

# Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC)

## Minutes

March 2, 2010

Heritage Center, Rooms 5 & 6, 105 N. 100 East, Cedar City, UT

1. **Welcome & Introductions** - Brian Cottam, SUU Government Relations and Regional Services welcomed everyone and introductions were made.
2. **Utah Prairie Dog Recovery Implementation Program (UPDRIP)** – Brian Cottam introduced the newly hired UPDRIP Coordinator Elissa Black. Elissa provided her background of expertise and stated the goals of the UPDRIP.
3. **Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (PITU)** – Brian Cottam introduced Gaylord Robb, PITU Economic Development Director. Gaylord reported on planning and projects the Paiute tribe is currently working on. There are a total of 890 tribal members from Koosharem to St. George areas. They have 40,000 acres of reservation land in about a dozen different locations. The chairman directs affairs of the sovereign Nation of the Paiute. They have a very active collaboration with SUU and are working on grants and educational programs on a community to community basis. They work with collaborative partnerships and the tribe can assist with the grants and most often these grants do not require a match. They have road improvements going on in Koosharem, Kanosh, Richfield, and Cedar City. Many are state and county roads as well. The total grant amount is \$400,000. They have received an upgrade grant to improve the tribal offices and they are planting 200 fruit trees. There are five different bands in the Paiute Nation: Indian Peaks; Koosharem; Shivwits; Kanosh; and Cedar City Bands. They were instrumental in finishing the walking trail in Cedar City by giving an easement to the trail through the canyon. They are working on a Geothermal plant in the Cove Fort area. The travel center proposed in Kanarraville was provided an easement with Cedar City Band. Suh'dutsing Technologies is a thriving business generated out of the Cedar City Band. The Shivwits Band has a \$1 million grant for a high school gym; Indian Peaks received 2 of the FEMA trailers to put in a gift shop and store. Indian Peaks has 424 acres of land by Kanarraville. Most live currently in town in the Indian village north of the tribal offices. They are currently seeking funds for a museum and cultural center which will be enable better communication of their culture. Two towns have offered property to build on. They have 4 health clinics serving the Paiute Nation. They have regular meetings with the Governor's Utah Indian Alliance. The Paiute Nation brings in \$7 – \$8 million into southern Utah's economy. Gaylord invited everyone to stop by and see the tribal office improvements.

4. **BLM Wild Horse Program & Gathering Update** – Todd Christensen, Manager for BLM Color Country District introduced Gus Warr reporting on the Wild Horse program changes. BLM protects wild horses and burros - Top priority for the Secy. of Interior. It's under great scrutiny for states and counties. Bob Abbey is the new BLM Director.

- 36,000 plus horses and burros in Nevada
- 26.6 million acres (180 Herd Management areas).
- Kane County has a few horses 50-mile Mountain about 25 animals.
- WH & B population on the range 36,000 plus
- Appropriate management level 26,000 plus
- Number exceeding AML 10,000 plus

In Utah

- 19 Herd Management areas
- 17 wild horses and 2 wild burros)
- Current estimated populations = 2,650 head
- 2500 head of wild horses
- 150 of wild burros

Fertility control has been done since the 1990's. The horses are given a drug to control herds. Each year the BLM gathers excess wild horses and burros from areas where vegetation and water could become scarce if too many animals use the area. 270,000 since 1971 have been gathered. BLM has a partnership with the Wild Horse Heritage Foundation. The question was asked 'what happens to horses that are not adopted?' There is a moratorium that the BLM cannot expend funds for destruction and instead have relocated 23,000 head in Oklahoma, South Dakota, etc. for a total of 19 long-term holding facilities with long-term pastures. There are some in feed lots. Now that they have long-term holding facilities it costs \$1.25 per day per head or approximately \$750,000 annually. In 2009, 70% of BLM's budget was spent on short-term and long-term holding for the wild horses. By the mid 90's they went from a \$40.6 million budget to \$65 million budget and in 2011 will probably have to be a \$75 million budget. Interior Secretary Salazar proposes a new strategy. It's at a crossroads and a national solution is necessary. It keeps wild horses on western rangelands; provides for long term care of animals on new preserves to be established in the east and Midwest; and increases adoptions with more flexible tools. There are going to be changes in adoption; a ramping up of fertility control and not removing a single horse; non-reproducing herds to balance herd growth; and as a benefit to the taxpayer designates more short term facilities. They have corrals at the Salt Lake City Regional Wild Horse and Burro center in Herriman, Utah. They have wild horse corrals in Delta; facilities at Gunnison Prison which are cared for by inmates; Rock Springs, WY; and Carson City, NV to Ewing, IL. There are 14,000 head in short term facilities. Slaughtering does occur in foreign countries, but not the U.S. There was a rider

that from 1985 to 2004 not to sell horses for slaughter and the rider was updated in 2009 as no funds can be expended to destroy the horses. The horses are living longer in captivity. On the range they live about 15-17 years. It costs \$200 a year for mares on fertility control and the drug lasts for 2 years. Go to the BLM website for more on Wild Horse & Burro Programs throughout the U.S.

5. **Iron County Resource Management Plan (CRMP)** – Mike Worthen, Iron County Natural Resource Specialist reported on the progress of the CRMP. Goal is to foster a dynamic and ongoing partnership between federal, state, and local governments. The CRMP toolkit is on the following website <http://governor.utah.gov/planning/CRMP.htm>. There are **2 stages of planning** – overarching Plan; Sets the stage for collaboration; 2<sup>nd</sup> stage is looking at the site specific planning resource and site what do we want for desired conditions in 5 yrs or 10 yrs. It is now closely aligned with the NEPA so it will easily identify with it. Specifics will be current conditions of a resource and identifies desired future conditions.

**Topics** identified on planning committee:

- Watershed management
- Alternative energy
- Deer Winter Range
- Sportsman
- ATV
- Recreation
- Real Estate
- Agriculture

Objective is NOT to develop habitat or deer management plans; but objective is to pool interests and resources to identify desired conditions in a facilitating role and partnership role. They had a roundtable discussion with BLM, UDWR, Private landowners, developers and sportsmen, etc.

Power transmission line corridor – BLM has two to be analyzed for placement in public lands. Identify one corridor encourage consideration of a single corridor through the county for proposed and future lines. They will identify an acceptable route for consideration. Cooperative Planning can resolve many conflicts and potentially lead to shared decision-making and implementation.

Todd Stowell, Iron County Planner presented the Wind Energy System Ordinance (except for Cedar City)

Small wind energy system (100 kilowatts or less) Horizontal and Vertical – Safety/Maintenance Setback; 1.1 times the total extend height from any property;

1 times; Noise setbacks on average, most residential horizontal axis wind energy systems general 52-54 dBa at 100' away. County established the following thresholds 40 dBa at any residential property lines. The west desert is a corridor. They used the "Wind Turbine Sound and Health Effects: An expert panel Review" as a guide. Ordinance is attached for specifics.

#### 6. **Round Table Updates –**

Dayle Flanigan discussed that the air quality, oil, and gas plans are open for public comment; BLM highlighted energy transmission corridors energy; and they are looking at 2 herd management areas.

Congressman Matheson is still working on health care bill; the stakeholder process with the Washington county lands bill and wants the same for any additional monument designations

Senator Bennett's office reminded that senate appropriations are due tomorrow  
Jim Crisp is working on Washington County general plan

Hatch is concerned about a leaked memo on designation of additional national monuments and says they don't belong to the feds and he sent another letter to Interior Secretary Salazar to re-emphasize the collaboration before designation

NPS is rebuilding the road from Junction Zion Nat'l Park - They want to do it with stimulus funds.

Todd Christensen, BLM reported that the Cedar City RMP is being started this year; 3 planning documents in WA County; Everything going on in Southern Utah – Studying areas for renewable energy.

UFFSL is working Wildfire urban interface on fuels and received \$1 million in stimulus funds; UFFSL is working on cheat grass in Washington County – They could have a good fire year; are also removing tamarisk and replanting willows. Will also work on stewardship at the SUU Mountain Center

Mark Habbeshaw, Kane County they have a plan for ATV motorized transportation – County interested in working with State Parks and Recreation to improve current trails and advertise the use

Beaver Co has had meetings with Piute Wilderness Alliance and SUWA – They went very well and have re-inventoried the lands in the Red Rock Bill and are waiting for snow to melt; First Wind is mobilized to phase II and a company is talking about Cove Fort which drilled three wells last year and are wanting to start construction on the plant - \$150 million dollar project. They had a formal presentation on binary energy land use planning process

GSENM has an advisory committee charter which has been signed by Salazar – Tribal representative added to advisory board. Includes grazing program and they received \$5.7 million stimulus monies for projects

Wildlife division of EIS process needs to come now through the Redevelopment CC in the governor's office. Big Game licenses are only available for 6 more days.

Army Corps of Engineers – RGP 40 went out in December and will be revised and out again as public notice. E-mail Pat McQueary to be put on the revision list and will go out for 30 days in the next couple of weeks. They will explain the changes. Reed Erickson commented on UPDRIP and appreciated the program partnerships formed

Division of Wildlife has opened satellite field offices at Quail Creek State Park and at Washington County WCD to provide services March 15<sup>th</sup> is grand opening  
Thanks for everyone who went on the tour today.

Alma Smith thanked Iron County staff – License vehicles in Iron pay a \$10 corridor fee and they have amassed \$900,000

NRCS are contracting for wildlife incentives program and the RFP will be going out; 160 % of snow pack for plenty of water; New Harmony has more water; Emergency watershed and starts damage survey tomorrow

UDOT is doing south Cedar entrance improvements and thanks all for deer management issues; it's a considerable expense to get them off the highway; they've had a lot of problems at county line and try to address problems at Black Ridge but the surface is falling apart. It's time to take care of it. UDOT is located in 5 offices in Southern Utah with 1 here in Cedar

SITLA working with UDOT on the St. George Southern Parkway and the airport exit to be completed sometime this fall

Kevin reported that the 1980's 1 square mile land exchange with Kane County went to the Utah Supreme Court and remanded back to SITLA for valuation – decision came down that the land will vest with Kane County

Five County AOG said the MPO transportation planning is evolving and they will have 5 MPOs embarking on the Highway 9 feasibility study for the management plan

Brian Cottam – reported new space for the SUU Natural History Museum in the SUU Science building which will be out in a year and one-half

7. **Next Meeting** – May 4<sup>th</sup> in Beaver County

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen McDowell