencies have provided. Ken Sizemore has headed this up. They will be reconvening the group. They had a deadline of April 1 to have a decision if the High Desert Trail is feasible. They are pushing that date back to see what information they can get on this.

5. The next item on the agenda was Bill Sinclair, Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with a discussion of legislative activities. He told the council that in our area Wayne Thomas has retired and they have hired a replacement Randy Taylor who will be attending these SUPAC meetings in the future. He indicated he would discuss the 2005 general legislative session in terms of things that happened relating to DEQ. He said they didn't have any issues they proposed legislation on this year, they just watched the legislation to see what would impact DEQ. DEQ had been involved in a task force for two years regarding radioactive wastes and that task force ended just before the legislature began. There were lots of solid waste issues that came forth. Three of those bills that came out were the Solitude land bill which passed, SCR 8 for a small landfill in San Juan County passed and HCR 3 for the Purgatory landfill for construction and demolition waste which was given contingent approval. There was also some issues regarding waste tire recycling (HB 230) regarding adjustments made to reimbursements (fees) relating to the recycling. There were two bills that failed in terms

of solid waste - HB 246 which restructured all solid waste fees and a tire recycling bill that wanted to raise fees paid for waste tires. This failed as many legislators felt like it was a local planning issue.

Bill also mentioned SB 24 regarding waste amendments which was a result of task force. Utah will not accept Class B & C low level waste; SB173 relating brownfills, former industrial sites that have some contamination but can still be developed for restrictive uses. It established a loan fund for their department to give out funds to help develop these brownfills.

There were also three water bills that related to water rights issues and state water engineer during the session: HB 29, HB 38 and HB 157.

HB 60 deals with land use development and how cities and counties deal with land use and there must be culinary water and sewer approval.

There were two bills regarding air issues, one dealing with emissions inspections.

Some other legislation he mentioned were HB 109 which had to do with reorganization of the IT information technology group in State government; HB 319 which reorganized the human resource function with the Department of Administrative Services to fulfill that role; HB 213 regarding retirement incentive to state employees; and SB 199 the clean fuels loan program. He also indicated that the state energy office was dismantled as part of this legislative session and certain functions were given to different agencies.

6. Scott Hacking an engineer with DEQ discussed some of DEQ's area activities. He said they met with the air quality people regarding the dust issue in St. George. They are getting an increasing number of complaints regarding this. They are going to have three monitors that sit on power poles and measure the dust in the St. George area. There will be one at the National Guard Armory.

Last month the water quality board met and approved a grant for a waste water study at Duck Creek. Mike Noel agreed to sponsor that study. They got a \$75,000 planning grant with a \$15,000 match for a total of \$90,000. It will take about a year to complete this. There has been lots of growth in Duck Creek area with an increased use of water. Dixie National forest is also a partner in this study.

They had a couple of legislators holding a law enforcement bill over their head but they have been able to work that out and they will be implementing that in the next couple of months. The legislature did finally come out with an extra \$2 million for state parks capital projects.

A new public lands office was created with the dissolving of the energy office. They don't know yet if it will be housed in the DNR building or not. It is supposed to be open May 15.

There are several changes with leadership. Mary Tullius is State Park Director. Jim Karpowitz is the new DWR director. He has been the big game manager. They also have a new law enforcement officer. A new oil, gas and mining director is supposed to be announced soon.

On HB 146 which passed a year ago and required counties to establish standards for fire for outlying communities they are having a meeting on May 26th at the Chamber of Commerce in Cedar City to help get that started and start getting those standards in place. Commissioner Gardner mentioned a conflict with that date for commissioners as they will be in Tacoma. John Williams said he will try and work out this conflict with Ron Wilson.

Scott said that Larry Lefort who has been the fire manager for the southwest area office is moving and they are looking for a replacement for that position.

7. The next item of business was Congressional Reports. Maureen Casper from Senator Hatch's office reported that Senator Hatch introduced a bill on domestic oil reserve in tar sands and oil shale which largely sits in eastern Utah. Senator Hatch has been an advocate for encouraging unconventional energy sources and testified in April in front of the senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on this bill. Hatch is working with Senators Bennett, Allard (Colorado) and Salazar (Colorado) to develop a bill that would encourage development of commercially viable from oil shale and tar sands.

Maureen also distributed copies of a press release dated April 27, 2005 in which Senator Hatch praised President Bush for rolling out an energy strategy to bring the United States more affordable sources of energy and greater energy security. Senator Hatch has been developing several bills, which will be introduced over the next two weeks, that address key elements of Bush's plan. The press release indicated that Senator Hatch would be reintroducing the CLEAR ACT of 2005 (Clean Efficient Vehicles Resulting from Advanced Car Technologies) the next day. This act provides incentives to consumers who purchase alternative-fuel and hybrid-electric vehicles, tax incentives at the pump for the purchase of alternative transportation fluids and tax incentives for the purchase and installation of alternative fueling equipment.

There were two other press releases distributed regarding Utah being allowed to ban Internet gambling and a press release dated April 13 wherein he called on Federal disaster flood relief officials to address the needs of Washington County before the areas suffers again from severe flooding during the spring runoff.

8. Bryan from Senator Bennett's office was excused and is in Price today.
9. Russell from Representative Cannon's office gave a report. Congressman Cannon is chair of Western Caucus - group of approximately 60 to 65 house members (non-partisan). They are trying to get the PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) bill fully financed. It has

never been fully funded. \$277 million is the highest it has ever been and it should be approximately \$150 million more. The Western Caucus is working together to try and get that done. He also told the council that Congressman Cannon visited Beaver a couple of weeks ago.

10. John Williams asked for any other business to come before the council. Some calendaring items mentioned were the Five County AGO Steering Committee on May 11 in Panguitch and June 8 in Kanab. There will be public hearings on the Forrest Plan Revisions on May 10 at Dixie Center in St. George, May 11 in Escalante, May 17 in Junction, May 18 in Panguitch and they will finish up with a meeting June 1 in Salt Lake City. The meetings will all begin at 6:30 p.m.

John Williams informed council members that he received a copy of an e-mail today from USFWS that their travel budgets have been frozen so they could not come down to today's meeting.

11. Brian Cottam from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget told the council that the LeRay McAllister Fund is an incentive program providing grants to encourage communities and landowners to work together to conserve lands that are deemed important to the community. Funds are available now for Fiscal Year 2006. Application materials can be found at <http://www.qualitygrowth.utah.gov> He encouraged everyone to think of how this could be used in their communities and areas. Applications are due in May 11, 2005. He would like to see more applications from rural Utah.

Brian also mentioned that the Governor's Outdoor Recreation Task Force sent out a survey seeking input about recreational gems in Utah. They didn't get much feedback. He passed out copies of the news release which included the website www.outdoortaskforce.utah.gov where you can click on the "survey" link to provide input.

Brian also discussed the County Resource Management Planning Toolkit. This is his real area of specialty and focus. The Toolkit is intended to empower counties with the information and tools to help them work more effectively with public land managers and be better prepared to enhance their role in the new economy. He passed out some information on this and also encouraged everyone to go to the website which is <http://governor.utah.gov/planning/crmp.htm>

12. Paul Roelandt from Cedar Breaks National Monument told the council they have about 14 feet of snow. The snowpack at Cedar Breaks is about 300% of normal. They are looking at a mid June for opening of their road. They are working with UDOT on this. This snowpack will have an impact on road restrictions during the spring thaw and it may run into late summer.
13. The next SUPAC regular meeting date would be the first Tuesday of July which would be the first day after the fourth of July holiday. If they move it back a week it would be

July 12. It was decided to set the meeting for Tuesday July 12 in Brianhead at their city offices if that can be arranged. Further information will be sent to SUPAC members.

14. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary

APPENDIX "A"
SUPAC ATTENDANCE LIST
May 3, 2005

Darrin Bird, DNR
Marreen Casper, Senator Orrin Hatch
Russell Hillman, Congressman Cannon's Office
Vane Campbell, NRCS
Dan McGuire, Washington County Mayor's Association
Kevin Carter, SITLA
Paul Roelandt, NPS Cedar Breaks NM
Dennis Stowell, Iron County Commission
Scott Hacking, DEQ
Bill Sinclair, DEQ
Alan Gardner, Washington Co. Commission
John Willie, Washington Co. Commission
Ronald Thompson, WCWCD
Bevan Killpack, USDA/FS
Paul Briggs, BLM
John Williams, Five County AOG
Bruce Hamilton, Utah Parks & Rec
Rob Quist, Utah Parks & Rec
Brian Cottam, GOPB
Bob Russell, USDA/FS Dixie Nat'l Forest
Ron Wilson, UFFSL
Todd Christensen, BLM