

**SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES COUNCIL**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2008**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**SUU Hunter Conference Center**

1. Wes Curtis welcomed everyone to the SUPAC meeting. Wes introduced Dr. Pam Perlich, University of Utah.
2. A special presentation of the BEBR report was given by Dr. Pam Perlich, Senior Research Economist, University of Utah's Bureau of Economic and Business Research. BEBR staff does a number of projects pro bono but they also rely on University funding and private funding to operate. Pam said she wants to show today the distinct differences for the five counties and how the employment structure has changed. The attached graphs will show trends for all five counties.

- Growth in national context
- Components of change
- Gross migration flows
- Age and sex composition
- Contextualize county characteristics with each county's economic context
- Record number of High School graduates in 2008
- 18 years beyond the 1990 Echo Utah Boom
- Slow growth of the labor
- Net in-migration is nearly 100,000 or 78% of Growth in Washington County
- Iron County – 52% of growth Net in Migration; Net out-migration
- Beaver County shows strong and long in migration – 23% growth net in-migration – They believe Circle 4 farms changed the face of Beaver's population.
- Garfield County – Net in-migration moved in since 1995 (180 people or 10% of growth).

Pam explained where people are coming from:

- Move-ins for Washington County are arriving from California and Washington State.  
Leave-out for Washington County are going to California, Arizona and Nevada
- Iron County - Cedar City was a retail center when in 1970 Washington County overtook it. There has been moderate growth in Iron County. In 1940 the population was less than 10,000 and is a 100,000 in population for 2007.
- Slow growth in Garfield County
- Kane County has also had slow growth

Location Quotients:

- An analysis of long-term economic growth in Southwestern Utah Past & Future Condition\ Medical services and tourism services drive Washington County's location quotient
- Beaver is driven by agriculture and government. We may see changes with the alternative energy quotient.
- Iron County is driven by SUU, culture, tourism, and establishing a trade center
- Garfield County is agriculture and tourism

- Kane County is retirees, tourism, and agriculture. Many “baby boomers” moving into the county for retirement.
- Washington County is seeing many retirees and it has become a major trade center. Each County has a distinct character.

Pam focused on the trend and not the cycles today. Pam said that as she put this together with their staff they had “aah-ha” moments about the Southwest counties just as this group did. It confirmed what BEBR staff understood just how different the five counties are – and just how different Washington County is from the rest of the State of Utah.

Wes asked the group if they would take a short survey for the Utah Rural Summit in August. He also asked the group if we wanted to have USU present their Socio Economic Study they compiled. It was thought it should be presented at the Summit.

Roundtable discussions:

- Alan Gardner – Waiting for Washington county land bill to be dropped. No opposition to it at this point in time.
- Jock Whitworth announced the Zion Park Centennial – SUU & Cedar City have many projects. He announced that August 21<sup>st</sup> is the opening of the international art competition. The committee selected 68 and they also have 80 historic paintings. Following the art show opening they will be at the St. George gallery and will then travel around the western states.
- Ken Sizemore – Zion Canyon corridor are working on the planning and SUU is also involved. USU is bringing down a landscape architect and going for a national scenic byway designation
- Jim Crisp recently retired from BLM is working with SUU Regional Services on these projects.
- Steve Platt, Iron County Engineering, representing Commissioner Wayne Smith, said that Paladin Iron mines announced they are starting up again.
- Brian Dangerfield – announced an Iron mine reunion is being planned for their grand opening (parents, grandparents of miners) have them come out for a reunion of miners Port 15 is still hot – decisions are slow to come and move in due to the slow down on the economy
- Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument– Rene Burkhardt said that Todd Christensen is the new BLM Color-Country District Supervisor.
- Beaver county – Alternative energy is booming 97-120 jobs. There are only 12 to 13 full-time. Rocky Mountain Power is having to do upgrades of lines. Windpower Partners are looking at turbins and 4 injection wells to produce an 18 megowatt powerplant in Provo area. Razor Technology will bring a great revenue tax base to both Beaver and Iron counties. Razor Technology is already in Vernal and had a ground breaking ceremony. They named it after Senator Orrin Hatch. Go to [www.Milfordwind.com](http://www.Milfordwind.com)
- GOPB – Evan Curtis said they received only one planning project from this five county area. They need to have us send projects to them.
- Brian Cottam – Iron County has an opening for a Natural Resource Specialist – Cedar Breaks is sharing the position with SUU and will work with Iron County.
- Paul Roelandt announced that Cedar Breaks is open for the summer – They had 35% above normal snowpack. The wild flowers are blooming and in August Cedar Breaks will celebrate a birthday.

- Ken Sizemore, Five County AOG Director reminded everyone that July 7<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for motorized travel comments on the FMP.
- Mike Empey announced that no one is really trying to oppose Washington County land bill and it's only minor word smithing which is being done currently.
- Jock Whitworth has a national regional meeting about what to do about the ozone air quality for Zion.

There were 42 members of the various communities present. The attached [SUPAC\\_Perlich.pdf](#) is incorporated in these minutes. Go to [www.bebr.utah.edu](http://www.bebr.utah.edu) for additional information.

The next meeting will be held in September. We will plan for a date which doesn't interfere with county meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary