

**MINUTES**  
**Emery County**  
**Public Lands Council**  
**April 6, 2021**

**PLC:** Rod Player, Leon McElprang, Les Wilberg, Ben Grimes

**PL STAFF:** Commissioner Kent Wilson, Jim Jennings, Commissioner Gil Conover, Commissioner Lynn Sitterud, Jan Olsen

**Visitors:** Larry Johansen (State Parks), Clay Crozier, Jay Mark Humphrey, Marc Stilson (DWRi), Julie Johansen, Chris Nichols, Cole LaCroix, Kelsey Berg, Larry Ellertson

**Electronically:** Laren Huntsman (PLC), J.R. Nelson (PLC) Sherrel Ward (PLC), Dana Dean (BLM), Chris Conrad (BLM), Carolyn Phippen, Mark Boshell (PLIPCO), Kim McFarlane (MPAS)

1. **Welcome**

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Ben Grimes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Les Wilberg. Motion passed.

3. **Vote on applicants for board vacancies.** Commissioners will vote and decide on a new member.

4. **Chairman Comments**

Rod Player, presents a letter from Wells Canyon in Sanpete County requesting that we comment on their trailhead. Members feel it is a good project, no other comments.

Surface Mining and Reclamation, the board members want a letter sent to let them know they do not want to jeopardize mining in Emery County, also on the abandoned mine reclamations. We have been given an extension to put together a letter with the help of Ben Grimes and Rod Player.

5. **Commission Report on Emery Land Bill**

Commissioner Wilson reported on the Red Rocks Bill, a symbolic bill, it will not pass. Regards to Bears Ears and Escalante the RAC meeting will help with the Dingle act on the Swell, to help with what camping will look like out in this area. Get an article in the paper, to help with this? To help the public to get their questions and comments into the BLM.

6. **Discuss the upper lakes above Joe's Valley Reservoir - Jay Mark Humphrey**

Reports on the conditional use permit for fees to be waived. The upper lakes are for the use of the community, to camp and fish around the lakes. Mark Boshell (PLCO) has offered to help with getting fees waived, with a 30-year waiver.

Needing help from the forest service to help with covering the head gate and pipeline.

Leon McElprang motioned to write a letter for fees to be waived, 2nd by Ben Grimes.

Drought has made conditions extremely difficult, boat ramp at Joe's Valley will close later this summer. Joe's Valley expected to drop 23 feet by next year.

## 7. **Agency Reports and Council Member Comments**

- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Chris Conrad reported that Easter weekend visitation was up dramatically. Adding play equipment at the Jurassic Monument. RAC meeting is coming up, travel management plans are doing well, waiting for more data for fish and wildlife. The Green River runs about 25-50 people each day. Drought is a concern for upcoming recreation.

- **Division of Water Rights (DWRi)**

Marc Stilton reported that Jay Mark Humphrey has been chosen to represent Emery County.

- **Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM)**

Dana Dean reported that a small mine called The ID Creek Mine, near Fremont Junction. United Mineral is mining, humic shells will be mined, they are waiting for a bond. We received Crandall Canyon reclamation permit. Bear Canyon, is close to receive their transfer permit. Sufco mine is getting a new ventilation system. Deer Creek has old culverts causing erosion on the reclamation, working on fixing without causing harm. All coal mines are operating and going well.

- **Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)**

Chris Wood reported RAC meetings are starting up again, big game recommendations. Manti deer are the same as last year. RAC meeting is a 15 member council. We have 3 openings for a RAC member 2 seats are agriculture, 1 seat is sports. Turkey hunt starts Saturday, Spring hunt, Bald Eagle counts. Surveys.

- **School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA).**

No comments

- **Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF)**

Matt Weigh reported, forest service stated drought is causing rangeland and herd sizes to be reduced. Gates will be opening on April 15th, as snow melts. Fire

fighters are getting back to work, looking at a controlled burn in the pines. In wildlife, Sage Grouse studies are being conducted.

Leon McElprang, wants public to know, grazing has been reduced to 90 days, and they are looking at reducing 10 more days, this is a concern, especially with the drought.

- **Utah State Parks and Recreation**

Larry Johansen reported that reservations for campgrounds both were full over the Easter weekend, continuing to be up. Visitation is up all around. Expanding campground at Goblin Valley 40 - 60 sites. Conveyance with the BLM is still moving at the same pace.

- **Utah State Department of Agriculture**

No comments.

- **Washington Delegation Staff**

Clay Crozier reported that they have sent a letter of intent for the 30 x30 federal, conservation and wilderness lands, which will help describe what this means.

Kelsey Berg reported they want to help with fuel reductions. Antiquities act to look at. Housing market prices are outrageous, keeping logging going.

Larry Ellertson reported they agreed on an infrastructure corporate tax rate of 25 %. USDA grant application for distance learning and telemedicine. Signed the American rescue act, there will be money for the counties. Public lands, economic development, and rural areas. Bipartisan bill for trails, recreation funds could more than double. Citizenship will be granted for children that have been adopted.

Cole LaCroix reported about new data resources called the PILT bill to get better dollar value of our federal lands. Moratorium on signatures by senior officials to get things passed on right of ways, mining, etc...

7. **Additional Issues From Council Member**

Sherrel Ward reported the Colorado rivers presentation, presented by Marc Stilson, was great, and would like to have Mark Stilson present in a Public Lands meeting. 69% water to 74%. Senator Lee is working on increased grazing bill.

8. **Concerned Citizens with Emery County-related issues.**

No comment

9. **Adjourn**