

**SOUTHWESTERN UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES COUNCIL  
(SUPAC)  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD  
NOVEMBER 6, 2007 AT 1:00 PM IN  
THE FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
CONFERENCE ROOM  
ST. GEORGE, UTAH**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Wes Curtis, Vice-Chair, convened the meeting at 1:00 pm. He welcomed those attending and asked each to introduce themselves to the group. Wes also thanked Ken Sizemore for arranging the lunch. He also noted that Roberta from the Washington County Water Conservancy District had asked to be excused. Ken Sizemore took notes of the meeting.

2. Beaver County Wind Farm Project

Wes stated that the wind farm proponents have asked to postpone the discussion of this project until a future meeting. The project is still so preliminary in nature that specific details are not available.

Todd Christensen noted that the application is still in process. The current number of turbines is 175. Projected power generation has increased from 200 to 300 megawatts. BLM has employed a set of contractors who are collecting necessary data to be used in the application and NEPA processes.

Commissioner Don Wilden said that the project is still very preliminary. The last time proponent met with the county commission, the number of turbines was only 122. AS major problem is the global shortage of turbines. There is a huge backlog, aggravated by the difficulty of manufacturing propellor blades between 325 and 365 feet in length. The county is trying to keep the proponents on schedule. He also noted that three public meetings regarding the project have been conducted, with no opposition. The company still hopes to begin operations in July 2008.

Commissioner Wilden also stated that Circle 4 Farms has closed down the bio-fuels project. Engineering processes did not allow for cost-effective production.

3. Washington County Lands Bill / Vision Dixie Update

Commissioner Alan Gardner quickly reviewed the Vision Dixie process. He described the initial “chip game” outreach meetings, where citizens worked as small teams to allocate projected housing and commercial increases across the county. These results were used along with surveys, including a Dan Jones telephone poll, to craft alternative growth scenarios. The scenarios were then used to develop a set of implementation strategies. These strategies will now be taken to each local government in the county for integration into the local land use planning processes. More than \$500 Thousand was spent during the process.

Ken Sizemore reported that \$40,000 of that amount was a contract to prepare a critical lands component of the planning process. The contract has been extended into February 2008, in order to allow the Utah Geological Survey, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center, Envision Utah and Washington County to finalize a unique GIS reference tool. When complete, the tool will allow anyone with access to the internet to query, by tax parcel number, the set of geologic hazards and other sensitive lands information pertaining to that parcel.

#### 4. Utah Division of Water Quality

Randy Taylor reviewed a new initiative coming from the Division regarding the regulation of non-discharging lagoons and large underground leach systems. Previously, these systems were not required to obtain an operating permit. The new regulations will require operating permits and periodic reviews to insure that the systems are functioning as designed. The concern is that such systems have been overloaded, both in terms of hydrology and biology. This regulation will impact many community lagoon systems, although the requirements are already met in most cases.

#### 5. Kanab Field Office Resource Management Plan

Rex Smart and Keith Rigtrup presented a short PowerPoint presentation regarding the Draft RMP, which is now available for review. Comments are being accepted until January 10, 2008. Keith reviewed the four alternatives analyzed in the document, and asked all interested to provide comments. He noted that Kane County has been very involved in the development of the Draft.

#### 6. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Wildlife Action Plan

Dana Dolsen reviewed the need for a state Wildlife Action Plan. A main purpose is to document eligibility to receive federal Fish and Wildlife Service funding to undertake projects designed to prevent federal listing of species. The planning process included the involvement of an advisory group that helped keep the process grounded in the realities of project management. More than 196 species have been identified as federally listed or species of state concern. A major challenge is the lack of information regarding many of these species. The plan identified ten key habitats and describes conservation threats. Some specific species affected by the plan include Utah Prairie Dogs, Gila Monsters, Virgin River Fishes, and the California Condor. The plan allows the state to receive \$850,000 annually, which must be matched on a one-to-one basis by state funds.

#### 7. Round Table

Todd Christensen reported that the Three peaks land exchange is moving forward. A Recreation and Public Purpose application for Kanaraville has been approved. A permit has been granted to allow exploratory drilling near Parowan. BLM is moving to a "three tier" organizational structure. The Cedar City office will cover the largest land mass in the new organization.

Bruce Barrett reminded the group that the issue of unwanted mussel species in state waters is a

major concern. Unchecked proliferation will impact diversion systems, irrigation works, electrical generation, and recreation qualities. He encouraged all to keep the issue in the minds of the recreating public. It is imperative that personal water craft be kept free of this species.

Commissioner Clare Ramsay noted that the congressional staff recently toured the Ticaboo uranium mine and mill. The feasibility study to extend commercial poer to the site is underway. The District Courts ruled against the counties in the grazing litigation. It is headed to the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit.

Larry Gray informed the group that the Utah State Parks and Recreation Board will meet on 11 January 2008 in St. George. Any interested are invited to attend.

Dana Dolsen stated the Regional Advisory Council was to meet that evening at 5:00 pm in Hurricane.

Brian Cottam noted that one of his major assignments at SUU will be an Outdoor Initiative.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 1:00 pm, with location to be determined. Lunch will be served at Noon.

**APPENDIX "A"**  
**SUPAC ATTENDANCE LIST**  
**NOVEMBER 6, 2007**

Rex Smart	Kanab Field Office, BLM
Keith Rigrup	Kanab Field Office, BLM
Bana Dolsen	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Marreen Casper	Senator Orrin Hatch
Brian Cottam	SUU Regional Services
Robert Wilson	Cedar City Field Office, BLM
John Keeler	Utah Farm Bureau
Larry Gray	Utah State Division of Parks & Recreation
David Snyder	Utah Division of Water Quality
Randy Taylor	Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Kenneth Sizemore	Five County Association of Governments
Clare Ramsay	Garfield County Commission
Kevin Carter	Utah State Trust Lands Administration
Donald Wilden	Beaver County Commission
Bruce Barrett	US Bureau of Reclamation
John Willie	Washington County Administrator
Alan Gardner	Washington County Commission
Todd Christensen	Cedar Ctiy Field Office, BLM
Wes Curtis	Southern Utah University
Alma Adams	Iron County Commission