

**SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES  
COUNCIL (SUPAC)  
Minutes of a meeting held May 1, 2007**

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met at the Five County Association of Governments Building in St. George, Utah, on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, 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 meeting of March 6, 2007 were moved for approval by Kevin Carter. John Willie seconded the motion and all voted aye.
4. The impact of oil and gas leasing in Southwest Utah and other related energy impacts was the first item on the agenda. Todd Christensen showed a map of the current leases that the BLM has issued in the last few years. To date they've leased almost 300,000 acres for a total of about seven million dollars. They denied some for NEPA issues along Cedar Mountain and other areas in the west desert. Everywhere they leased they felt they had NEPA current enough for that area. He said they are just seeing the tip of the iceberg with this. There is going to be a lot more. The monument area is high potential but is generally not opened for leasing.

Rob MacWhorter spoke for the Forest Service. He said they haven't started leasing yet. The existing forest plan doesn't cover oil and gas exploration. They are going to have to do a separate EIS NEPA document. By the end of 2007 they should have a final EIS document that will allow for exploration.

Todd said there are a couple of other energy issues. Geothermal energy is really on the rise. There is a meeting Friday with the Sulphurdale group which is an Italian firm who are trying to get that going as well as Glendale plant over by Milford (they want to double their capacity). The newest project is north of Milford and it is wind energy. It is a \$400+ million dollar project. There is more information about this project at [www.milfordwind.com](http://www.milfordwind.com).

Scott Truman said he wanted on this the agenda because of the impacts these leases may have on the BLM and the surrounding communities.

5. Item # 4 on the agenda was passed over since Brad Exton was unable to attend the meeting.
6. Todd Christensen gave a short update on the OHV use on BLM lands since Ken

Sizemore was not in attendance at the meeting. The Forest Service and the BLM are gathering baseline data for the key routes and their staffs are developing a monitoring strategy to present to Ken. They will try to partner with other agencies to gather data. Minutes of the last OHV TAG meeting (March 1, 2007) are available for the committee to pick up.

7. The next item on the agenda was a report on the Lake Powell Pipeline by Ron Thompson, Washington County Water Conservancy District. Ron said the Lake Powell pipeline project planning continues. They have hired MWH Engineering to do some initial engineering work. It is an 18 month, 6 million dollar contract. There are three counties involved - Washington, Iron and Kane. The project should generate enough power to pay the O & M on the project. The District is assessing impact fees now, some of which will go to this project. All three of these counties are going to need this water.
  
8. Bill Sinclair, DEQ, gave a 2007 Legislative Recap in which he reviewed DEQ sponsored bills and other bills of interest in a PowerPoint presentation. The three bills sponsored by DEQ were:  
HB221 - Timing to Commence a Civil Action by the Department of Environmental Quality - passed  
HB 99 - Water Loan Program Amendments - passed  
Perpetual Care of Commercial Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Disposal Facilities (Bell) - abandoned  
He reviewed other legislation regarding Water Quality, Solid & Hazardous Waste Radiation Control, Air Quality, DERR and Drinking Water. He reviewed their FY2008 budget and answered questions.
  
9. Color Country RC & D Coordinator, Vicki Tyler, gave a report on the Color Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC & D) Planning Process. This is a USDA program established in 1962 and administered by USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). She did a PowerPoint presentation on their 5-Year Strategic Planning. She told the council there are seven coordinators throughout the State of Utah. She covers a five county area. Their mission is to provide local leadership the opportunity to coordinate and fully utilize available services and resources to improve the economy, environment and quality of life within the Color Country RC&D area. Legislative elements are: Land Conservation, Water Management, Land Management and Community Development. She gave examples of some of the projects implemented under the current plan:
  - Hwy 143 and Hwy 12 Corridor Management Plans
  - Cooperative Weed Management Areas
  - Regional Fire Plan
  - Watershed Initiatives
  - Misc. Community Projects
  - Sage Grouse Local Working Groups
  - Upper Sevier River Community Watershed Projects

She asked everyone to fill out a copy of their planning survey and return in to her. Her contact information is: Color Country RC&D  
2460 West Highway 56, Suite 5  
Cedar City, UT 84720  
Vicki Tyler (RC&D Coordinator) (435)586-7449 or  
(435)559-5128

10. Legislative updates were given as follows:

Maureen Casper, Senator Orrin Hatch - Senate Bill 832 is still in committee in the House; the Boy Scout Land Exchange, Senate Bill 9, is also in committee. One of Senator Hatch's concerns is help for law enforcement and judiciary efforts. He has written a letter asking about a satellite office and they received a response which they are evaluating. She also mentioned that Senator Hatch received an honorary degree of law from the University of Utah.

Bryan Thiriot, Senator Bob Bennett - He said that Senator Bennett was in Southern Utah the first part of April and visited Escalante and Richfield where they had a public lands discussion. He said that Senator Bennett hopes to get the land bill rolling this summer. Senator Bennett will be on the floor of the Senate on Thursday talking about dissatisfaction with the Department of Energy on the Moab tailings. Senator Bennett will be sponsoring the Rural Business Conference in Logan this year. It will be on May 30-31. Bryan said he had brochures for anyone that was interested.

Mike Empey - Congressman Matheson - Mike said that Congressman Matheson is concerned about getting a US Attorney's Office for Southwest Utah, along with Senator Hatch. He also reported that the proposal for a 4<sup>th</sup> House of Rep. Seat for Utah did pass the House and is in the Senate this week. He said he didn't think the chances were too good for it to move through the Senate. There is some suggestion of a possible veto by the President because of constitutional issues. The 2010 census should get Utah a fourth seat anyway. Congressman Matheson would also like to see the Washington County Land Bill move this year.

11. Scott Truman called for other business.

Kevin Carter, SITLA, reported that the legislation they worked with the counties on last session passed. They have had several meetings with the Department of Finance for distributions. The first distribution should be in July.

Jock Whitworth, NPS, gave a quick update on the Kolob Fire Restoration Project and also a report on First Lady, Laura Bush's visit on Sunday to Zion National Park for the dedication of their historical building. She is spending the week with some of her best friends hiking in the Park this week.

Bob MacWhorter, Dixie Forest Service, reported that they have had a couple of timber sale documents that have stood the test of appeal. This will allow them- to put more timber into the market across the forest service.

Commissioner Wildon reported that some construction has now started on the Mt. Holly Club.

Wes Curtis reported on an economic study that SUU and Dixie State College are working on. It is a comprehensive study of the five county region to identify key economic development drivers. It will also have projections on what the anticipated drivers will be over the next 10-20 years. He said they may be coming to some of the agencies in SUPAC for information. They may want to report on this study to the SUPAC committee after it is done this Fall.

12. The date for the next meeting was discussed. It was decided to skip the July meeting and the next meeting was set for September 11 in Cedar City at Southern Utah University Hunter Conference Center.
13. Scott Truman announced his resignation to SUPAC as he is retiring from SUU effective July 1. The State Rural Development Councils are no longer funded by NRDP. He said that Wes Curtis from SUU has expressed a willingness to serve as vice-chair as the Director of SUU Regional Services.
14. Clare Ramsey made a motion that Wes Curtis serve as the Vice-Chair of the Southern Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) to replace Scott Truman. Alan Gardner seconded the motion and all voted aye.
15. Thanks were expressed to Scott Truman by council members for his efforts and service as the vice-chair.
16. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

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Secretary

**APPENDIX "A"**  
**SUPAC ATTENDANCE LIST**  
**MAY 1, 2007**

Scott Truman , RLF Stewardship Center  
Clare Ramsay, Commissioner Garfield County  
Kevin Carter, SITLA  
Jock Whitworth, Zion NP  
Rob MacWhorter, USDA FS Dixie NF  
Ron Thompson, WCWCD  
John Willie, Commissioner Washington County  
Bill Sinclair, Utah DEQ  
Donald Willden, Commissioner Beaver County  
Todd Christensen, BLM  
Gary Zabriskie, Five Co. AOG  
Bryan Thiriot, Senator Bennett  
Marreen Casper, Senator Orrin Hatch  
Mike Empey, Congressman Jim Matheson  
Brian Cottam, GOPB  
Randy Taylor, Utah DEQ  
Vicki Tyler, NRCS, RC & D  
Wes Curtis, SUU Regional Services