

Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC)

6 January 2009

12:45 to 3:00 p.m.

Washington Community Center
300 E.350 North (Community Center Drive)
Washington City

Field trip—9:00 a.m. to noon

The group toured SITLA projects throughout Washington County.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**-Wes Curtis, VP SUU Regional Services opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting at 12:45 pm. Wes thanked Kevin Carter and his staff for the SITLA projects tour. Amazing things are going on and everyone learned how SITLA lands are being developed.
2. **SUPAC Administrative:** The SUPAC budget regarding dues/participants, lunch, field tours were discussed. Ken Sizemore explained that the \$60 dues per year are for covering lunches and tour expenses. ALL SUPAC participants—not just those formal members listed in the Memorandum of Cooperation—are encouraged to pay the annual dues in order to cover their portion of meal and field trip costs. Currently there is a \$320.00 balance for 2008.
3. **Legislative Preview** – Wes gave an overview – The focus is how much money will be cut from the budgets. Special session was held in October for a 3% cut. Higher Ed received a 4% cut. The University is having 19% cut in their budget for the fiscal year. It was suggested that we use the “rainy-day” monies. Kevin Carter said his recollection is that the Governor already used some rainy day money to backfill the deficit. The legislature wants 15% cut and the Governor is asking for a 7.5% budget cut.

Kevin heard there is some interest to go in and do something with the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office funding. Ken said the land use management and development would be looked at again. Specifically, subdivision plotting. Southwest Utah (Ticaboo) has never been serviced by commercial power. A feasibility study was done and the result were that it's going to be extremely difficult to service Ticaboo with power. It has been suggested that they allow a private entity to come in and service the area. Current legislation prevents energy being given to that area. A one-time exemption is being sought through boxcar legislation being brought forth by Senator Stowell. Alternative energy resources are being looked at right now.

USU reported that their budget discussions are down to people and positions being cut. There is a tendency to protect county positions for extension agents. It may not be feasible to protect all of them.

Mike Empey said federally the stimulus package is a moving target right now. Most is focused/centered on infrastructure projects funding. Utah is making sure their projects are being looked at. There is discussion in the House for local infrastructure as well. The numbers keep going up. Senator Bennett is having meetings regarding the stimulus package. The federal government is taking a big role in what will be happening in each state.

UDOT reported that they took a hit of \$3.9 million and there are projects placed on hold. It's difficult to prioritize those that are left on hold and those which will move forward. A federal stimulus package of \$14 billion for Utah would allow a great many projects to be underway. They categorized the projects.

Beaver County is down about 6% on property taxes. Mike Noel is sponsoring legislation which will put money in a special service district to provide a backfill.

Washington County is \$600,000 short on project sales tax and they were bailed out by PILT. They budgeted a flat budget so they're okay.

Alma Adams said that Iron County has a hiring freeze, a cut in travel, law enforcement, and PILT bailed them out with some funds.

Ken said one way that agencies like HUD will fund counties is to show capital improvements planning.

4. **Washington County GeoHazards Database:** Bill Lund and Tyler Knudsen reported on Geologic Hazards and Adverse Construction conditions in the St. George, Hurricane Metropolitan Area, Washington County. The survey is done and it shows that St. George has grown almost 40% since 2000. In 1960 there were 11,000 and now there are 130,000 in population. By 2050 the population will be 650,000. GIS based study was done to show geologic and adverse construction conditions. 14 quadrangle maps were prepared and provided hazards on a 1:24,000 scale. They are not replacing site specific maps and are used for development purposes. Within the map's boundaries it covers 366 square miles as a study area in Washington County. New UGS for 9 - 7.5 minutes quadrangles. For geologic they show surface faulting; ground shaking, liquefaction, and flooding. The scope of work included the development of a search application that permits a GIS database to be queried by hazard/construction condition and location. Developed for site specific information to mitigate hazards whether they be geologic or adverse planning development. Later this month they will assist municipalities in preparing their master plans. The study has specific maps and aerial photo planning material. If you have GIS application you can search by coordinates or UTM's and you can specify the radius of it. Go to the following website for information: <http://geology.utah.gov/maps/geohazmap/washington.htm>

They are currently studying Zion National Park. Zion gave UGS money to study the area through SR-9 corridor. They foresee that the next major growth area is in and around Cedar City, and the Southern Wasatch Front. The GIS map for Cedar City doesn't show detail because the maps are much older. Vision Dixie advisory committee will meet in the next few weeks with the planners to present them the study on DVD. The cost is \$16,000 approximately for a quadrangle of study. (Figure \$187,000 for 9 quadrangles).

5. **Public Lands Impact of Vision Dixie Implementation:** Ken Sizemore reported that Vision Dixie includes public meetings and requested during dialogue meetings where population increases should be in Washington County. They did an online survey as well and a random sample survey. They created a steering committee. Vision Dixie incorporated principles for their vision in planning:
 1. Plan regionally, implement locally
 2. Conserve water and maintain air and water quality
 3. Guard our signature landscapes – we have to maintain those landscapes. An example of this is that the Southern Parkway fits into the landscape
 4. Provide rich, connected natural recreation and open space. The trail systems which have been developed are wonderful
 5. Building balanced transportation that includes a system of public

transportation, connected roads, and meaningful opportunities to bike and walk

6. Get “centered” by focusing growth on walk able, mixed-use centers
7. Direct growth inward – They see substantial amounts of land already improved to use for growth
8. Provide a broad range of housing types to meet the needs of all income levels, family types and stages of life.
9. Reserve key areas for industry to grow the economic pie
10. Focused public land conversion should sustain community goals and preserve critical lands. This community center was built on BLM land.

Their next step is making it happen on the ground. Implementation committee has begun meeting with individual cities to discuss Vision Dixie’s next steps. They have a website www.VisionDixie.org to keep up with implementation. Next week they have the Economic Summit and will report to the citizens. Citizens are encouraged to become involved in decisions. Develop an action plan with short term and long term goals. They are encouraging comprehensive planning and reviewing their local plans. Jim Crisp said that the County Lands Bill may be put into play and how will it tie in with the Vision Dixie? The Public Lands Bill didn’t pass last congress. Senator Reid and Senator Bennett will be on the agenda and an omnibus bill will move forward. It has language that includes Vision Dixie principles.

Jody said that the BLM has it ingrained to coordinate with Iron County in the RMP process. The land use plans need to be updated within each county to move ahead with the RMP. Vision Dixie has a critical lands guide and will become part of public land use within Washington County for each of the RMP processes which will take place. It’s still the 1994 general plan for Washington County. The commissioners of Washington County have adopted the 10 principles but it’s not formally included in the land use plan.

Mike Worthen, Iron County planning is working on its land use plans.

6. **Zion Centennial Celebration** – Jock Whitworth reported that Frederick Dallenbaugh (sic) the artist displayed in the Missouri 1904 World’s Fair, depicting the preservation of Zion National Park. In 1919 Zion National Park was designated. “A Century of Sanctuary” is being celebrated for the next year. They have many great things planned for this year. The National Foundation for Zion Park received Eccles Foundation funding for the acquisition of the Zion painting done by Dallenbaugh. The Century of Sanctuary display of Zion paintings have been on display at the St. George Art Museum. Rehabilitation of the Grotto Museum (built 1924) dedication and celebration will be held July 31, 2009. There is an all employee reunion in the Fall 2009. They have received funding and Karen Mayne was introduced to assist. Karen distributed a list of activities planned for the Centennial. One of the first big events Zion Canyon Centennial fun run will be held April 18, 2009 10K run - Registration is 2/18/09. They have room for 300 entrants. On July 31, 2009 is the birthday celebration at the Grotto. They will have performance activities. A very special event will be the August 26, 2009 Tunnel Walk in the evening. Registration will be on line later. They are anticipating a date of June 26 2009. Springdale City is doing a cinema Thursday evenings beginning August 13th for 10 weeks and will be held at the community center. Janet Seegmiller is putting together a historical photo journal display. Go to the website for more information: <http://www.nps.gov/zion/parknews/a-century-of-sanctuary.htm>

7. **60 Second Round Table**

Jim Crisp mentioned SUU is working with communities on the Zion corridor planning. USU LAEP has been contracted to study the corridor communities. A presentation was

done in December for the survey. The next report will be done this semester. The study was funded by SUU Regional Services and the study is being done by USU LAEP.

Don Willden reported that Beaver County is doing some regional planning. 9 protesters filed complaints. First Wind is still delivering product. Raser is producing electricity.

UDOT took a tour of Southern Parkway and the interchange is opening 1/31/09. Mile post 10 through 19 will have a truck passing lane. SR 14 is closed due to a landslide at milepost 8.

DEQ reported that Rick Sprott retired. Bill Sinclair is acting director. House Bill 41 went through requiring counties to have a drinking water ordinance. Iron County has one and John is willing to work with other counties on it.

Ken Sizemore said they filed with the federal highway administration to designate highway 143 as an all American highway. Highway 9 is in planning stages with Hurricane City to see if they are willing to pursue national designation as a scenic byway.

USU Public Lands report is on CD and the final report is available. Jody Gale will send you all a pdf of the special studies. Eventually all of the reports will be on line. The reports include heavy emphasis on rural areas.

Brian distributed the postcard for Rural Summit. We have a National Park Service employee in the shared position (Steve McCarthy) for Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative Agency Coordinator who will start 1/26/2009. The SUU Mountain Ranch is in the process of a management plan for the property. It will include a forest stewardship plan and recreation use plan.

Bryan Thiriot reported they will be having a staff meeting with Senator Bennett and he is going to run for his seat again in 2010. One thing is he wants to move to water and energy subcommittees and get out of agriculture. Washington County Lands Bill we're waiting to hear the outcome.

Marreen Casper said the Senate went into session 10:00 a.m. this morning. Senator Hatch joined with Joe Lieberman for Washington DC seat vote and this position improves chances of Utah receiving another seat.

Mike Empey reported the House went in session for PAY GO (sic) rule to adopt in Congress today. They're working on the Brian Head Boy Scouts land exchange. They are going to spend a couple of days in February for their staff retreat.

Jock said Zion NP broke 2.7 million mark for visitors and said it was interesting they broke their own record. Snow is gorgeous but people are slipping and sliding. Some of their projects being done are: Thermal highway is being renovated; 100 kw energy generation; converted lighting to the new LEDs; buying hybrids and lower gas mileage cars; waterless urinals; recycling; and studying the shuttle system and there will be a new contract which is as "green" as it gets.

BLM reported the RMPs final versions for the two which are done will be on line.

SITLA said you saw much of what is being done in Washington County – There is an 80% downturn in revenues; dirt moving is \$.75 cents a foot as opposed to \$8.50 / foot.

Alma Adams is looking forward to State highway 143 to get it designated as a national highway. Landfill maintenance building will be paid for with bond money. The parking lots at Brian Head were packed during the holidays. The fishing at Panguitch was terrible – but the skiing was great.

8. Other Business – There was no other business.
9. Calendar Next Meeting – March 3rd in Iron County.
10. Adjourn

APPENDIX "A"

ATTENDEES

Jim Crisp SUU Regional Services
Tyler Knudsen, UGS
Bill Lunds, UGS
Brian Cottam SUU Regional Svcs.
Jody Gale, USU Extension
Ken Sizemore, Five County AOG
Alan Gardner, Washington Co Commissioner
John Willie, Washington Co Commissioner
Kevin Carter, SITLA
Jock Whitworth, NPS
Don Willden, Beaver Co Commissioner
Perry Thomson, USTAR
Rick Torgerson, UDOT
John Chartier, DEQ
Bryan Thiriot, Senator Bennett's Office
Mike Empey, Congressman Matheson's Office
Marreen Casper, Senator Orrin Hatch's Office
Karen Mayne Zion NPS Centennial Project
Alma Adams, Iron County Commissioner
Mike Worthen, Iron County
Todd Christensen, BLM Color Country
Rachel Tueller, BLM Color Country
Alma Adams, Iron Co. Commissioner