

**SOUTHWESTERN UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES COUNCIL
(SUPAC)
MEETING MINUTES
March 21, 2008 - 1:00 PM
GSENM KANAB VISITOR'S CENTER**

1. Welcome – Wes Curtis gave a welcome to all and introduced our host Karen Weiss, Field Station Manager of GSENM Kanab.
2. Karen welcomed everyone to the center and introduced Mary DeWitt of the Kanab Visitor's Center. Mary put together a packet of brochures for the SUPAC including "Managing Public Lands for the Future." It also included resource activities, scientific discovery, education and research material as well. Their new brochure of recreation sites is out too. Karen highlighted the contacts of the packet for everyone and answered questions.
3. Meryl Graffem is a graphic artist and self-taught paleontologist. He managed the tour of the Amman Giri Resort in Big Water. Karen said that the Gryposaurus head is a traveling exhibit to all schools in Kane County.

Wes thanked Mary and Karen for putting together the meeting and providing such a wonderful breakfast before the tour of Amman Giri Resort.

4. Legislative Review 2008 –
Kevin Carter, SITLA State Director reported that the legislature had a great deal of bills that impacted SITLA peripherally each state department. All agencies must inventory and see if it could be done better by private industry. Water right on public lands was a bill that could have a negative impact on improvements to the public lands. Only had \$6 million extra dollars rather than what was first reported. It was a good year not to be involved in water rights.

Evan Curtis, GOPB reported that they received \$500,000 of which \$482,600 is ongoing; \$2.5 million was committed for road show for the quality growth commission; HB 164 Bryce Canyon city passed that 5 sponsors have to be on the officials elected; HB 177 legislatively authorized ordinances in flood plans and HB 221 consider agricultural protection areas in their general plans and avoid transportation corridors; HB 333 trails; Utah APA address is on-line. Off highway vehicles on certain 2-lane highways is legal in areas of 7500 or less population, 50 mph or less.

PLPCO received additional one time money of \$2 million to deal with sage grouse issues.

Robert Dowell, UDOT reported multiple bills were introduced in behalf of UDOT. (See Attached report Appendix "B")

Randy Taylor, DEQ reported that he had given a recent presentation to SUPAC in the last couple of months and mentioned a bill that has passed for the non-discharging lagoons. They have no ongoing requirement for doing anything but it does require operating permits for inflows and maintenance which brings in reporting and monitoring responsibilities. They received \$2 million for water quality standards study in the Wasatch. The Underground Storage Tank Act was reauthorized. The Water Quality Board was expanded to include a health department representative.

Kyle Stephens, UDAF reported that they received significant funding thanks in large part to Commissioner Blackham. When the catastrophic fires hit, the Department of Agriculture had to overspend their budget by \$2.5 million to acquire seed to rehab those areas that were impacted. The legislature included the \$2.5 million to offset the budget deficit and the funding to buy the seed for rehab of those areas. The BLM purchased the seed at a lower cost. There was adequate seed to rehab and only a few species were unavailable. All we need is rain. Milford should be finished this week. They are seeding at night too. HB 125 regulatory statutes in food and dairy and allows for Agriculture to act in court action for their department. They amended in the senate bill to add SITLA as a voting member of the board. There is an unintended consequence in funding to regional grazing advisory boards: 12.5% of it is returned for the requirement of fiduciary bonding responsibility. SB89 was a major piece Dennis Stow ell created on invasive species mitigation fund, i.e. cheat grass; bill was proactive rather than reactive. In April they are meeting in Washington D.C. with federal agencies. They will discuss increase emphasis on noxious weed control. \$150,000 is ongoing money and will be used in this effort. "Utah's Own" received \$50,000 in ongoing and a one-time of \$250,000 to promote products.

Robyn Pearson, DNR reported that they received the \$2 million to deal with sage grouse issues and rehab of watershed (1/2 million acres). Forestry, Fire and State Lands received \$950,000 to work on fire damages. We spoke about how horrible a job the State Engineer has because of the growth. DNR's number one priority and struggling with members of the legislature is adjudicating the Utah County Basin. Too many people and legislature doesn't want to take it on. Water forfeiture bill passed which means cities and counties are not affected.

Brent Gardner, UAC reported that HB164 regarding incorporation of towns passed an amendment which fixed some of the problems. Rather than have a vote to be incorporated, it requires a majority of the landowners to sign a petition. SB54 was a referendum statute that takes this out. SB72 (doesn't relate to land issues) and it could be dealing with justice courts to remove them as state officials. It didn't pass and it will stay being local judicial courts. SB 92 minor for the county recorder – recordation of notices of acknowledgement and supporting documents of land; evidentiary reasons we have we need to have renewed. SB203 Wasatch County had allowed uninterrupted transportation on RS2477. SB 168 opposed the DNC source and State park access roads money has to be matched. DOT fought that because they don't want to pay for it. It didn't pass. Bison population – they fixed the mineral lease in the budget. They will be doing spring monitoring for deep wells.

Wes Curtis, SUU Regional Services reported that higher education had a bad year. There were no new buildings funded. Employees were given 2% COLA and 1% Merit. The

Governor's Rural Partnership Board added (4) positions to include agriculture, utilities, tourism, and oil/gas industry sectors for representation. Business Resource Centers were granted state-wide funding. UVSC is the one who received the funding. Brad Last sponsored a bill to have a Zion Centennial license plate which was approved.

Jim Sorenson, Kanab City Council reported Kanab had open houses and did a survey. They produced a marketing piece "A Vision for Kanab." They have a planned development zone and have established ordinances. They received funding from the State to do an overlay of downtown. The Chamber of Commerce is taking an active role in working with the historical overlay. The Center for Education of Business and the Arts (CEBA) inventoried Kanab's assets and figured what were the economic drivers. Local people could do long distance education and maybe retreat centers. They're currently working on a transportation plan for Kanab, along with a master plan of parks and trails. Water development discussions are taking place with the local water conservancy district for installation of lines down the canyon. This planning is being done by all volunteers. They currently need a full-time planner. Jim said that after taking a look parks and leisure will probably be the focus in planning for Kanab.

5. Ken Sizemore said the BEBR study done by University of Utah is completed for the 5-counties of southwestern Utah. Five County Association of Governments Steering Committee meeting will be held on **April 9th** and they plan to present the BEBR study.
6. Wes Curtis said that Ed Meyer intended on being at our meeting today but was unable to attend. Suzanne Jorgenson, from Garfield County and Ed Meyer, from Kanab started an Entrepreneurship Forum. Wes showed slides of the number of entrepreneurs who came to the first forum. They intend to have more forums. They invite local entrepreneurs to come and speak with other businesses and entrepreneurs as a community team. They provide individual assistance, business mentors, and access to Business Resource Centers. They have identified four different types of entrepreneurs who have potential success in the first forum. The participation is looking very promising.
7. Todd Christensen, BLM reported that the BLM will be going to a 3-tier organization. It has been approved they will become 4 districts. Shelly Smith is acting manager of Canyon Country. Todd said they are developing their implementation plan. It's assumed when they are finalized, Todd will be District Manager.
8. Roundtable Discussion:
 - Robert Pearson, UDOT said there is a lot going on in Washington County and SITLA at the interchange over to River Road for the extension; Big Water area development; Kane County and Kanab City in cooperative effort are managing access off the state highway and coordinating with their agency; DN R is in the middle of rehabbing/re-vegetation efforts and UDOT had to close highway 24 in Fishlake during snowstorms due to no vegetation to hold back the snow. U DOT wants to work closely with N PS and Forest Service to work on these problems.

- Alan Gardner, Washington County Commissioner, said they are working on the land bill. The Western Interstate Regional Conference for National Association of Counties is coming up.
- Jock Whitworth, NPS said they are well into the planning stages for the Zion Park Centennial in 2009; Cowboy Ted is representing Kanab; they sponsored an international art competition and had 500 contestants. It's narrowed to 68 and is traveling as an exhibit.

Kevin Carter, SITLA said they have approved the land exchange with the BLM in Cedar City.

- Evan Curtis, GOPB reported they will be working with the remaining counties for planning.
- Don Willden, Beaver County said the county continues to be a bio-energy center; Glendale plant is drilling for more steam; UPC is still working on coming in; Milford Flat fire received great support from the BLM; and the Utah Nevada gas line is going through Beaver to Las Vegas.

- Brent Gardner, UAC said he is working on the county's response to the RMPs. It's at state level now and a consistency review is being done by PLPCO. They are pushing ahead with renewed vigor the RS2477 discussions and want to complete the agreement by mid-year. Kevin Carter said they were excited to work with counties whenever it crosses with SITLA lands.

- Brian Cottam, SUU Regional Services said there is a regional planning team established and will be looking at the corridor planning for SR 9 national byway. Regional Services are working out the NPS and SUU joint position for staff for Cedar Breaks NM across boundaries to handle the outdoor initiative. Also, another staff position was seeded for Iron County for a County Resource Management Specialist. We'd like to implement this in other counties as well.

- Ken Sizemore, Five County AOG is dealing with milepost 2 construction and they temporarily moved the Welcome Center to Dixie Center. Visits were 7,000 a month and have decreased being in its temporary location. They replaced the Welcome to Utah theme signs when you enter. The Zion Centennial will be on the welcome sign entering from the south.

- Three Peaks land exchange is complete and there will be a private land exchange coming shortly to consolidate the Three Peaks Recreation area. Wind energy components have some deficiencies which are being corrected and they will be up and running possibly 4/1/2008. Jim Crisp retired from the BLM three weeks ago.

- Karen Weiss said the BLM will have a draft grazing plan over the next few months for the GSENM. They'll have a joint meeting to hold scoping to build a white house campground working closely with the County.

- Clare Ramsay, Kane County Commissioner said the eastern part of the county is in the Uranium business at Ticaboo. 16-18 loads are shipping to Blanding daily. It generates all their power. They'll start hauling out stockpiled ore. The mill will be up and running in the next two years. Panguitch will be the second largest place in Kane County due to growth. The last mile of Capitol Reef bird highway is being finished. They have completed the low water crossing and made improvements.

- Kyle Stephens UDAF said as a follow-up to early spring grazing they met yesterday with the ranchers relief group to identify private landowners who would be changed or curtailed and they'll go back to resurvey the status. As an agency they are embarking on a strategic plan for the department. They've never had one before. Kathleen Clarke will be working on this. They are planning for: What is the Department of Agriculture going to look like in the next 10 years? And what is Utah going to look like in 10 years with agriculture?
- Marreen Casper reported that Senator Orrin Hatch has been in the state and will be having a meeting with NRCS and the President on Tuesday of next week; he was in an 8-week work period where he assisted in planning the stimulus 2 package to get more money in the economy. He's also working on an energy package. Marreen received appropriation requests for the agenda and a letter was sent to Michael Chertoff about having 2 additional immigration agents in St. George and an additional 12 agents for the state of Utah. (See attached Appendix "C")
- Bryan Thiriot reported that Senator Bennett traveled to New Mexico during the Easter break (2 weeks) – He is moving up on the Energy and Water committee, and New Mexico wanted to make sure the Senator would take care of their water.
- Mike Empey reported that Congressman Matheson is working on the housing economic stimulation plan and was in Tucson for a conference on alternative energy. He also spearheaded the Interior appropriation committee letter requesting an additional \$34 million be placed back in their DOI budget.
- Thanks to the Washington County commissioners for the work on the Quail Creek endangered species and the adjudication of the Virgin River Basin will begin this year.
- Jim Sorenson reported that Coconino County requested that Arizona repeal an 1872 mining bill. Also CEBA is a formal agency now and their first public meeting will be coming up.
- SUPAC will meet again: **June 5, 2008, 1 pm - 3 pm**; lunch will be served at noon. **LOCATION: Southern Utah University, Charles Hunter room (meeting at 1:00 p.m.) and lunch will be in the Whiting room at Noon.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen McDowell, Administrative Assistant

APPENDIX "A"
SUPAC ATTENDANCE LIST
March 21, 2008

Wes Curtis, SUU Regional Services
Todd Christensen, BLM
Ken Sizemore, Five County AOG
Brian Cottam, SUU Regional Services
Brent Gardner, Utah Association of Counties
Donald Willden, Beaver County Commissioner
Evan Curtis, GOPB
Kevin Carter, SITLA
Jock Whitworth, Zion NP
Alan Gardner, Washington County Commissioner
Robert Dowell, UDOT Randy Taylor, UDEQ
Clare Ramsay, Garfield County Commissioner
Kyle Stephens, UDAF
Marreen Casper, Senator Orrin Hatch
Bryan Thiriot, Senator Bob Bennett
Mike Empey, Congressman Matheson
Robyn Pearson, DNR
Jim Sorenson, Kanab City Council