

# Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC)

MINUTES 4 November 2008

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Beaver County EMS Building, 1090 N. Main  
Beaver City

1. **Welcome and Introductions**-Wes Curtis, VP SUU Regional Services welcomed everyone to the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Members of SUPAC conducted a tour earlier in the day of the **Raser Geothermal Plant** (west of Minersville) and the **First Wind project site** (north of Milford).
2. **Beaver County EMS:** Wes Curtis welcomed and thanked Richard Folcum (sic) Beaver County's Director of Ambulance Services for hosting the SUPAC. Richard reported that they purchased the land in 2006 and together with CDBG monies and CIB loan funds they were able to build the EMS Center. They expended \$750K and have 3 double size drive-through bays for fire truck and 3 ambulances. They are looking to have a fourth ambulance in the near future. The EMS building has laundry room, showers, 3 bedrooms, 2 offices, conference room, and a training area. The Fire Station next door was built 8 years ago. They bought this property next door when it became available and built the new EMS building. Richard will provide a tour to anyone who is interested.
3. **BLM Color Country District Planning** - Todd Christensen, Color Country District Manager for the BLM introduced the four new field office managers.

Cornell Christensen is the field manager of Richfield and announced that last Friday (Halloween!) the Resource Management Plans were signed by the BLM secretary. It was a 6 year process and the Plans were consistent with the Fish and Wildlife Services.

Go to <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/richfield/planning.html> for more information on the plan.

Harry Barber, Kanab Field Office Manager, said the Kanab RMP. It can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/kanab/planning.html> On the SRMAs (Special Recreation Management Areas) the question was asked if they are managed differently - - Harry said their management is individualized and Cornell said that in the future they may have to be standardized. What's the difference between a WSA and what you call a Natural Area? A Natural Area is a "step down" from WSA - There are standardized criteria for Natural Areas for management.

Cedar City is next for the RMP process. Randy Trujillo is the acting Field Manager for the Cedar City Field Office. Randy announced that a wind farm has been authorized - 8 different companies are interested in wind energy and have approached the BLM office. They are working on geothermal leasing on 91,000 acres. The Interlinx fiber optic cable is finished to Cedar City. A big priority right now is the grazing permit renewal. Cedar City Field Office is on schedule to begin the RMP process but no timetable has been set.

Jimmy Tyree is the Field Office Manager in St. George. They have a couple projects - the Washington County lands bill is waiting for Senate approval. The Lake Powell pipeline is still a project they are working on. Research protocol is being done now. There is interest in wind power and quite a few companies are approaching the BLM Washington field office.

4. **Milford Flat Fire Rehab Update**- Verlin Smith, Branch Chief for Renewable Resources BLM State Office, gave an update on the fire rehab which is continuing. It was a collaborative partnership effort. The Milford Flat fire burned July 9 - 17, 2007. It was the largest fire in Utah history for a total of 363,000 acres. The acreage breakdown: BLM 270,000; Private 63,000 and involved 2 counties; safety and social/cultural issues were involved. To rehab 160,000 of federal land which needed treatment, 40,000 of state and private, it took 1.5 million pounds of seed. The team leader was Verlin Smith. They had a project priority for implementation for long-term stabilization. Some examples of collaboration were developed with all the partners. SITLA and NRCS did the cultural clearance in Beaver County - SITLAs participation was unique in that they contributed staff time and in-kind

services which was substantial and invaluable to the efforts. BLM and State Natural Resources provided seed and seed mixing. BLM provided inspectors. DOT provided transportation of equipment and seed movement. Ranchers provided manpower and equipment for private lands. Treatment accomplishments 127,000 acres were seeded by aircraft and drilling. A photo of 7 drills attached to a tractor was shown.

The partnership put together a monitoring plan including vegetation; wildlife; remote sensing; and dust control. The results were 80-85% favorable response in the first season. Retreatment for 32,000 acres in primarily the lower elevations needs to be done by the plant in Milford. One primary reason is to reduce the dust levels for safety. In Cedar City they had higher elevation and are seeing 85% favorable growth. They are going to re-treat the lower elevations exposed to winds - This challenge was seen as an opportunity to apply for a portion of the State Species Mitigation bill of \$2 million. The partnership was able to acquire \$1.2 million to match with BLM funds – and they will do more green stripping near the plant.

With regard to livestock grazing on Milford Flat, there needs to be time to establish growth for a minimum of 2 years before allowing livestock to return. Otherwise we lose the investment. We hope that after 4-5 years it will come back great for use.

5. **State of Utah Energy Policy & Planning** - Wes introduced Dianne Nielson, the Governor's Energy Advisor. Wes thanked Dianne for braving the inclement weather in an airplane to speak with us. Dianne gave a talk about the importance and value of the Utah Energy policy.

Our Energy Goals:

- Affordable energy;
- Strengthen energy security and independence;
- Reduce emissions – diversify our energy resources.
- Try to meet the growth and emission reduction of greenhouse gases.

Strategy to get there:

- Diversify energy portfolio of renewable and non-renewables;
- Promote economic development;
- Improve energy efficiency and conservation;
- Improve environmental quality and reduce greenhouse gases;
- Develop transmission and transportation of efficient energy; and
- Maintain quality of life

The goal is to bring 20% more renewable resources and energy efficiency by 2015 along with establishing incentives for Renewable Energy Zones UREZ and WREZ enterprise zones – but can you get it linked to it. Look at a larger transmission of renewables.

Challenges: Transmission issues include going across state and federal lands – we don't have a planning process in place within communities for transmission corridors as we do for other planning easements. The Governor established a committee "Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change" (BRAC) and they made a report in August 2008. This report is on line at [http://www.deq.utah.gov/BRAC\\_Climate/final\\_report.htm](http://www.deq.utah.gov/BRAC_Climate/final_report.htm) The study did a greenhouse gas inventory and provided an energy efficiency strategy report of what the benefits are as far as cost savings. To meet rising energy demands within the state, Utah's energy policy team is also partnering with neighboring states through the Western Governors' Association to make more power available by building new transmission lines. Current lines are at capacity, and without expanding infrastructure, we will be unable to meet rising demand for low-cost energy. Additionally, an expanded and upgraded electric transmission grid will help to stabilize prices and provide for a reliable and more diverse energy supply. In April 2005 Governor Huntsman joined with Governors Freudenthal (D-WY), Guinn (R-NV) and Schwarzenegger (R-CA) in calling for the construction of the "Frontier Line," a high-voltage electric transmission line which will run through Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California. This will better

connect Utah's electric grid with our neighbors and provide new markets for Utah's renewable and conventional energy resources. It is noteworthy that some of these resources have been underdeveloped (particularly renewable resources) because their development has not been economically viable. As we connect our State to other higher-priced Western markets, the development of our renewable resources becomes more economically viable, boosting our rural economies and reducing energy-related environmental impacts.

The location of transmission facilities is still of paramount interest in the state and the Energy Advisor will continue to track developments in this area.

Dianne commented that pipelines raise many of the same concerns. The visibility and land use we haven't had - Make sure we approach resource development and have a plan or policy for development. Utah energy policy is in place for both regional and state processes. Providing a fair process for all parties involved as stakeholders is paramount for success. Dianne was asked if nuclear power was renewable resource. Dianne said although it is not a renewable resource it is carbon free and would meet emission standards. Also it was asked if it's on the Governor's radar to get power to Ticaboo for economic development. Dianne said it was on his radar.

6. **Beaver County Renewable Energy** – Wes Curtis introduced Rob Adams, Beaver County Economic Development Director.

Rob reported that Beaver County was ideal as a transportation center; copper mining; large employer Heritage Plastics; reasonable land costs; abundant in natural resources; wind; and geothermal energy.

Challenges for Beaver:

- low population - can't provide workers to large companies if you don't have the "rooftops;"
- electrical transmission
- gas rates

Transportation advantages/disadvantages;

- Terminal of Union Pacific railroad;
- Learned that the Union Pacific rivals the federal government in bureaucracy. They said they are open to everything for negotiation.
- Heritage Plastics came in and established just on the eastside of the railroad and required 10-15 cars a week. International longshoremen's union has messed up the port of Long Beach.
- Current efficiency to move 1 ton of freight by UP has changed their focus and they want large rail-served
- Western Utah Copper – consolidated ownership of 106,000 acres of patented claims. 150 employees currently working. They will concentrate on site and send to Arizona. Copper prices are high.
- Oil Exploration – Large leased area south and east of Beaver; seismography in 2007; drilling last summer; target depth of 10,500, two other sites have been located; and probability for success we don't know.
- Renewable energy – Geothermal; Blundell; Thermo Hot Springs; Sulphurdale; Wind – First Wind; UREZ identify resources; promote development; transmission; and Training Center for renewable energy workers
- Geothermal resources in Utah – Beaver, Milford,
- Iron County Line has the greatest concentration;
- Three operating plants in Beaver County.
- Solar resources – Converge in southwest Utah.
- Lack of Transmission – Incentives and focus holiday weekends vs. the rest of the year.
- Recreation - Controversial Mt. Holly Club they have issues

Rob is very optimistic for Beaver County and they need more people and industrial properties to succeed.

## 7. **60 Second Round Table –**

- Bryce Valley is working on a watershed plan. They have a meeting on 11/26/08 and want input
- Celeste Maloy announced that NRCS Color Country RC & D has hired a new coordinator named Kevin Williams.
- Beaver County is working on their public lands bill similar to Washington County's lands bill
- Paiute Tribe of Utah are finishing their resource management plans and have a woody biomass project going and developing a small Shivwits reservation grocery store; and they are continuing work on the development of the reservation property by the truck stop in Kanarraville.
- USTAR – is selected to look at emerging technology for renewable energy and bio-fuels use in energy projects
- The Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC) is now a program of Regional Services. As such, Anne Smith, the IIC Campus Coordinator, and the new & soon-to-be-hired IIC Agency Coordinator position in cooperation with Cedar Breaks NM are both now part of Regional Services. This program will work on Youth Conservation Corps and other agency projects as well as providing student interns to the 7 member agencies. We now have an Alliance for Education agreement with Zion – the signing is November 12<sup>th</sup>. Regional Services has been working with Iron Mission State Park with student volunteers and the SUU Construction Management Program, and President Benson came up with money to help restore the Jensen Sawmill as part of the park's expansion. Currently participating with and providing technical assistance to the Iron County Resource Management Plan planning process. We have started an RMP for the SUU Mountain Ranch. We're working with various partners on and off campus as well as with the State Division of Forestry for a possible demonstration forest MOU.
- Farm Bureau is working on Tushar Mountain grazing plan and a grazing plan for the GSENM. They've also established a collegiate chapter of the Farm Bureau on a college campus.
- Five Co AOG – With the economic downturn they have seen an increase of requests for assistance programs like the energy program; Regards to economic development they are working on an application for national scenic byway designation for highway 143 from Parowan to Panguitch.
- SITLA is finished with the new mile post 2 land across the Arizona border 6 ½ miles and is joining the parcels for the southern parkway at the airport property in St. George.
- Cedar City is moving forward on Port 15 for rail service
- Marreen Casper said the Senate is in proforma session meetings 10 minutes every Monday and Thursday. The House will meet on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. Rural schools passed – the Senate will be meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> for the Washington county lands bill.
- Larry Gray, State Parks thanked Regional Services as they have placed the first IIC intern as a permanent employee; State Park revenues are down – however their revenues in this part of Southern Utah is showing 135% in revenues.
- It was announced that the State Engineer is retiring. The man has the toughest job in the State.
- US Fish and Wildlife was working on expanding the condor area to include all of Utah. However, there was an analysis done at the Arizona office and they don't believe the condors have left the 10J area and it's not high enough of a priority and there are no resources to apply to expansion. They are currently studying the Chub and also what's going on with the Sage Grouse. There will be a finding and as soon as information is available we will know.
- The Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Council made 72 recommendations with an opportunity for feedback. The Climate Registry will establish a baseline for climate change
- Justin had issued an RFP for bringing power to Ticaboo - There were no responses. They are going back to the drawing board
- Jody Gale reported on the Socio Economic report and stated the final report is done. It may be on the website. USU is working on alternative energy to repair a methane plant digestion (converting a dairy process to methane plant).
- Rusty Lee, GSENM said the Rangeland EIS is out and public comment ends on January 9, 2009 for the GSENM – Visitation to the parks is up by foreign visitors.

- Jim Crisp, SUU Regional Services and Outdoor Initiatives, spoke of the Zion Centennial next year. Jim represents SUU on the Zion Centennial Planning Committee. Many SUU faculty and students are involved in centennial projects. There will be an employee reunion of NPS, TRW, Zantarra employees of the Park this next year. A history book will be prepared by a faculty member.
- BLM announced that they heard litigation is coming for the RMPs. Protest hearing in December from Southern Nevada Water
- Iron County is back in the business of Iron. They are stockpiling the ore. Natural resources have appointed a council to meet in December.
- DEQ District Engineers are getting quite a bit of work on water system upgrades and refits
- SWATC is providing the employee training for renewable energy companies. Residential applications are up for 15-20 people. They have been working with over 250 companies. They are seeing a 50% increase in enrollment.

8. **Other Business** – No other business was discussed.

9. **Calendar Next Meeting** – The next SUPAC meeting will be held in Washington County (location TBD) on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Wes thanked the Beaver County EMS staff again for hosting the SUPAC.

APPENDIX 'A'  
SUPAC ATTENDANCE LIST

Rob Adams, Beaver County Economic Development Director  
Lee Woolsey, NRCS Richfield  
Wes Curtis, SUU Regional Services  
Brian Cottam, SUU Regional Services  
Celeste Maloy, NRCS Color Country RC & D  
Bryan Harris, Beaver County  
Gaylord Robb, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah  
Bill Pratt, Southwest USTAR  
Perry Thomson, Southwest USTAR  
John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau  
Dana Miller, Southwest Applied Technology College  
Ken Sizemore, Five County AOG  
Kevin Carter, SITLA  
Kyle Pasley, SITLA  
Marreen Casper, Senator Hatch's Office  
Bryan Thiriot, Senator Robert Bennett's Office  
Larry Gray, State Parks & Recreation  
Darin Bird, Utah Dept. of Natural Resources  
Larry Crist, US DOI Fish & Wildlife Service  
Chad Harris, Utah DEQ  
Justin Fischer, Five County AOG  
Jody Gale, USU Extension  
Rusty Lee, GSENM  
Jim Crisp, SUU Regional Services  
Don Willden, Beaver County Commissioner  
Todd Christensen, BLM Color Country District Manager  
Randy Taylor, Utah DEQ  
Alma Adams, Iron County Commissioner  
Mike Worthen, Iron County Natural Resources  
Cornell Christensen, BLM Richfield  
Jimmy Tyree, BLM St. George  
Randy Trujillo, BLM  
Verlin Smith, BLM  
John Chartier, DEQ District Engineer  
Paul Briggs, BLM Fuels Program Manager