

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

## **Minutes of a meeting held March 14, 2006**

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met at the Five County Association of Governments Building in St. George, Utah, on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, 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 called the meeting to order and conducted the meeting. He welcomed those present and called for introductions. A roll was passed and the attendance at the meeting is attached to these minutes.
3. The minutes of the January 3, 2006 meeting, were moved for approval by John Willie. The motion was seconded by Clare Ramsey and all voted aye.
4. Laura Bohn from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget discussed the Critical Lands Mapping/Planning Toolkit. She explained that they came up with the toolkit about a year ago using some grant money. She showed in her PowerPoint Presentation some of the areas where the toolkit has been used including a dry lake in Cedar City, Cedar Hills landslide, flooding in Washington County, and hill erosion in a Draper development.

This toolkit is to help communities. There are two parts to the toolkit - an encyclopedia and a GIS on line mapping tool. The mapping tool has a tier system. Each indicator has three tiers or levels of protection. They are trying to add hazard information like wildfire potential. Identifying critical lands doesn't protect them; you need to identify protection measures. She reviewed incentives for critical land conservation. She also reviewed seven planning grants (totaling \$90,000) given out across the state by the Quality Growth Commission in February.

There was a discussion among the council regarding spreading the word about the availability of this information. Scott suggested using the Five County Association of Government office to help with that.

5. The next item on the agenda was a report on the High Desert Trail by Ken Sizemore. He said they have been focusing on this for two years. The proposal is to bring a off- highway vehicle trail from Beaver County down through the western part of Washington, Iron and Beaver counties (similar to the Paiute ATV Trail). They hired a contractor who evaluated segments of the trail for feasibility. They divided those segments into the three counties and have subcommittees by county that are looking

at the segments to see if adjustments are needed. Those subcommittees haven't gotten that work done yet but they hope to get that review finished by mid-April.

Ken said they are also trying to get an off highway vehicle coordinator in Southern Utah. They haven't been able to pull this off yet. There is going to be somebody coming on board this season but they won't be a federal employee. Ken indicated that State Parks and rec. said they will have funding for the position if other state agencies could kick in equipment, office, etc. He said he may be able to have a report on this by the next SUPAC meeting. Ken will check with Rob Quist and give a report on this next time.

6. Mike Styler reported on the 10 J status with the condor. He said he had talked to Reed Harris who forwarded an e-mail from the lead on this group. On April 4 in Flagstaff there will be a meeting of the Southwest Working Group and this will be on their agenda. Mike Styler will follow up w/ Henry Maddux to see if the state should have a presence at that meeting

7. The next item on the agenda was a Legislative Report of the recent legislative session. Kevin Carter, State Trust lands, reported first. He said that the excess in the state budget caused a lot of problems. It turned out to be a nasty session with everybody wanting some of the excess. Things moved very slowly. From a State Trust lands perspective he said they got beat up a little but did come out okay with the money they asked for. One bill that passed that they were watching was a bill that requires conservation or other groups to post bonds before they can sue an agency.

Mike Styler told the council that he had never seen a session like this. He said the civility broke down between the two chambers and there were outright battles and hard feelings. The \$70,000,000 income tax reduction didn't get passed. A lot of good bills got stuck between the two chambers. The Lake Powell Pipeline Development Act and the Groundwater Management Act both passed. The removal of the cap on sales tax also passed.

He discussed various bills. He also said there will be a property rights ombudsman this next year.

Mike Styler told the council about some of the money that DNR got as follows:

\$2 million in one time money for water shed initiative;

\$4 million for fire suppression to pay for last years fires

\$1 million to forestry for reseeding

\$3 million to parks for capital facilities improvements

\$250,000 (matching money) for trails

Couple of million dollars to help with “This is the Place” Park

\$250,000 water distribution

Oil, Gas & Mining got some money for hiring four biologists

Mike said he felt good about what happened for water in the session and how the session ended up. There will probably be a special session called by the governor.

8. Bill Sinclair, Deputy Director for DEQ gave a report on the legislative session from DEQ’s viewpoint as follows:

**Solid & Hazardous waste**

HB 43 - Lead acid battery disposal act - had Sunset review and was reauthorized for 10 years - passed

HB 138 - Mercury switch removal act - requires manufacturers to provide plan to DSHW that will implement program, financial incentive of \$5 bounty per switch - passed

SB 209 - waste fee amendments

SB215- addressed electronic waste (computer monitors, tv’s etc.) - This didn’t pass but they will look at again during interim session.

**Water quality**

He said most of these were already mentioned by Mike Styler.

SB 228 - Special revenue fund for salinity offset program.

SB 70 - Process for approval of waste disposal amendments - Governor vetoed this bill, Senate reaffirmed veto and so the bill died.

HB 335 - Radiation control act - bond requirements for litigation - didn’t pass

**Air quality**

3SHB46 - Energy Policy Amendments -passed

2SHB259 - Division of air quality - failed

**Environmental Response and Remediation**

SB 153 - Uniform Envy. Covenants Act

HB 271 - Petroleum Storage Tank Fund amendments

HB 100 - Environmental litigation bond bill - the Governor is waiting on this on whether to veto

9. Scott Clemens gave a report on the following:

**Cedar Mountain:** He said they first started detecting spruce beetle back in 1991. They implemented tree removal projects to control the outbreak and prevent it from spreading. It became clear by 1995-96 that they weren't going to control it so they shifted tactics. They began rehabilitation to areas affected, salvage of dead trees, fuels reduction, replanting, and getting some economic benefit to the community.

He reviewed a map that showed the timber sales from 1996 to present. The total volume removed has been about 2,000,000 board feet. It has been very successful. They have been doing a lot of back country work on this during the last 10 years that people can't see. They will continue selling timber.

**Duck Creek** - They started implementing first phase of fuels reduction project this year,

**Barney Top on Escalante** - He asked Scott Truman to give the update on this. Scott said they placed a bid for a stewardship contract to do the work there. The gravel crushing was done and they were just waiting. Last year there was 16' of snow on top. This year there was 18". If they had known it was going to be such a mild winter they could have started logging but they anticipate starting as soon as the weather breaks. They are looking at a minimum of 2 ½ million board feet to remove and sell.

10. Congressional Reports:

Bryan Thiriot from Senator Bennett's office reported that Senator Bennett has invited Kathleen Clark to be the keynote speaker in Vernal at the Rural Business Conference. The Senator is meeting today with Mayor McArthur regarding the St. George City airport and the Washington County land use bill.

Mike Empey from Congressman Matheson's office said Mayor McArthur is also meeting with Congressman Matheson this morning in Washington D.C. Congressman Matheson will be in Washington County on March 24 for economic development meetings.

11. Other Business:

Commissioner Stowell suggested having Paul from Cedar Breaks give a report at the next meeting. The monument may become a national park when Iron County does there land bill.

Todd Christensen said a plan amendment was signed this morning establishing the Three Peaks Recreation Area. An agreement was signed to initiate the private lands section of that. There is already an agreement with SITLA. He suggested putting this on the May agenda for a report on this.

Mike Styler told the council that Darin Bird has been back in Washington D.C. for a couple of weeks talking about wolf issues. He has also met with Kathleen Clark about funding for watershed initiative. She would like to see this be a western initiative, not just a Utah initiative. He also met with Sylvia Gillen about the watershed initiative and how NRCS has been involved. Darin will also visit with legislators to ask them to help get funding to the LeRay McAllister fund. They could use that money to match forest legacy money to facilitate the Washington County Lands bill.

John Williams is retiring from the Five County Association of Governments and there will be a new Executive Director by our meeting in May. The interview of final applicants is March 29. There will be an open house for John on Friday, April 14.

Tomorrow is Larry Anderson's retirement open house in Salt Lake City.

Scott Hacking reported there will be a series of meetings with St. George and Washington County on dust issues. Scott suggested they could have Bryce from the Division of Air Quality give a report on that at our May meeting

Vane Campbell said he could give a report on the Emergency Watershed Protection Program at the May meeting.

12. Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2 at the Five County AOG building. Scott reminded the council there is a \$10 charge for lunch for guests at the meeting.
13. The meeting was adjourned.

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Secretary

**APPENDIX "A"**  
**SUPAC ATTENDANCE LIST**  
**MARCH 14, 2006**

Ron Thompson, Washington Co. Water Conservancy District  
John Williams, Five Co. AOG  
Scott Clemans, Dixie NF  
John Willie, Washington Co Commissioner  
Clare Ramsay, Garfield Co. Commissioner  
Bill Sinclair, Utah DEQ  
Mike Styler, DNR  
Brian Cottam, GOPB  
Kevin Carter, SITLA  
Dennis Stowell, Iron Co. Commissioner  
Todd Christensen, BLM  
Mike Empey, Congressman Jim Matheson  
Laura Bohn, GOPB  
David Blodgett, Southwest Utah Public Health  
Randy Taylor, DEQ  
Scott Hacking, DEQ  
Ken Sizemore, Five County AOG  
Vane Campbell, USDA/NRCS  
Bryan Thiriot, Senator Bennett  
Bruce Bonebrake, DWR  
Scott Truman, SUU URDC Stewardship Center