

**SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES
COUNCIL (SUPAC)
Minutes of a meeting held May 2, 2006**

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met at the Five County Association of Governments Building in St. George, Utah, on Tuesday, May 2, 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.
3. The minutes of the March 14, 2006 meeting, were moved for approval by Kevin Carter. The motion was seconded by Bruce Barrett and all voted aye.
4. The first item on the agenda was an OHV /TAG report by Bevan Killpack. Bevan said the group met this morning. The High Desert Trail is included in the Washington County land use plan. The counties are talking and wanting to be part of this. He expressed appreciation to Commissioner Gardner for attending their meetings. He said the study team needs to revitalize this effort. The routes have been analyzed but they don't have a total buy off from the interdisciplinary team yet. Ken Sizemore is the co-chair of that committee. They have planned a meeting for June 27 at 9 AM at the BLM offices in Cedar City to come up with a proposed plan of action and give the study team their marching orders. Bevan stressed that they need county support from all three counties. Bevan discussed briefly an OHV coordinator. The State parks has some money put away for that but there is still the issue of an office and vehicle which none of the agencies are able to come up with yet.
5. The next item on the agenda was regarding the 10J Condor Status. Neither Reed Harris nor Mike Styler were at the meeting and so this agenda item was skipped.
6. Cedar Breaks National Park was next on the agenda. Paul Roelandt said he has been involved with the advisory group since it started. The proposed expansion is to include Flannigan Arch which is currently on private land and Ashdown Gorge Wilderness (7043 acres designated as wilderness area in 1984) and to designate the entire area as a national park. This would double the size of the monument. They have had discussions and meetings with Dixie National Forest, legislative staff, the Iron County Commission, Iron County Land Use Planning Group and others. The Iron County Commissioners have agreed to have Randy Johnson facilitate a task force make up of all the key stakeholders. That group will make recommendations for the land use legislative package. That group is expected to assemble in December 2006. Some of the potential areas that they will be discussing and working on are: cooperative management of newly designated areas; Ashdown/Bauer private in holding; Flannigan Arch and other private property owners;

grazing allotments; hunting; National Park designation and boundary expansion; tourism and economic development opportunities; visitor/information center; learning center; local history; access to arch; increased visibility; Cedar Breaks amphitheater access; Cedar City watershed protection; preserving wilderness values and experience; designating recommended wilderness; expanding Ashdown wilderness proposal, legislative challenges and additional staffing needs.

7. The Western Watershed Initiative was also passed on the agenda since Mike Styler was going to cover that.
8. Blake Walbeck, NRCS, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Washington County Emergency Watershed Protection. The purpose of this is for a response to sudden watershed impairments. A requirement of the program is it must have a local sponsor that pays 25% of the costs, can be responsible for operation and maintenance of improvements and has the ability to obtain land rights and acquire permits. The eligibility criteria changed a year ago. It must be to reduce threat to life and property, must be economically, environmentally and socially defensible, technically sound and alleviate a sudden watershed disaster.

He showed pictures of some of the watersheds in Washington County and the changes in the river channel over the years and pictures of some of the work that has been done (rip rap, rock structures, etc.) To date about 1.6 million tons of rock or 23 linear miles of rock have been placed and they still have about 5,000 tons still to place. Eighty-nine million board feet of woody debris has been chipped. Their best estimates for the 2005 flooding event are as follows:

8500 cfs /25 yr event on Santa Clara

21,000 cfs/15 year event on Virgin River

6,000 cfs /50 year event on Shoal Creek in Enterprise

9. Items #8 and 9 - Three Peaks Recreation Area/Land Exchange and Dust Issues in Washington County were both skipped.
10. Congressional reports were the next item on the agenda. Maureen Casper from Senator Hatch's office reported that the Senate has just gone back in session for a week. They will be taking up the immigration bill. She also reported that Senator Hatch introduced the Apple Initiative for education funding.

Bryan Thiriot from Senator Bennett's office told the council that the Senator sent his state director down to the nuclear test site to be included on the briefing. He also reported there have been changes in their staff - Luke Johnson has left to work for the Bureau of Reclamation and his replacement is Tyler Owens, a law school graduate from Panguitch. Also Bruce Richeson has left to be Farm Service Director and they should have a replacement for him soon. Scott Truman asked Bryan to remind their staff about the good neighbor authority reauthorization. . Scott said he would hate to see that authority lost.

Jim Empey spoke next for Congressman Matheson's office. He said they are continuing to work with the senators on the land bill. Congress is also back in session now. Congressman Matheson is concerned about the upcoming nuclear test. He is meeting with Veterans on June 1st for a follow up meeting.

Peggy from Congress Cannon's office said it is a busy time for them with the upcoming elections since Congressman Cannon is up for reelection. He has been in all the counties in the third congressional district in the last few weeks. He is on the resource committee and they will be holding meetings on gas and oil prices. She also reported that the SITLA land exchange bill should be on schedule for next committee markup.

11. Bruce Barrett, USGS, gave an update on Lake Powell. He said he was at Glen Canyon Dam early this morning looking at sites for the proposed pumping plant. The elevation at Lake Powell is now at 3625 and it is still down 75'. The next year might bring it up another 25 or 30 feet but it is slowly moving up.
12. Scott Truman called for other business. Commissioner Gardner gave a quick update on the Washington County Land Use Bill. He said it will probably run with White Pine Bill in Congress. They have had a full size informational ad in the Spectrum newspaper.
13. Calendaring items -

Five County Steering Committee - May 10 in Panguitch
Highway 143 Corridor Management Plan - May 18 in Panguitch

Next SUPAC meeting would be July 4 so it was decided to move it to July 11. Scott Truman said the OHV/TAG had requested to hold that July meeting in Enterprise so they can go on a tour there. Ken Sizemore agreed to find a meeting place in Enterprise. Bevan Killpack said anybody interested in going on the tour should let him know for transportation arrangements. they will go on tour

14. Agenda items for next meeting -
Will carry over skipped items from this agenda
Bird Flu Pandemic - Dr. Blodgett - Southwest Health Department
15. Commissioner Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary

APPENDIX "A"
SUPAC ATTENDANCE LIST
MAY 2, 2006

Ken Sizemore, Five County AOG
Alan Gardner, Washington County Commissioner
Brian Cottam, GOPB
Kevin Carter, SITLA
Bruce Barrett, Bureau of Reclamation
John Willie, Washington Co Commissioner
Mike Empey, Congressman Jim Matheson
Bryan Thiriot, Senator Bennett
Peggy Harrison, Congressman Cannon
Marreen Casper, Senator Orrin Hatch
Bevan Killpack, Pine Valley RD DNF
Rob Quist, Utah State Parks
Donald Auer, UDWR
Blake Walbeck, USDA/NRCS
John Williams, Washington County
Scott Clemans, Dixie NF
Scott Truman, RLF Stewardship Center